

Module Two – Expectations around technology

Imagine how differently the student would feel about their first day at the Centre and their first full day in Australia if they were given the wifi code when they first arrived, were encouraged to log in to the Centre's social media sites whilst they were waiting for their student card or test results and shown where the Centre is, and where they can buy a sim card, on Google Maps during their campus and local area tour.

By having stable wifi and encouraging students to use it, students are more likely to positively engage, with the Centre as well as their learning experience as a whole. If wifi is restrictive and prohibitive, it just makes it more of a distraction and gives a mostly negative impression of the Centre. Of course you are within your right to restrict access to inappropriate sites or to limit access to downloads and certain streaming sites, however investing in the best wifi you can will give teachers greater scope to incorporate learning technologies and blended learning strategies into their lessons, allow for more effective use of electronic forms of communication including social media and online documents and can facilitate more online supplementary and self-study resources, which can reduce the need for easily outdated, often expensive physical resources. When there is decent wifi and breakout spaces for students to sit and work together, they will be more likely to stay after class to study and socialise, which only enhances a Centre's atmosphere. Stable and accessible wifi rates far more highly with students than smartboards, large computer labs or rooms of outdated library resources.