

Designing the Peer mentoring model for international students

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The Ministry of Education has approved the project “Designing the peer mentoring model for international students” for the 2020 to 2021. The project has two phases. The first phase is designing a collaborative peer mentoring model for NZIST. The second phase is implementation and evaluation of the model in 2021. The project initial start date was March 2020 however New Zealand went to a lockdown and this has been postponed. Because of the lockdown the project plan was rescheduled with a new start in June. The new plan has been approved by the MoE. The project included three workshops to carry out the design work of this model.

The first meeting was online as this was too close to the end of lockdown to have a face-to-face meeting and it was uncertain what the travel limitation would be for the scheduled date. The meeting started with three presentations at the start: 1) the peer mentoring programme that is currently used in the Eastern Institute of Technology, 2) the experiences of the Ara Institute of Technology and their programme of transition from education to industry, 3) nnn. The presentations were followed by discussion of other experiences of the participants and their experiences with peer mentoring programmes. The workshop identified peer mentoring programme processes and mentors education and training as an appropriate starting point for the investigation and design of a peer mentoring model. The design team comprised representatives from eight subsidiaries of NZ IST and four international students.

The teams met face-to-face for the first time at the second meeting which was held in the Auckland Campus of the Eastern Institute of Technology. The participants worked in two teams identifying the key components of the peer mentoring programme for international students and identified the key stakeholders and students’ needs for this model. A group of international students has been actively participating in this collaboration and has identified the key needs that students would like to see covered in the model. The third workshop is planned as face-to-face in Auckland later in September and will deliver the framework of the model. The implementation and evaluation of the model is planned for the first semester of 2021.

CITRENZ Workshop: Designing a peer mentoring model for international students

Participants: Lopez, D., EIT; Erturk, E., EIT; Sarkar, A., ARA; Chick, H., ARA; Sayed Ahmed, M., ARA; Mann, S., Capable NZ; Rozado, D., Otago Polytechnic, Sayan, R., MIT; Baker, O., SIT; Nuntalid, N., UNITEC

The project, funded by the Ministry of Education, has the objective of developing a collaborative peer mentoring model for international students at NZIST. This project was approved at the beginning of 2020 and its start was postponed until June 2020 because of the lockdown for COVID19. The project has two phases. The first phase is designing a collaborative peer mentoring. The second phase is implementation and evaluation of this model in the first semester of 2021.

This workshop has the intention of broadening participation of the overall project by including participants from computing departments of the NZIST subsidiaries. The project is actively collaborating with a number of students in this design of the peer mentoring model. There are several areas we are looking to explore: what are the international students’ needs that should be addressed with a peer mentoring programme? What kind of support do international students need? Who can become a mentor? What should be covered in the mentors training? What kind of peer mentoring model would students like to have?