Monash Warwick Alliance
Alliance Education Strategy 2017-2021
(last updated in October 2017)

1. Introduction

The Monash Warwick Alliance aims to create a world-leading and transformational educational experience underpinned by the combined expertise and strengths of our globally-linked universities.

The Alliance’s primary strategic education objective is to enhance the proficiency and vision of our graduates to become engaged and influential citizens in a globalised world.

In pursuing the objective, Monash and Warwick will maximise the allied strengths of our 10,000-strong academic community, and build on our shared values and complementary strengths in innovative learning and teaching, research-engaged learning, disciplinary and technological excellence.

2. Alliance education direction

This strategy, building on the institutional learning from the 2015-16 priority implementation projects, focusses on key Alliance principles:

- facilitating synergies with the respective education strategies of Monash and Warwick universities and other Alliance programs;

- prioritising impact of initiatives across the institutions, beyond what could be achieved by the Alliance partners individually or with other partners;

- delivering scalable initiatives that as many students and staff as possible can benefit from;

- clear understanding of our audiences and their ability to capitalise on these initiatives; and

- delivering initiatives jointly.

The 2017-21 strategy focuses on connecting staff and students globally to enable strong disciplinary and interdisciplinary exploration of major global challenges in education. Key priorities will include collaboration and innovation in teaching and learning and pedagogical research, enhanced mobility programs, facilitative academic technology platforms, and student engagement projects.

The Alliance, in education, will be distinguished by the centrality of its value to students, academics and other internal and external stakeholders, and by the depth and breadth of engagement across and between universities and enhancing the reputation of the Alliance and both universities respectively.
3. Governance

The Alliance Education strategy will be led by Professor Chris Hughes, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) at Warwick, and Professor Susan Elliott Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Education) at Monash.

The strategy relies on access to and support from relevant expertise across both universities and their student communities.

Overall coordination of the activities is the responsibility of the Alliance Project Team.

Progress reports will be provided to the Alliance Steering Committee and to the Alliance Board annually.

4. Alliance education strategy work streams

The Alliance education strategy comprises of five interconnected work streams spanning pedagogical innovation and best practice; student mobility and exchange; collaborative teaching; student research; and, student-led engagement.
**Work stream A: Student research**

Research is a key element in enriching the intellectual experiences of students as well as preparing them to integrate, collaborate and participate effectively in the professions of the future.

The Alliance has committed to continue supporting the collaborative activities of the ICUR Experience which offers undergraduate students international research-focused opportunities including mentoring, conference participation and journal publication/editing.

Furthermore, the Alliance will support the development of new staff-led and and student-led initiatives which:

- strengthen the research skills of our undergraduate and postgraduate students;
- encourage new research opportunities through the collaborative working of academic departments and students across both institutions;
- provide opportunities for students to publish and present their research; and
- promote the progression from undergraduate to postgraduate research degrees and into academia.

**Work stream B: Student mobility and exchanges**

Alliance collaboration in student mobility aims to enhance the student experience and increase the global awareness and understanding of students through access to a broader range of curricular and co-curricular opportunities and networking experiences. The Alliance provides a supportive environment for introducing novel programs, for growing institutional experience of managing large exchange cohorts, and for addressing institutional goals for growing and diversifying mobility cohorts.

The Alliance will pursue activities that:

- draw on the insight of students with knowledge of Alliance exchanges to enhance the experience for future exchange students;
- improve mobility support services, streamline administrative processes and facilitate sharing of best practice;
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- broaden the exchange opportunities available beyond the existing intercalated year/full semester model by introducing short term mobility experiences as part of an accredited course of study or as an extra-curricular activity such as internships, research exchanges or summer schools;
- improve access to mobility opportunities for under-represented and widening participation groups by addressing individual and institutional barriers to mobility;
- introduce new mobility opportunities to address specific cohort needs;
- promote the international exchange opportunities available;
• leverage our collective sites, networks and partners as locations for international student experiences; and

• enable students to maintain their connection to both universities beyond their mobility experience (e.g. as alumni or similar of both universities).

**Work stream C: Collaborative teaching & learning**

The Alliance affords opportunities for students and staff to learn together, share expertise and collaborate. It seeks to leverage complementary disciplines, academic excellence and educational technologies to develop new and enhance existing education offerings; with collaboration within the curriculum being prioritised.

The Alliance will encourage collaborating academics, their departments and central services to collaborate in activities that:

• develop collaborative teaching sessions, courses, programs, units/modules which enhance existing provision within and across disciplines and incorporate student skills development;

• embed Alliance peer interactions into course and unit/module design to facilitate cultural and experiential knowledge exchange;

• facilitate staff and students to share teaching and learning as cohorts in areas of shared disciplinary and interdisciplinary interest;

• empower staff to explore innovative learning technologies and pedagogies that support transnational education;

• enable sharing of expertise, experience, resources and materials for use in co-taught or complementary units/modules;

• provide opportunities for internationalizing the curriculum in UG and PG taught programs;

• develop opportunities in executive education and short courses;

• promote co-teaching and co-learning physical and virtual mobility experiences; and

• provide Work Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities including internships, placements and virtual projects.

**Work stream D: Pedagogical innovation and best practice**

The Alliance seeks as its core objective to harness the creativity and capacity of our students and academics in teaching and learning. Collaborating through the Education Academies, alongside our departments and schools, we can extend and enrich our pedagogical practice by supporting and sharing innovation and best practice in education.

The Academies will bring students and staff together in collaborative projects and communities of practice to drive:

• pedagogical innovation in curriculum design and delivery;
transfer and showcasing of excellence;

internationalisation of the curriculum by making use of academic technologies to provide synchronous or asynchronous ‘virtual mobility’ experiences for students;

development of alternative approaches to assessment and feedback, as well as review and adjust these alternative approaches;

student engagement in projects which inform learning and teaching practice;

the embedding of study and employability skills into the curriculum; and

development of transformational leadership in learning and teaching.

Work stream E: Student-led engagement

The Alliance aims to support activities that impart the skills that enhance the proficiency and vision of our graduates to become engaged and influential citizens in a globalised world.

This aim is pursued through a range of largely staff-led activities, outlined in work streams A-D, and those directly self-organised by the students. Across all Alliance education activities, students are engaged to ensure their voice is heard.

Support for Alliance collaboration led by student groups and associations will be focused in the areas below to ensure consistency of approach and to ensure strategic alignment of activities.

The Alliance will seek to support student-led activities that:

- facilitate undergraduate and postgraduate research-enhanced learning activities;
- contribute to learning and teaching collaboration and pedagogic innovation;
- develop collaborative student enterprise initiatives;
- contribute to the integration of the two student bodies;
- deliver impact to the student community; and
- prioritise sustainable outcomes.
5. Enabling elements

The delivery of this strategy relies on contribution and leadership from a range of areas across both universities. The key groups and support mechanism are outlined below:

**Student Unions and Associations**

The Warwick Student Union, Monash Student Association (MSA), Monash Student Union (MONSU) and the Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA) are responsible for the representation of students, the student voice in university governance, and the organisation of clubs, societies and a range of student-led activities. The student unions and associations facilitate elements of student engagement in Alliance activities and provide student voice in the management of the Alliance.

**The Education Academies**

The Warwick International Higher Education Academy (WIHEA) and the Monash Education Academy (MEA) facilitate and promote the sharing of best practice and pedagogical innovation. They support the Alliance directly through management of the *Visiting Educators Scheme* and assessment of Alliance proposals relating to pedagogical innovation.

**Learning and teaching support services**

The Monash Office of Learning and Teaching (MUOLT) and, as appropriate, WIHEA, IATL and or the Academic Technology team provide specialist advice and support to collaborating academics on issues relating to the delivery and development of education programs; including the use of education technologies.

**Study abroad, Widening Participation and Social Inclusion teams**

The Warwick and Monash Study Abroad offices are responsible for supporting students through their learning abroad experiences. These offices will closely liaise with the Widening Participation and Social Inclusion Teams when ensuring improved mobility opportunities for under-represented participants.

**Alliance project team**

The Alliance Project Team provides a coordinating and monitoring role for Alliance activities. It is responsible for managing the Alliance’s education activity budget and reporting requirements. The Project Team is often engaged to connect academics across the universities. It also leads on communicating the opportunities and successes of the Alliance.

**Alliance funding support schemes**

The Alliance provides a number of dedicated funding mechanisms or leverages existing collaboration mechanisms to support a range of education activities.
The Visiting Educators Scheme is designed to enable the sharing and showcasing of best practice through short term visits. This scheme is managed through the Education Academies.

The Student-Led Grants support Alliance collaborations led by student groups and that align with this strategy.

*Education Initiation and Delivery Grants* support academics to initiate and deliver smaller scale activities such as collaborative teaching, masterclasses, shared resource development and program development. The anticipated outcomes support engagement of specific student cohorts, enhanced learning outcomes for students, and changes in practice.

*Education Development Grants* target larger scale activities that develop, test and deliver new courses, modules or units – including mobility experiences. It also supports pedagogical innovation, including based on technology, that will change a current program or establish a new practice.

### 6. Performance measures

Performance measures will include quantitative and qualitative measures. Targets will be established for each project in the following areas:

- Number of students directly participating in Alliance activities including mobility, collaborative teaching/ learning, ICUR experience, student-led projects;
- Number of students positively impacted by Alliance activities;
- Number of academic departments/ schools participating in collaborative teaching; and
- Dissemination and take-up of the outcomes of collaborative projects.