



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE FACT SHEET No 2/2019

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE WELCOME WEEK 2019

What is Welcome Week?

St John's College Welcome Week is designed to introduce our commencing students to the College and the University of Sydney, and to provide information and resources to help students make the transition into university life.

During Welcome Week students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the diverse and vibrant university and college communities by attending college, faculty and school welcomes, transition sessions and skills workshops, and social events and activities. They will meet college and university staff, fellow students and peer mentors, and be introduced to the wide range of support, resources and facilities available for them during their time at the College and the University.

Beginning a time of living and studying at a residential college is exciting for incoming students. Starting a program of study in another country is exceptional – a new environment, a new culture, and a new way of learning. St John's Welcome Week will help our students settle into the University and the College and open a new chapter in their lives.

Welcome Week is the official start of the academic year and is specifically designed for students:

- to obtain important information about settling in at the College and University and about life in Sydney;
- to find out where they can get support;
- to ask questions;
- to meet other new students;
- to join clubs and societies;
- to have fun and get ready for the university and college experience.

In 2018 St John's changed the name of its internal program from Orientation Week to Welcome Week to signal a shift in emphasis resulting from several years of evolution. In 2019 the University of Sydney also changed the name of its campus-wide program to Welcome Week.

Objectives

- To provide the best possible introduction for commencing students to college and university life.
- To inform new students of rules, regulations and policies which apply to them at St John's.
- To provide information about safety and wellbeing at St John's and across the broader University campus.

- To provide information about resources for help and support which are provided by the College and how to access them.
- To provide information about available resources provided by the University and external agencies and how to access them.
- To introduce commencing students to the history and traditions of the College.
- To make students aware of the Catholic heritage of St John's and how they can participate in the spiritual life of the College.
- To assist new students to formulate goals and priorities to enable them to achieve to the best of their ability in academic, spiritual, cultural, sporting and social dimensions.

How Welcome Week is organised at St John's

The College normally admits around 100 new undergraduate students each year. The majority of this cohort is made up of school-leavers together with those beginning university after a gap year. There are also some students going into their second or third year at the University of Sydney, and some exchange and study abroad students coming from overseas universities.

Most commencing students are aged between 18 and 20 at entry into the College, with a small number turning 18 in the early months of the year. Most will be coming into residence for the full year; affiliate students who are not residential are accommodated in the College during the Welcome Week period.

In October of the preceding year the College calls for applications from returning students who wish to be on the Welcome Week team of about 35 second and third year students. This team is selected by College staff and the invitation to participate is accepted by the applicant signing on to a set of rules and protocols for the running of the program. About half of the team (17 out of 35 in 2019) consists of the student Pastoral Team appointed by the Rector for that year.

A vital component is **Student Leaders Training** focussed on Leadership Week which is held in the lead-up to Welcome Week. This program is explained in detail in a separate Fact Sheet.

Welcome Week includes both an induction program organised by the College and several social events facilitated by the student team under the supervision of College staff.

Some of the core principles underlying the St John's Welcome Week are:

- The dignity and wellbeing of each individual commencing student is the paramount consideration in all activities throughout the week.
- The sessions which are run by the College must be attended by all commencing students.
- Participation in social events is entirely voluntary. It is each student's choice whether to take part and they are under no obligation to do so.
- St John's students may not consume alcohol before 6pm throughout Welcome Week.
- All activities during Welcome Week are under the control and direction of the Rector and College staff.

Joint social events may be organised with another college. Heads of College have determined that no event may be held involving the new student cohort of more than two colleges (i.e. an event is limited to the host college and one guest college). Joint events are arranged by an invitation issued from one Head of College to another.

The College induction program

Prior to arrival at the College new students are asked to complete five online modules customised for St John's as follows:

Living in the St John's College community
Alcohol and drugs
Mental health and support services
Sexual assault, sexual harassment and consent
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New students are also required to complete the online module *Consent Matters* as part of their enrolment with the University.

During Welcome Week 2019 the following induction sessions will be provided (attendance is compulsory for all new students):

<i>Title</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Duration</i>
INTRODUCTION TO ST JOHN'S COLLEGE: Our purpose, values and culture	Adrian Diethelm, Rector	19 Feb 2019	1h
SPIRITUAL LIFE: Presentation & discussion followed by Mass	Rector & Student Life Team	21 Feb 2019	1h 30m
ACADEMIC WORK	TJ Christie, Dean	22 Feb 2019	1h
MENTAL WELLBEING: Strategies for residents	Michael Donehue, ADES	21 Feb 2019	1h 15m
DRUG AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS	Red Frogs	20 Feb 2019	1h 30m (each of 2 groups)
UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS: Student Support Services, Academic Integrity	University of Sydney staff	22 Feb 2019	1h 30m
HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION & SEXUAL CRIME	Brent Sanders, consultant	20 Feb 2019	1h 30m (each of 2 groups)
THE CRITICAL TAKEWAYS	Rector and Vice- Rector	22 Feb 2019	1h 15m

Wellbeing and safety during Welcome Week

St John's College has a comprehensive Student Code of Conduct which includes a Zero Tolerance Policy towards any form of harassment or hazing. The College states clearly that both organised activities and the behaviour of individuals must be kept well away from the line which demarcates unacceptable conduct. Training provided during Leadership Week will assist student leaders to recognize any unacceptable behaviour and put a stop to it immediately. College staff are fully committed to ensuring the wellbeing and safety of all students at St John's.

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