

CASE STUDY: LINKS TO COMMUNITY

The Issue: *Links with the community and with feeder schools were frequently referred to in interviews and the round table discussions as opportunities for ensuring that the local communities valued Arts programs and could lead to future recruitment. The following examples illustrate how some institutions have engaged in these strategies*

Links with schools

James Cook University staff from Political Science and History run the Young Diplomat Program for year 9 and year 10 high school students. The day-long program is structured like a mock UN debate where students can engage with contemporary world issues. The winning team visit Canberra, where they attend Parliament House, selected embassies and the Australian Institute of International Affairs

Griffith University offers a number of opportunities and activities for teachers from feeder high schools to engage with Arts academics. These activities, such as guest lectures and meetings provide an opportunity for academics to translate what is meant by the Arts to teachers who have influence over future program choice for future school leavers.

University of Ballarat has student selection linkages with local schools into the more generalist BA program. This program (called REAP) enables students in this program to be offered a place in the program in advance of final placing coming out via the entrance agency (VEU). This program has been instrumental in retaining the traditional catchments for the institution, particularly important in the face of competition from institutions with satellite campuses in this small regional town

SmARTS is a programme at the **University of Western Australia** where year 11 students meet, discuss and develop ideas both online and in seminars held at UWA, in relation to topics of contemporary cultural relevance. Participants work with other students in small groups with the close guidance and support of university staff to produce and present a high-quality research project. The initiative is designed to extend and enrich participants' study in the humanities, social sciences and beyond, as well as enhancing key skills in critical thinking and research, collaborative work, online communication, presentation and problem solving. A UWA project coordinator and tutors drawn from English, Communication and Cultural Studies at UWA assist students to develop and produce projects on a range of humanities-focused topics

Links with community groups

At the University of Western Australia a unit, Living Memories (COMM3302), operates in association with the Disabilities Learning Commission and Department of Family Planning. In this unit students undertake a supervised, collaborative project using the resources of the Multimedia Centre. Projects are based on typical industry needs in the communications field and components might include the creation and production of a short video, or the design and construction of a digital animation. Students identify a repertoire of personal skills learned in the project context and present a critical and reflective report on the project process.

Disclaimer: The information described above emerged from interviews, discussions and observation of publicly available materials during the BA Scoping Project which commenced in March 2007 and concluded in August 2008. As a result, the practices described in this case study may not reflect current practices or institutional policy. They are a reflection of the understanding at the time the scoping project was in progress.



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