TEACHING @ SYDNEY

February 2013

Help our students transition: Participate in the 'Ask Me' campaign

Orientation will be running Monday 25 February to Friday 1 March and once again, the Camperdown/Darlington campus will be visited by over 10,000 new students over the course of this week. This year we are asking staff to actively participate in Orientation through the 'Ask Me' campaign, which is an initiative that is designed to heighten the visibility, approachability and accessibility of staff and support available for new students at the University of Sydney.

In 2012, the First Year Working Party identified the first two to six weeks as a crucial period of adjustment and a major contributor to students' ongoing success at university. This period is especially important for students who come from non-traditional backgrounds - such as international students - as the transition is often more challenging because they may not be equipped with the frame of reference, or language skills, required to navigate the new study and physical environment.

We are encouraging all staff across all roles at the university to participate in the 'Ask Me' campaign by wearing a bright 'Ask Me' badge during Orientation Week and the first few weeks of semester. This initiative is an important step to help all commencing students feel welcome and a part of the diverse University of Sydney community as soon as they set foot on campus.

Along with your badge, you will receive a copy of the Orientation 2013 booklet, which lists all the activities for Orientation Week, and a handy FAQs sheet to help you answer questions with confidence. To find out more and **to order badges for yourself or your team**, click here.

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