

Transition programs



01

The First in Family program (FIF)

02

The Peers, Ambassadors, Leaders program (PAL)

Helping students get the most out of their university experience

We understand the first year of university is an important milestone in anyone's life. It's a bit like turning 18 or getting your drivers' license – liberating and exciting. But as with any new beginning, students face different challenges and expectations. To make the university experience as rewarding and enjoyable as possible, we have introduced two transition programs within the Arts Faculty.

01

Our First in the Family program

Being first in the family to attend university is something students should be truly proud of.

We have developed this program for Arts students who are the first of their generation to attend university. The program is designed to help students adjust to the many differences that are part of university life and to instil a sense of belonging.

What does the program offer?

Students are offered both an academic and social mentor.

These mentors, senior Arts students, help new students settle in and connect with others. Mentors introduce students to new people, provide advice on study skills and answer questions while students settle into university life.

New students also receive opportunity to meet new friends with similar interests through a range of social events. Through the program, they also receive support from the many valuable services offered by Monash's Employment and Career Development department.

FROM OUR STUDENTS

Erin Zillmann, Bachelor of Arts Student

"When I received an email informing me about the 'First in the Family' program, I didn't hesitate to accept. I found that coming from a rural area where very few attend university meant that I had a different perspective and more problems than the majority of people I met. My family and friends back home didn't understand what my degree involved and why I was pursuing my higher education.

Participating in 'First in the Family' put me in contact with other students that had similar experiences and a staff member to give me guidance and support. My mentor helped us to see the true value of an Arts degree, the skills we had learned and the fields that Arts graduates can go into."

Peers, Ambassadors and Leaders: Our PAL Program for students

Our three-step PAL Program, run over three years, offers students valuable leadership experience.

Step 01

The Peer Mentor Program

Having a mentor/buddy at the start of university can be a big help. So as part of the Peer Mentor program, we match dedicated mentors with new students. Mentors can draw from their own experience and training to guide others through that tricky first year.

Step 02

The Ambassadors Program

The Ambassadors Program is about developing valuable team and leadership skills. Through regular events and residential camps, we provide students training and support to develop confidence as leaders. Students also gain a wide range of skills throughout the year including advanced communication and presentation skills, and qualifications in mental health first aid. Ambassadors receive great opportunities to represent the Arts Faculty at public events and presentations.

Step 03

Leaders Program

Once students have completed the Ambassadors Program, they have the opportunity to step up as a Leader. Successful students elected from a competitive selection process undertake extensive leadership training and help manage the PAL program.

Fun but rewarding responsibilities include organising social events and training days for Ambassadors and engaging in volunteer work aligned with students' intellectual interests and ethical beliefs.



From our students

James Carey,
Current Bachelor of Arts student

I remember my first week at Monash University extremely well. I wasn't overawed with the amount of people around, however finding my way to classes proved to be a challenge. After a week or so, I made friends and we were able to find our classes together. The Arts Transition Program has allowed me, as a mentor, to illustrate why making lasting friendships is so important to university success. Those friendships helped me literally find my way.



From our students

Caylie Panuccio,
Current Bachelor of Arts (Languages)

When I first came to Monash, I struggled with public transport, essay writing, and even knowing where to find the cheapest coffee. I joined the Ambassadors Program to share my experience and knowledge with first year students and make a difference to my university community. Being an Ambassador enabled me to help others, gain new skills and make a lot of new friends.



Find out more

To find out more about our Transition and PAL programs go to:

artsonline.monash.edu.au/education/transition-programs/