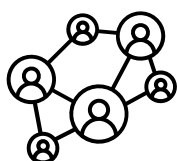


Student Wellbeing Classroom Resource

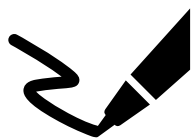
‘Meet the Academics’ Introduction Panel

Suggested by:

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Connecting Students
with their School



First Year
Students



Accessible for
reserved students



Large Classes

Description

The large class sizes of some first-year courses can make it difficult for students to develop connections with their lecturers and tutors, often making them more reluctant to seek support. Hosting a ‘Meet the Academics’ introduction panel in the first week of class can provide an opportunity for students to get to know their lecturers and tutors and feel more connected with their school. While the panel may lightly touch on academic expertise and interests, the panel should be informal and fun so that students feel their academics are approachable.

Implementation

- Invite course tutors and lecturers to participate in the panel. Nominate a mediator
- Design fun questions to structure discussion
- Host the introductory panel in the first week of term
- The panel can include a Q&A session for students to submit questions. Programs that allow students to submit anonymous questions, such as Slido, may encourage more reserved students to pose questions – it can be helpful to get moderator assistance for large cohorts to help manage large numbers of questions.

Evidence of effectiveness

- Students have a better understanding of the academics teaching the course and in the school
- Students feel more comfortable approaching academics when they need support.

Dr Jessica Macer-Wright is a member of the Education Focussed Student Wellbeing Community of Practice (CoP). To find out more about the CoP, please contact the EF Team: EF@unsw.edu.au