Student Engagement Plan: 2016 – 2018

Introduction

Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT) is a private higher education Institute offering programs to national and international students from around the world ranging from undergraduate to post graduate levels in Business, Accounting, Information Technology, Computer Networking and Engineering (Telecommunications).

MIT is accredited by Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) which is Australia’s independent national regulator of the higher education sector including public universities in Australia. TEQSA ensures that all public and private higher education providers meet the Higher Education Standards Framework or the Threshold Standards in order to be accredited to deliver tertiary level programs within Australia’s higher education system.

The Australian Higher Education Threshold Standards expect higher education providers to take active steps to engage all students, individually and collectively, as partners in the assurance and enhancement of their education. The Institute is therefore committed to promoting effective student partnerships and engagement strategies. This plan summarises key objectives, principles and activities to support effective student engagement.

Objectives

The objectives of the Student Engagement Plan are to enhance:

- Student experience and satisfaction;
- Student skills in being successful learners;
- Student support and ensure successful completion of studies;
- Enhance the reputation of the Institution;
- Total student engagement including engaging them more in the learning and support environment and
- Student participation in designing and successfully co-ordinating co-curricular activities will be an essential element of student enrichment.

Principles of Student Engagement

The Institute’s principles of student engagement are as follows:
1) Develop an environment for student engagement which encapsulates the institutional culture, where students will associate themselves as integral to enhancing their educational success.

2) Ensure that all relevant committees at the Institute and School level such as the Academic Board, the Teaching and Learning Committee and the Student Experience Committee have student representation.

3) Make students aware of the opportunities for providing formal and informal feedback to the Institute on their learning and overall educational experience.

4) Act upon student feedback and communicate to students the actions taken.

5) Ensure that the diversity of groups including domestic and international have an effective voice.

6) Enrich students with the experience of living in a diverse culture that encourages exploration of their identity and that of the Institute.

7) Embody the values of a just society and build a strong sense of campus community and

8) Realise the students’ learning potential and maximise their education achievements.

**Primary Foundation**

A holistic approach to the MIT student engagement strategy has been built around the factors of learning, enrichment, representation and consultation, with effective communication being the central facilitator.

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Student Engagement is more effective if it is holistic and an ongoing process. It also needs regular reviews to ensure that student engagement is growing and positive. The activities planned to enhance student engagement also need to fit the desired outcomes. Commitment of all MIT staff is required to achieve maximum benefits.
Successful Learning

- Students need to be active participants in the learning process and there should be mechanisms and support in each program for them to be empowered to mould their own learning experience and be responsible for their own successful learning.
- Student Engagement is a core element of learning and is enabled and enhanced by the actual design of programs and the Institute’s commitment to student engagement.
- Academic assistance coupled with peer/personal mentoring arrangements are in place across the Institute.

Student Enrichment

- Enriching students to succeed in life involves more than them being good learners of the curriculum. Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities will provide avenues for students to enrich their skills and character through a better understanding of the Institute’s graduate attributes of teamwork, cultural and global awareness and ethical behaviour.

Meaningful Consultation

- Opportunities for student feedback is actively sought and welcomed. The Institute seeks student feedback in various ways:
  I. Feedback from meetings, both formal and informal;
  II. Attendance at various student engagement activities and events;
  III. Participation in externally managed surveys, such as the International Student Barometer (ISB), Quality Indicators of Learning and Teaching Student Experience Survey and Australian Council for Educational Research survey and
  IV. Organizing internal surveys by the Institute. Primary to these is the Student Evaluation of Units, administered at the end of each trimester.
- Priority is given for student feedback on learning and teaching while ensuring that students have opportunities for providing feedback on all other aspects of student experience.

Participative Representation

- Student participation and representation are facilitated in the Committee structure of the Institute including: The Academic Board, the Teaching and Learning Committee, the Student Experience Committee and the School Committees. Effective student representation at the meeting will be facilitated by the Institute staff.
- All students are encouraged to contribute to Committees via their student representatives.
- Increasing student engagement is the aim of the whole institute with a dynamic and focused plan to engage students. Furthermore, efforts are made to as facilitate and promote student involvement and understanding of student rights and responsibilities.
• Student participation in Course Review Panels and opportunities for feedback to Unit and Program Coordinators will be part of continuous improvement of teaching and learning, with a feedback loop to update students on actions taken.

**Effective Communication**

An action and implementation plan will be developed in order to:

• Communicate to students using their preferred channel of communication with the aim of reducing the need for students to access multiple channels to seek information.
• Assist the Institute in continuous improvement by encouraging regular student feedback.
• Drive a student self-help approach.
• Adhere to regulatory and government regulations regarding the use of student personal data.
• Provide easily accessible and clear information on the Institute’s website about student support services.