



MONASH
College

Connections for Success

Co-Curricular Strategies to Enhance Student Belonging and Engagement

Michael Howie

Team Leader, Student Welfare

Martina Tan

Manager, U18 Guardianship Service & Student Engagement

“Belonging refers to the extent to which students ***feel valued, accepted and included***... This feeling of ***belonging*** is important for positive educational experiences" (Maunder, 2017).

MONASH COLLEGE STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Student Leadership Journey

Arrival & Orientation

At Monash College, new students' first interaction is with dedicated Student Leaders. During the "Welcome to Monash College" session, we highlight the Student Leadership Program and have Senior Student Leaders address and guide new students.

Activity Co-design

Student Leaders are tasked with designing orientation activities, considering the experience from a new student's perspective. Encouraged to think about "What would orientation look like through a new student's eyes?" or "What would I have wanted on my first day?"

Recruitment and Training

Applications, recruitment, and training occur three times a year to align with the Diploma Trimesters. These opportunities are open to all Monash College students (Foundation Year, Diplomas, English), provided they have at least one trimester or semester of study remaining.

Mentoring and Recognition

Senior Student Leaders, with 3-6 months of service, are assigned to coach and mentor new leaders individually. They are expected to model the way. Graduating leaders are recognised with Certificates/Statements of Engagement and celebrated during monthly Student Leader Connections sessions.

Transition to Monash University and Beyond!

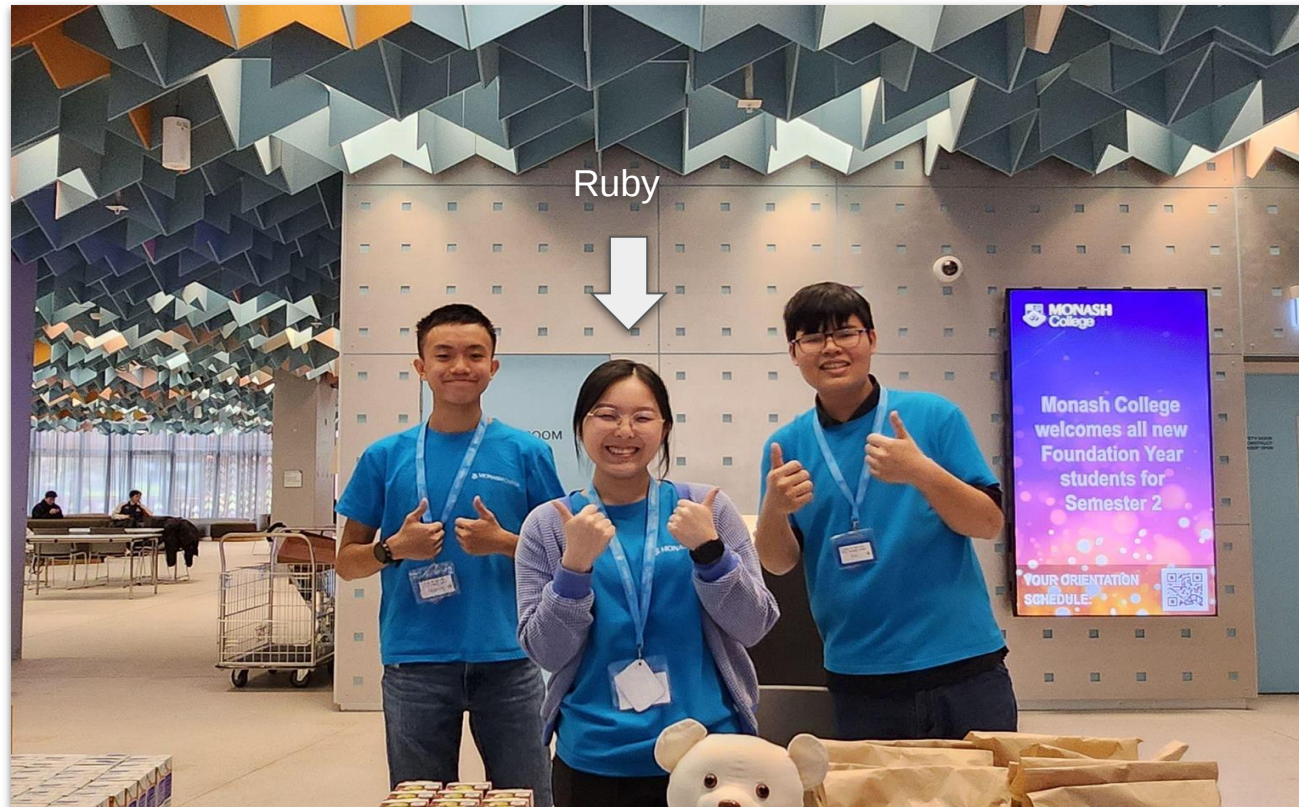
Student Leaders at Monash College are well-positioned to transition successfully to Monash University. Data shows they gain improved confidence, communication, teamwork, and group management skills. Standout leaders have even secured paid employment at Monash College.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Arrival and Orientation

Welcome, Inform, Connect

- ❖ **Welcome** students to Monash College
- ❖ **Inform** students of the support services available
- ❖ **Connect** students to their peers



STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Recruitment and Training

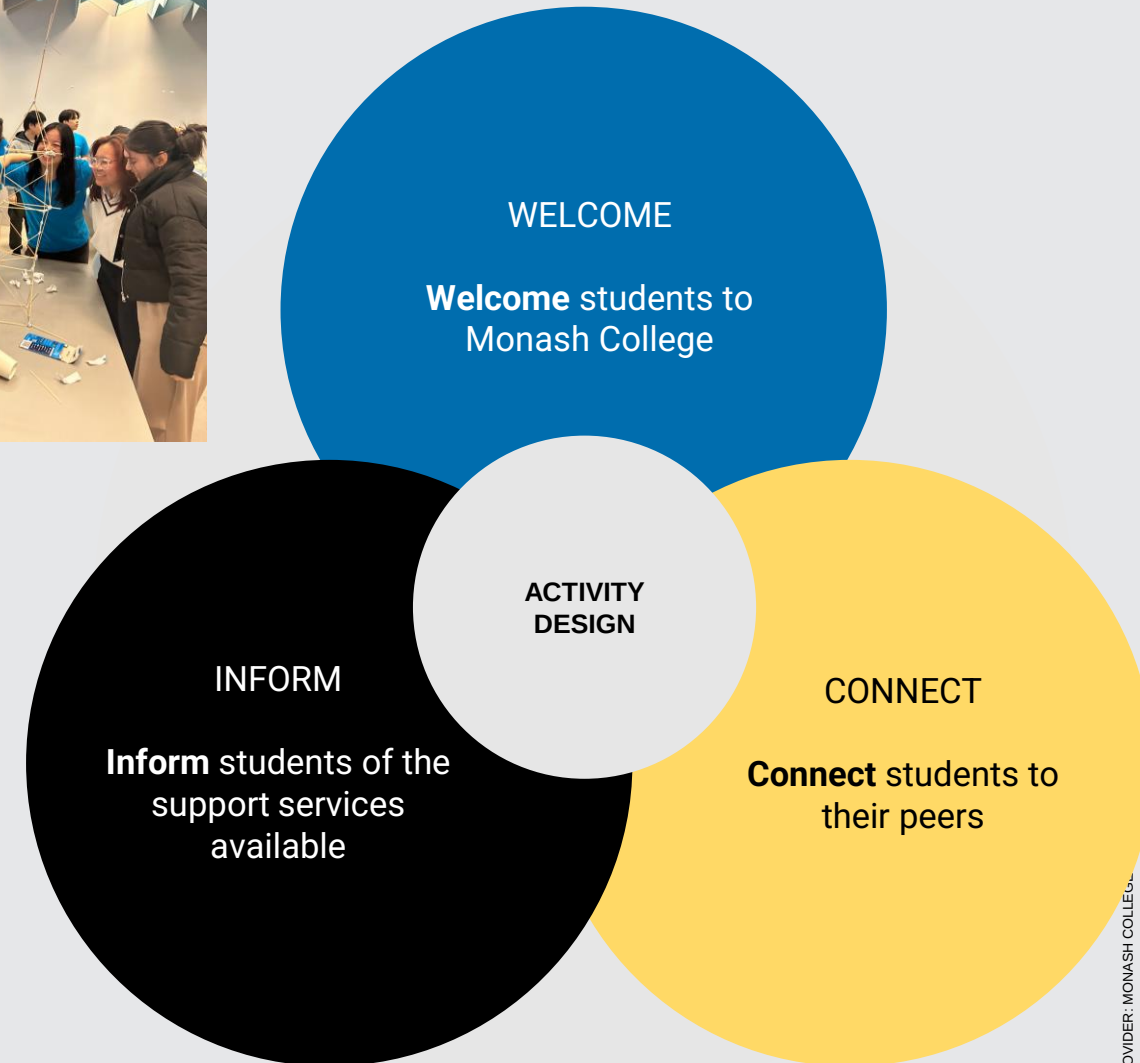
- ❖ Three intakes per year: March, August, October.
- ❖ Students submit a 1-minute video.
- ❖ Successful applicants attend Training Day (Saturday 9am - 1pm).
- ❖ Training Day includes the Leadership Challenge and team-building activities.
- ❖ Connect new leaders with College's Marketing and Governance teams.
- ❖ Social Media Squad and Academic Board
- ❖ Connect new leaders to 'senior' leaders.



Meet The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership®



Posner, Barry, and James M. Kouzes. *The Leadership Challenge*.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Activity Co-design: Monash Hunt

Developed by Student Leaders in 2022

Design principles (**Welcome**, **Inform**, **Connect**)

- ❖ Treasure hunt style (teams of 5-8 students)
- ❖ Questions about the Docklands Campus
- ❖ Student Services, Safety, Games, Photos & More!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Activity Co-design: Co-curricular Involvement

- ❖ Cultural and social events
- ❖ Co-curricular integration (Peer Mentors, Library Volunteers, Student Leaders)
- ❖ Student clubs



STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Mentoring and Recognition

- ❖ Certificate
- ❖ Statement of Engagement
- ❖ Access to Professional Development
- ❖ English Ambassador Program
- ❖ Student Leader Connections
- ❖ Microcredentials in Leadership (work in progress)



"A sense of belonging is especially important for how ***connected*** students feel to both the institution and the people within the institution (Gillen-O'Neel 2019). Research suggests that higher education students who have ***a stronger sense of belonging tend to have more academic self-confidence, higher motivation, higher levels of academic engagement and higher achievement*** (Gillen-O'Neel 2019; Maunder 2018; Murphy and Zirkel 2015; Osterman 2000; Slaten et al. 2016)."

STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Transition to Monash University and Beyond!

- ❖ Pathways to casual employment
- ❖ Personal references
- ❖ Monash Ambassador Program
- ❖ Vice-Chancellor's Ancora Imparo Leadership Program

"I have received warmth from friends and teachers, and have met many new people through the Student Leader Program. This experience has allowed me to develop my soft skills, including confidence in expressing myself and many others"

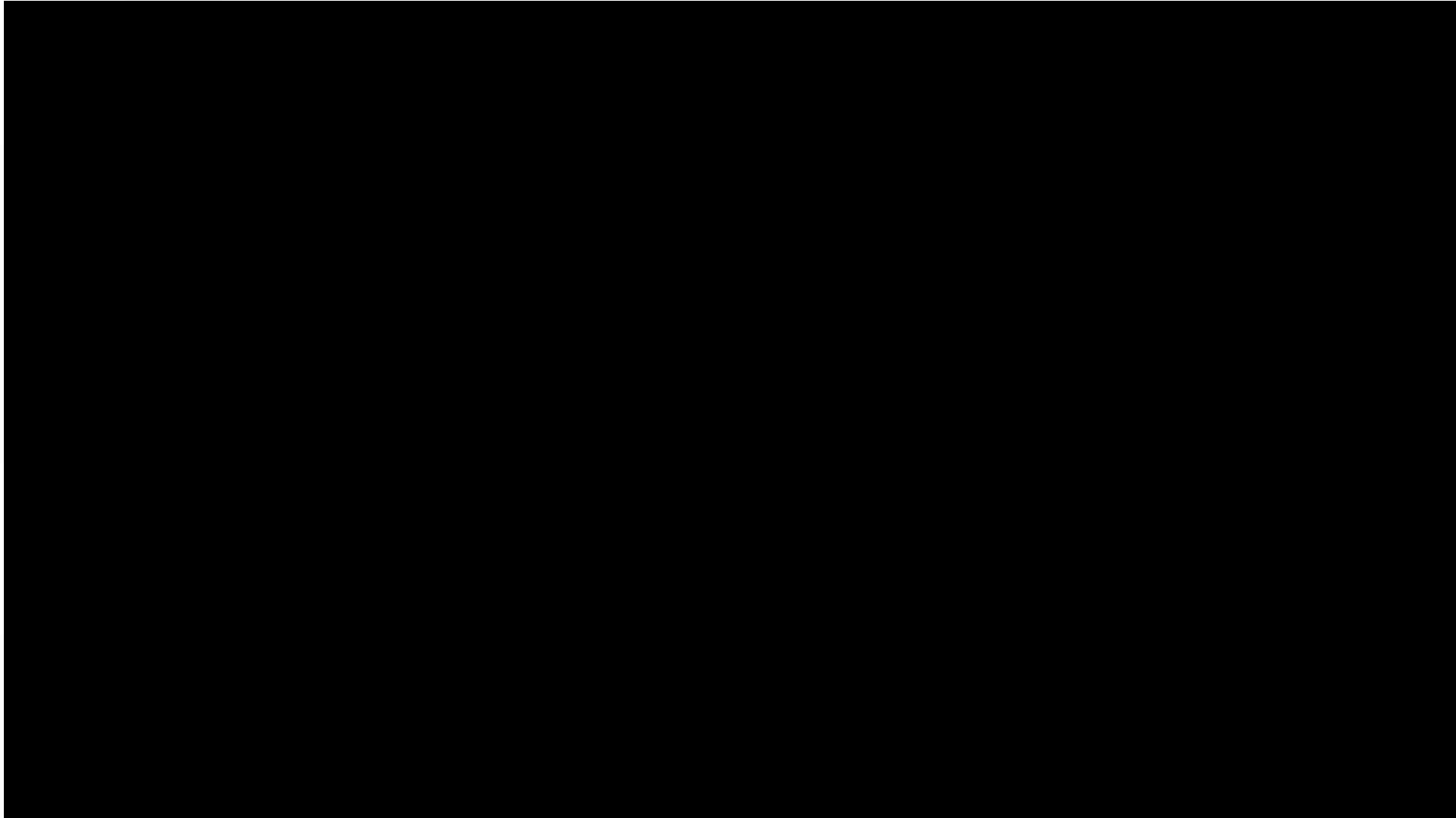
- May 2024

"The student leadership program allowed me to gain friends that increased my sense of belonging in the College. On the other hand, being able to contribute to College-wide events and having to work with staffs made me feel involved because I was given responsibilities beyond myself that pushed me to show up and be present for"

- November 2024

Question	Average Rating (out of 5)
I feel a sense of community and connection with other students in the leadership program. (May 2024)	4.7
Participating in the leadership program has strengthened my connection to Monash College. (May 2024)	4.6
The program has increased my knowledge of support services available to students at Monash College. (November 2024)	4.4
I feel my efforts have contributed to the success and growth of the Monash College Student Leadership Program after participating in it. (November 2024)	4.4

Let's hear from our leaders...





MONASH
College

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION**

michael.howie@monashcollege.edu.au

martina.tan@monashcollege.edu.au