

A Head Start

The Academic Benefits of Student Accommodation

Student accommodation has a key role to play in enhancing students' overall experience whilst studying at university. Past research has consistently affirmed that living within student accommodation is positively related to positive outcomes for students (Blimling, 1993; Coates & Edwards 2009; Pascarella, Terenzini & Blimling, 1994; LaNasa, Olson & Alleman, 2007).

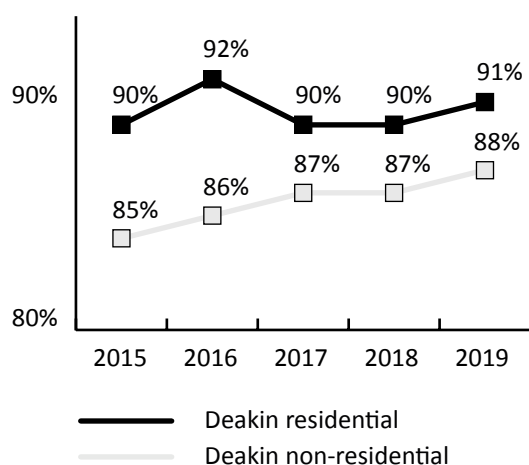
As noted by researchers Hamish Coates and Daniel Edwards, "...in the last decade, a substantial body of empirical research has affirmed that it is the 'whole experience' that counts for student learning and development, not just what happens in formal instructional contexts (2009, p. 2).

Deakin Res has a long history of providing high quality accommodation and an exceptional student experience. Students who live on campus are better connected, experience a greater sense of belonging, and are more likely to achieve academic success than their peers.

A longitudinal academic study conducted by the University highlights that Deakin residential students continue to achieve success and retention rates above their non-residential counterparts (Gladigau 2020). Residents from low socio-economic backgrounds, and regional or remote home locations, particularly perform well in comparison to their peers.

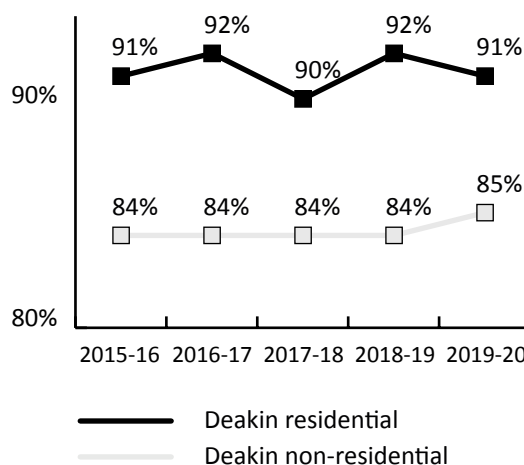
Success

Success rates for Deakin residential and non-residential students:



Retention

Retention rates for Deakin residential and non-residential students:



Student accommodation plays an important role in "...retaining students through the first few weeks of university, enculturating them into academic life and setting in place productive approaches to study (Coates & Edwards 2009)."

4 Ways Living on Campus Supports Student Academic Success

1.



Tailored and round-the-clock transitional and ongoing support.

2.



Proximity to university services, resources and study and learning spaces.

3.



Access to key academic and support staff, enabling increased engagement before and after class.

4.



Integrated academic, support and enrichment activities designed to scaffold learning.

Sheridan Finn, Deakin Resident, Warrnambool Campus



Sheridan Finn, a resident at Deakin's Warrnambool campus, attributes living on campus and a passion for her course, for her excellent academic results, receiving the 2020 Deakin Residences Academic Award for the highest results in her faculty.

"I have 24-hour access to multiple study rooms in the residential precinct and being only a few minutes' walk from the library and my classrooms is so convenient, particularly when completing group assignments."

"It's also taken a lot of pressure off my transition to university. I learnt so much about how university works and how to navigate online materials from the people I've met living on campus."

"Living on campus has helped my studies in so many different ways."

Sheridan notes that living on campus has also enabled her to make friends with others studying in her faculty. "At the start of the year, I met someone who was starting the same course as me through a Deakin Res event. This not only gave me a wonderful new friend, it meant I had someone to walk to and from and to sit with in class which helped me really feel a part of something."



If you or your students are interested to know more about the opportunities available to live on campus at Deakin in 2021, 2022 or beyond, please contact www.deakin.edu.au/live

References

Blimling, G. (1993). The influence of college residence halls on students. Pages 248-307 in: Smart, J. (Ed.) Higher Education: Handbook of theory and research 9. New York: Agathon Press.

Gladigau, P. (2020). Academic Performance of Students Living in Deaking Residences 2015 - 2019, Deakin University Planning and Institutional Performance Unit (PIPU)

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LaNasa, S.M., Olson, E. & Alleman, N. (2007). The Impact of on-campus student growth on first-year student engagement and success. Research in Higher Education, 48(8), 941-66.

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Laura is responsible for the design, development, coordination and continual enhancement of the student experience at Deakin Res, throughout the journey from high school, pre-arrival, orientation and transition and on-campus experience through to alumni engagement. Laura is widely regarded as an industry expert in the theory, planning, and delivery of exceptional student experiences, having honed her skills over the course of a career spanning two decades and multiple higher education institutions.