First Year Experience Teacher Education

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In the 100th year of federation and within the evolution of a multicultural society. It is valuable to consider the education of citizens both long standing and recent.

Since 1997, the Faculty has conducted a series of surveys of its first year students with an adapted version of the McInnis and James. First Year Experience Questionnaire Analysis of the data from the study considers longstanding citizens as students born in Australia and who speak English as the main language at home. New citizens include students born outside Australia and those who do not speak English at home. Factors such as the work patterns, ie part and full-time work, gender, type of school attended and satisfaction with experience of being a university student were compared.

The findings showed that students who did not have English was their first language at home were less likely to be satisfied with the university experience. More importantly for this group of students the experience of university clearly had not lived up to expectation.

These findings are discussed and the implications for curriculum development are evaluated.