

For sustained commitment to engaging first year mathematics students through a supportive learning environment, the use of new technologies and community consultation

Overview of contribution and context

We teach a total of four first year mathematics subjects to classes of up to 300 students who have a diverse range of mathematical abilities. We influence, motivate and inspire students through a team approach to engagement via new technologies, building confidence and creating a learning environment where students feel safe in taking risks. Many first year students are ill prepared for tertiary mathematics and lack confidence in the basic mathematics skills. We feel that by engaging students through our own passion for mathematics, and maintaining strong alignment throughout our courses and between lecturers, we can build confidence and encourage students to become active participants in the learning process.

JCU is a regional university with a diverse student intake with many students being the first in their family to attend University, and who come from a variety of regional communities and schools. Hence it is difficult, but necessary, to cater for students of all abilities and prepare them for the many disciplines in which mathematics is a basic requirement.

