Educators of Impact

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Adnan Mahmood

Adnan Mahmood’s teaching methodology involves invoking students’ perception beyond the classroom boundaries to allow them to visualise what they can do with the taught concepts in real-world, practical circumstances. He believes that without this important perspective, students may be studying just to pass the respective unit instead of truly learning and gaining something valuable out of what’s taught.

“My classroom usually pictures more like a practical session for students than a traditional lecture. I always bring out interesting use cases from my own working experience to encourage students to undertake in-class exercises and group activities that will strengthen the taught classroom concepts.”

“He is without a doubt one of the most engaging tutors I have had in my four years of being at this university. He is always happy to assist and push your knowledge to succeed. A true asset to Macquarie University. His teaching techniques are really good, and he really clears concepts in depth.”

– 2019 Macquarie Student

The Foundation and Diploma Direct Entry Program Team led by Alejandra Vazquez

Highly commended
Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Learning Innovation (Team nomination)

Alejandra Vazquez developed the Foundation and Diploma Direct Entry Program, which aims to motivate and inspire students to succeed by taking a 100 per cent student-centred approach to learning and teaching. Course activities and assessment tasks have been carefully designed to address pathway students' specific challenges and needs.

“To better prepare our students for success, these courses provide them with opportunities to engage in relevant and appealing projects that encourage skills such as problem solving, creativity, collaboration and digital literacy. With the development of these skills, students are better equipped to reach their academic goals.”

– Alejandra Vazquez
Carin Hurwitz

Carin Hurwitz is passionate about creating a personalised and customised learning environment, one that fosters participation and meets the needs of today's active learners. Her learning environment incorporates activity-based tasks to develop content-specific knowledge or skills, and draws parallels to broader life. She is motivated to influence young minds to engage deeply and develop enquiring minds and a love for learning not only in academia but also beyond formal education into their future lives.

“My students are encouraged to set goals. Those who easily grasp concepts are urged to work at higher levels, while others may need reassurance and assistance. Hard workers always receive my vote of confidence. Belief in oneself is often the intrinsic stimulation needed to succeed.”

“Alek has a unique teaching style. He always tries to get the best out of us, so we reach our full potential.”

– 2019 Macquarie Student

Aleksandar Stefanovic

Aleksandar Stefanovic’s teaching philosophy is grounded in communicative language teaching, which has a clear focus on language learning being an active, student-centred process, emphasising pair work and group work to prepare for success. He believes that teaching shouldn’t be limited by any one approach and that providing a learning environment where students can successfully achieve their goals is what’s most important.

“The teacher and the effectiveness of their communication style is an important aspect in motivating students, and I achieve this by creating a comfortable class atmosphere, communicating clearly and demonstrating passion and energy. I’m also committed to providing positive feedback and encouragement, as I believe this is a key way to motivate and inspire students.”

“Alek has a unique teaching style. He always tries to get the best out of us, so we reach our full potential.”

– 2019 Macquarie Student
Lisa Bonnici

Lisa Bonnici works hard to build productive relationships with her students, ensuring they feel supported in their individual learning journey at Macquarie. She wants her students to know she cares about their wellbeing as well as their academic success. She is also passionate about social learning, so her teaching is designed to facilitate maximum engagement and interaction with, and between her students, in and out of the classroom.

“I’ll often nominate students to work with different people each time we do pair work or group work activities; I also encourage my students to feel safe asking questions, to learn from their mistakes and to remember that, with effort, almost any success is possible.”

“Lisa is an inspiring, kind, passionate teacher who has a great heart. She knows when her students are under pressure and behind in content and is there to help; she really listens. Her classroom was very engaging, educative and fun, and I learned more than just English in her class. I will never forget for the rest of my life that she incentivised me to do well and wanted all of us to succeed. She deserves to know she’s made an impact on her students.”

– 2019 Macquarie Student

Daniel Lombardo

Daniel Lombardo engages his students by showing how powerful a working knowledge of mathematics and programming can be in today’s world. He does this by showing them not only what they can build but also what they can reverse engineer – hack – and relates every concept he teaches to the real world, using examples like popular games, applications, websites and cybersecurity to embed the learning.

“I’ve set up very basic demonstrations of hacking, and game and software development that students can access at the click of a button. My favourite example is a ‘Click here to hack iLearn’ button, which very quickly gets students attention.”

“Daniel made the Fundamentals of Computer Science unit fun and easy for me. He was very helpful as well – whenever someone needed help, he was always there.”

– 2019 Macquarie Student
Maja Draganic

Maja Draganic believes that regular, open and honest communication with students is an important foundation for successful learning. Understanding the unique needs of her students means she can design a learning environment that truly motivates and engages them – which, in turn, leads to better learning outcomes.

“In the age of standardised testing, it can be easy to forget to be inspiring. My experience as a teacher has taught me that a positive and inclusive learning environment that acknowledges emotion, and where students feel comfortable to express their needs, is crucial for motivating and inspiring them to succeed.”

“Easy to understand and uses various teaching methods. Most importantly, she lets students have fun and learn at the same time. She always motivates, encourages and supports students as much as she can. She is a good teacher, and I really hope the world will gain more teachers like Maja.”

– 2019 Macquarie Student

Dr Pamela Humphreys

★ Highly commended Vice-Chancellor’s Educational Leader Award

Dr Pamela Humphreys motivates and inspires her colleagues with her positive, enthusiastic and engaging way of working. She’s known for her commitment to quality and excellence in all she does, together with her keen focus on supporting and enabling continuous professional development for our teachers.

“I’m proud to have been involved in the co-development of our institutional learning and teaching philosophy based around three words: engage, empower, evolve. This led to a teaching excellence framework, which provides a mechanism for continuous professional development and encourages our teachers to be reflective practitioners.”