

## Using Technology to Enhance Retention

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Comprehensive and coordinated whole-of-university strategies across key phases of the student journey are key elements to enhancing student retention and success. Academic staff have a key role in supporting student success and improving student retention. The activities undertaken during the first few weeks of semester are critical. Sometimes students drop out of units because they make informed choices to enrol in alternative courses, but often students fail to engage because of issues that are within the control of academic staff. While academics may not be able to control the availability of parking, or the quality of food on campus, for most students, the strongest relationships are with their lecturing and tutoring staff, so this is where academics can ensure that we do not lose students unnecessarily. Embedding retention-enhancement strategies into all courses is a therefore key priority in the School of Medical and Health Sciences (SMHS) at Edith Cowan University (ECU). One of the challenges for an Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning) is to assist already-busy academic staff to implement University-wide teaching and learning priorities whilst at the same time not overburdening them with more and more things to get done.

In 2017 a new Technology-enhanced Learning Blueprint was released at ECU that documented minimum requirements for curriculum delivery. In this session the Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) from the SMHS at ECU will share how this Blueprint has been disseminated to academic staff in SMHS in a way that makes it easier for academic staff to both implement the new Blueprint and also address another of ECU's university-wide priorities i.e. improved student retention. The methodology and results of a pilot project to enhance retention will be discussed and how the requirements of the ECU Technology-enhanced Learning Blueprint were operationalised into a Retention Checklist tool will be presented. The SMHS Retention Checklist will be made available at this session.