

MEDIA RELEASE



Australia's first MOOC attracts record number of international students

Australia's first Massive Open Online Course platform has attracted over 50 per cent of its students from over 140 countries according to a research report released by Open Universities Australia today.

"Analysis of the student research report over a six month period confirms that that an Australian educational offering can generate enormous international interest," said Open Universities Australia's Executive General Manager of Open2Study Jose Herrera Perea.

Students from United Kingdom, United States of America and India represent the top three international countries.

"Consistent research and analysis of students online learning activity provides educators with valuable insights on how to better understand and optimise the online learning environment. It is this research that will form the foundation for effective decision making and future developments," said Mr Herrera Perea.

Mr Herrera Perea said that Australia had also set the benchmark for course completion rates.

"Despite the open and diverse range of free courses now available, the industry is still characterised by low completion rates. Students enrol in record numbers but many fail to follow through to the end of the course. Our research shows consistently increasing completion rates amongst Open2Study students with over 27 per cent of students finishing their course, significantly more than the 7-9 per cent industry average.

"Our research report also debunks the isolation myths associated with online study. Students are actively engaging with lecturers and other students, averaging 4,000 discussion posts per intake."

“Appeal for courses is varied ranging from management streams such as Project Management, Enterprise Architecture and Financial Literacy to the science streams such as Psychology and Introduction to Astronomy,” said Mr Herrera Perea.

“Free online courses are rapidly growing international phenomena. The fact that such a high proportion of international students have embraced an Australian made product is testament to our ability to compete in the competitive education market.”

Open2Study also conducts post course evaluation surveys where students provide individual feedback of their online learning experience.

“The courses were concise and well presented and a wonderful way to engage in continuous education. The certificate at the end of the course was an added bonus,” said Ramaswamy Swaminathan a student from India.

Ends

About Open2Study – Never stop learning

Open2Study delivers free high quality online education. It offers everyone the chance to experience online tertiary and professional learning through a range of subjects, designed for everyday people. Backed by [Open Universities Australia](#), Open2Study is based on the core principle that learning is life-long and should be accessible by all. And did we mention it was free? Visit www.open2study.com or access the Media Centre at www.open2study.com/media-centre

Media inquiries

Valentina Lazarevska

Media and Public Relations Manager

Email: Open2StudyMedia@open.edu.au

Tel: +61 (3) 8628 5097