



ELICOS and UON Sydney Student Engagement

Community Engagement Programs



Doris Ayala
doris.ayala@newcastle.edu.au

Collaboration between ELICOS department & UON Sydney

Community Engagement Programs



Activities

1. Communicate at Beehive Industries
2. Tea at 3
3. Sports Start-up
4. The Welcome Dinner Project
5. Wrap With Love

To facilitate meaningful engagement opportunities to international students outside the classroom environment in order to enrich the general student experience.

2016 = 23 different kinds of activities

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ELICOS Demographics 2016

Nationality	Low	High
China	39.8%	55.3%
Mongolia	11.8%	28.8%
India	4.8%	22.3%
Vietnam	10.5%	17.2%

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Research on Social Engagement

LONELINESS

Loneliness and international students: an Australian Study

- 200 students interviewed
- Two thirds of the group experience loneliness and/or isolation

1. Personal loneliness = loss of family
2. Social Loneliness = loss of networks
3. Cultural loneliness = loss of preferred cultural and/or linguistic environment

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(Sawir, Marginson, Deumert, Nyland, & Ramia, 2008)



Research on Social Engagement LONELINESS

Most international students belong to collective societies and they feel that they are not prepared for independent living and often lack the skills and knowledge of surviving in an individual society.

(Khawaja & Stallman, 2011)

1. Personal loneliness = loss of family
2. Social Loneliness = loss of networks
3. Cultural loneliness = loss of preferred cultural and/or linguistic environment

Same-culture networks are vital (Sawir, et al., 2008)

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Research on Social Engagement LONELINESS

1. Personal loneliness = loss of family
2. Social Loneliness = loss of networks
3. Cultural loneliness = loss of preferred cultural and/or linguistic environment

- Students display poor decision making and study skills
- Display anxiety towards social situations
- Withdraw from otherwise enjoyable activities

social alienation

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(Sawir, Marginson, Deumert, Nyland, & Ramia, 2008)



Research on Social Engagement RELATIONSHIPS

“Research has demonstrated a relationship between having more host country friends and satisfaction, contentment, social connectedness and decrease in homesickness”

(Hendrickson, Rosen & Kelly Aune, 2010. p 281)

La Trobe University
Multicultural Intervention Program
participants developed a greater number of new friends, especially local Australians
(Sakurai, McCall-Wolf, & Kashima, 2009)

Enabling students to create a bond with locals gives them a sense of belonging and provides social networks which help dissipate loneliness.

(Sawir, Marginson, Deumert, Nyland & Ramia, 2008)

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Continued Activities

1. Communicate at Beehive Industries



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Continued Activities

2. Tea at 3

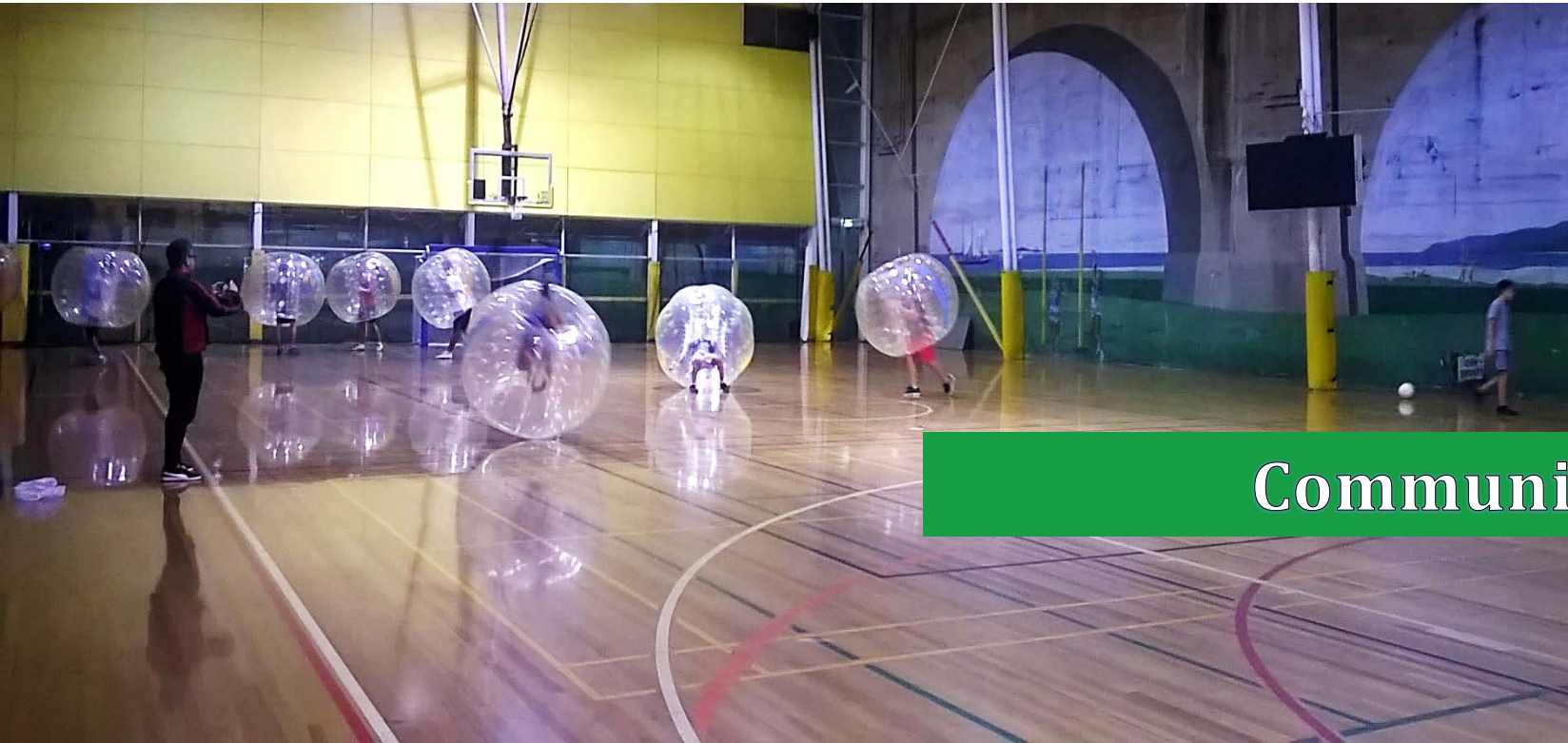


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Continued Activities

3. Sports Start-up



Community Engagement Programs

Continued Activities

4. The Welcome Dinner Project



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Continued Activities

5. Wrap With Love



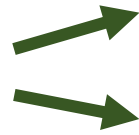
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Challenges

1. Must have a leader



a) Makes them feel safe

b) Makes them feel comfortable



Encourages them to face the unknown



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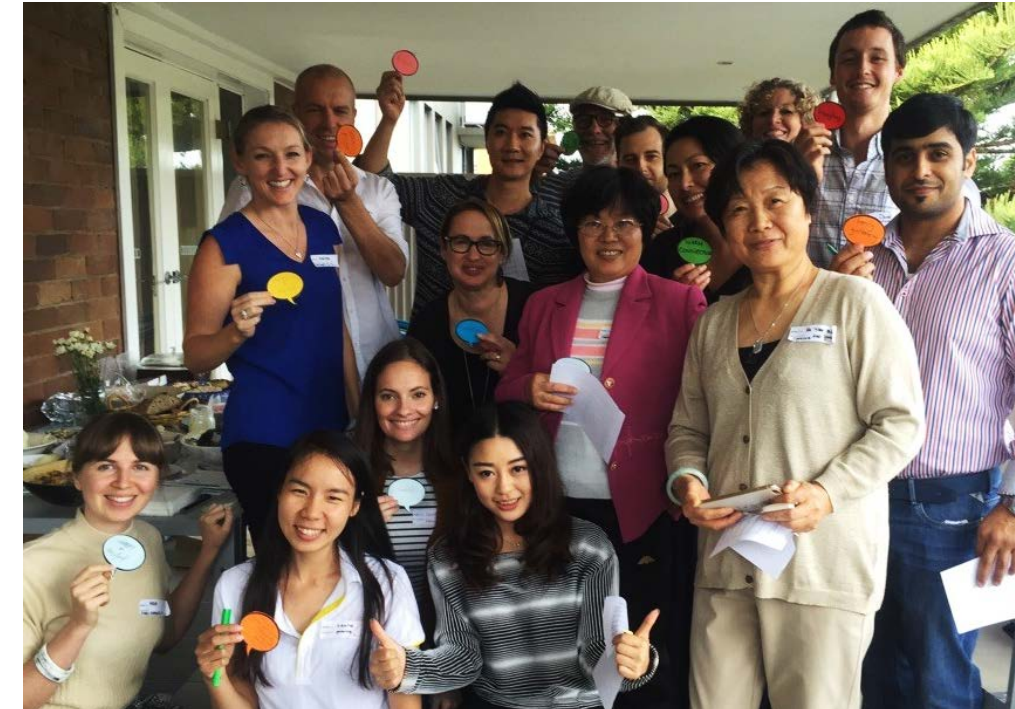




Working with challenges

1. Must have a leader

- a) Use an existing leadership program as an incentive
- b) Organisers take turns to lead the activities
- c) Recruit ELICOS leaders and start an in-house ELICOS leadership program



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Challenges

2. Timetable

Activity	Participants (June)				Participants (October)			
Tea at 3	8	7	6	5	15	16	17	16
Communicate at Beehive Industries	12	18	17	18	8	5	6	3
Speed Conversation	11	12	10	16	4	5	4	0
Vocational English	12	10	10	11	8	5	3	4

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Working with challenges

2. Timetable

- a) Incorporate the activities into the curriculum
- a) Schedule activities during lunch break

Activity	Participants before incorporation				Participants after incorporation			
Tea at 3	8	7	6	5	18	17	17	18
Communicate at Beehive Industries	8	6	4	7	15	16	14	15

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Challenges

COMMUNICATION

3. Break cultural barriers at both ends

Wrap With Love

“Can boys sew?”

Tea at 3 (speaking with high school students)

“Why do you want me to speak with children?”

“What can I learn from them?”

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Working with challenges

3. Break cultural barriers at both ends

a) Deliver a Speaking-to-Australians Workshop to class

- Work/study lifestyle for the average teenager
- body language
- polite conversation

b) Provide a leader for the high school students

- Make sure they can speak to someone about anything at all times

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Challenges

4. Planning for correct numbers

Estimate

1. Cut the numbers of participants by half
2. Add an extra 10%

For example

12 Students signed up 6 will come
 2 random

TOTAL 8

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Learning Experience

“Cultural contact is a way for individuals to form beliefs based on information rather than stereotypes”

(Hendrickson, Rosen, & Kelly Aune, 2010, p. 290)

Community Activities

- Older people
- Teenagers
- Australian people
- Other international students
- People of varied cultures
- People of different faiths

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Learning Experience

Fort Street High School students

- Aurora
- Mina

Ex-ELICOS student

- Tina

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Community Engagement Programs

- Expose students to a diverse group of people
- Allow students to build confidence
- Develop communicative and social skills
- Connect with and contribute to a community
- Give international students a sense of belonging

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References

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