

Student Experience:

Firstly, I am an elected student representative on Anti-Racism and Ethnic Affairs as well as the Engineering Faculty Board. So, in trying to build a collective group around taking action on issues of racism and discrimination on campus, I have noticed it has been difficult for students to contribute beyond meeting times due to continuous assessments, work and readings. As a result, it has put more of a burden on my role as an anti-racism convenor to take the time to take action on what is important to students and myself. This has in itself been limited, due to the fast pace of all my subjects in a shorter session than last year. One of the main reasons for the shorter sessions were to cut costs and increase research time for academics however it does nothing for my quality of education. I feel that being at university for 24 weeks of the year for the same cost is not worth it. That is less than half a year spent on what I feel is a cost-centred institution for degrees, when I am here to learn and build upon the knowledge that I have. In reality, that time spent at university is even less due to public holidays.

In addition, I expect lecturers and tutors to challenge their various teaching techniques to bring out the best in students. Perhaps there needs to be a way of getting an education degree for engineering graduates who choose to teach.

Unfortunately, the quality of teaching is exacerbated when lecturers and tutors from different course backgrounds attempt to teach my course. This issue was one of the main concerns raised by students at the Engineering Faculty Board and may be due to the lack of educators who have studied engineering. In the end, students pay for an information dump. I do not want to travel 3 hours a day to and from university, nor come into university 5 days a week for an information dump. Lecturers are there to facilitate learning however, I need time to absorb what I have learnt and I need time to consult lecturers on my understanding.

Overall, I believe the student life experience is not being valued as the university puts more pressure on staff and students. This leads to students struggling to learn well let alone become well-rounded people who can take action on issues that concern them.

Thank you for reviewing Australia's higher education system, Angela Rozali Anti-Racism & Ethnic Affairs Office Bearer and Student Representative for the Engineering Faculty Board