WELCOME NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO UB:

Starting a new Semester is exciting, the prospect of new learning, find out where to go for class, what is new about campus and who is new! New International students may be feeling a little more nervous than excited over the orientation period and this is understandable. Don’t stress there are plenty of people on campus to assist you to settle in a feel welcome.

I hope that this edition of the International Student newsletter assists you to settle in by providing good advice, reading about important people and giving you lots of social opportunities. The quickest way to overcome home sickness is to meet new friends and be involved so I encourage you to “say yes” to invitations, offers and programs.

Your Peer Support Team

Once again the Peer Support team (pictured right) will assist new student during orientation and over the coming weeks. Thank you to our committed team of volunteer who give their time to make your welcome to UB and Ballarat personal.

Mark these in your calendar…

Your welcome activities extend into the month of August. Further detail will be sent via email, Facebook and available on Student Experience page on UB’s website

Dis O Week 2013
29th – 31st July
Music, food, social fun

Shop till you Drop
27th July
(Discover Ballarat’s bargain spots)

Movie Night
9th August
Fun Night out to see an Australian classic
(To be advised)

Other useful website
www.gumtree.com.au – for accommodation, household goods and jobs
Hi Everyone,

My name is Luke, and I’m the Student Leadership and Volunteer Program Officer at UB, which basically means I try to increase awareness and understanding of what Leadership and Volunteering are, what opportunities are available, and matching students with the correct organisation.

More about me: I am from England, and arrived in Ballarat last September, but I only started working at UB in June. I can speak French well, and Spanish a little, so if you want a multi-lingual chat, come and see me! Despite everyone’s best efforts, I still don’t support an AFL team yet, but I still love Southampton, my soccer team from back home – Go Saints!

So why should you volunteer?

It can be difficult to fit into a new place, especially if you come from somewhere completely different. Volunteering can help you make friends and meet people, but also let you experience typically Aussie activities like Bush-walking, Barbecues and Beaches!

Whether it’s something you have done before, or something you have always wanted to try, you will never again have so much time to do something that interests you – so why not contribute to the community at the same time?

Make new friends Try something new

In Australia, it can be difficult for people from other countries to get a job if you have no previous experience in a responsible role. Even if you have experience in your home country, employers often aren’t able to contact references overseas, so volunteering is a fantastic way to add relevant, local work experience to your resumé, develop contacts with important people, and get your English to a high standard.

What is Volunteering?

Volunteering is always unpaid. You may get lunch, for example, but volunteering is never done for a profit to the volunteer or organisation. It is about providing a service to benefit someone else, or the community. Volunteering is not just doing a job for free, and you cannot be forced to volunteer! It does not have to take a lot of your time - you can spend as much or as little time volunteering as you like.

Good Examples

- Tree-planting
- Coaching a sports team
- Teaching a language
- Working in an Op Shop
- Visiting an elderly person
- Feeding the homeless
- Fundraising activities
- Helping on Open Day

Bad Examples

- Internship
- Working to receive a pension/grant
- Work Experience
- Working for rent/food
- Working for a Visa
- Babysitting for family

Learn about Aussie culture
Help the Community
Learn about Australia and the local area
Do something you love
Improve your English
Get local job references
Develop the skills to help you get a great job

Register your name of Orientation/Enrolment Day

University of Ballarat
Learn to succeed
Accommodation places available

The University of Ballarat offers a range of accommodation including short, medium and long term located on UB campuses and around the city.

The highly effective support programs facilitated by the University, together with a unique residential experience, provides an environment where our students in residence are supported in not just their academic pursuits, but importantly their social, cultural and personal development. Upcoming events on residence includes a Ballarat tour/shopping trip for international residents, welcome dinner for all our new semester two residents, Christmas in July dinners, Res Ball and much much more.

A number of University residential options are available to students, catering for a variety of needs. For further information on the various options, or to apply for accommodation please visit our website at www.ballarat.edu.au/ubliving

Holy Month of Ramadan

Hi everyone. My name is Muhammad Sharez and I am an international student originally from Pakistan. I have finished my Masters in Information Systems from UB and now I am pursuing my Graduate Certificate in IT Professional Practice.

You may know that the holy month of Ramadan has started few and I would like to share my knowledge as a Muslim student, what is the true meaning of this holy month and why it is very special for Muslims.

During the blessed month of Ramadan, Muslims all over the world abstain from food, drink, and other physical needs during the daylight hours. It is a time to purify the soul, refocus attention on God, and practice self-sacrifice. Ramadan is much more than just not eating and drinking.

Muslims are called upon to use this month to re-evaluate their lives in light of Islamic guidance. We are to make peace with those who have wronged us, strengthen ties with family and friends, do away with bad habits essentially to clean up our lives, our thoughts, and our feelings. The Arabic word for “fasting” (sawm) literally means “to refrain” - and it means not only refraining from food and drink, but from evil actions, thoughts, and words.

Therefore, fasting is not merely physical, but is rather the total commitment of the person's body and soul to the spirit of the fast. Ramadan is a time to practice self-restraint; a time to cleanse the body and soul from impurities and re-focus one's self on the worship of God.

Moreover this holy month also teaches a great lesson of humanity and respect for others that through fasting a person can understand the feelings of those who can’t afford to eat. This month gives us a chance to realize the value and importance of food for healthy life and gives us an opportunity to thank god for the blessing he bestowed upon us. Nevertheless, by abstaining yourself from eatables and every sinful act a person shows his love for God by following directions and learns the meaning and spirit of true brotherhood and humanity.

Globall Football day success

UB students joined 400 hundred guests of the Globall Football program and Essendon Football Club at Etihad stadium for Multicultural round on July 14th. Essendon has a few new recruits (right).
CAREER HUB VACANCIES

CELLAR DOOR ASSISTANTS
Seeking 2 assistants who speak fluent Mandarin to serve our international visitors to our cellar door

VOLUNTEER EVENT MARSHAL
Volunteers are need to assist with event marshalling at triathlon, cycling and running events.
Contact www.ballarat.edu.au/studentcareerhub

STUDENT ADVISORY SERVICE
Want to make an appointment?
We are on the first floor of the Albert Coates building Mt Helen campus (just along from the Bookshop)
Call 03 5327 6105 or email: studentadviser@ballarat.edu.au
Liz Luciani & Amanda Tuddenham – Student Advisers

Things to look out for when applying for jobs

Students recently have applied for positions with a recruitment company and had their details passed on to other companies. One particular example was with a Melbourne company who contacted a student who had applied for several positions. The student thought that they were being contacted to attend an interview.

This student contacted Careers and Employment and we did some research into this only to find that the company was actually offering a Graduate Training and Work program. This program runs for either 1 month at a cost of $1,950.00 or 3 months at $3,500. Once enrolling in this course and paying your fee’s the company would train you in a real office, and under the supervision of a trained accountant, but you would be paying them for the experience!

Delving further into this we found that the company had “some” job openings at the end of the course for the “right applicant” but did they not guarantee a position upon completion of the training. The company is not a registered training organisation so you will essentially pay a large sum of money only to come out with a qualification that is not going to be recognised by other employers.

If you find yourself in a similar situation or are unsure when receiving contact from companies please contact one of our friendly Employment Officers. We are located directly across from the International Students Office in the Albert Coates Complex.

Unpaid trials

It is illegal for an employer to ask a potential employee to do a trial and not pay them for it. A work trial is when an employer asks a job applicant to work for a period of time at the place of business as a “trial” to see how they work, how easy they pick up the tasks and fit in with the team. As a general rule, a prospective employee must be paid for any trial work they have performed to establish their suitability for a role.

Job seekers generally undertake unpaid work trials for one or more of the following reasons:
• they assume that they will be paid for any work carried out
• the employer has led them to believe that they will be offered the job after the trial period
• they believe that an employer is legally entitled to ask applicants to work for a trial period without pay
• they are desperate to do anything which could lead to a job, even if the chance of getting work is small.

The Fair Work Ombudsman often receives complaints from young people about not being paid for work trials. If you believe you have not been paid for a work trial contact www.fwo.gov.au

Student Advisory Service

We help and support you with any difficulties or questions you might have while studying at Ballarat.
We can help you with really big things (like appealing a grade or exclusion) and little things too (e.g. where to find your lecture theatre!): If you need to understand University correspondence (letters & emails) and what actions are required; support you during appeals and complaints; we can ask questions on your behalf and help you write letters to the University.
When do students come to see us? There are many reasons but these are some of them: when they are not sure of their rights; when they have a problem and don’t know what to do about it; when they need assistance with University procedures such as an appeal; when they need information about UB policies and procedures; when they think they have been treated unfairly; when they think the University has made a mistake.