

Case Study - Macleans College

Vital English has enabled Macleans to better prepare for international student arrivals and, once in NZ, integrate online learning into the classroom.

The Customer

Macleans College is a co-educational high school located in Buckland Beach, Auckland. With a roll of over 2400 students, including approximately 200 international students, Macleans College is the second largest high school in New Zealand. Macleans has a reputation for high academic achievement as well as fostering and adopting new ideas.

The Challenge

In relation to their international students the challenge is twofold.

1. How to ensure international students who come to study at Macleans can cope with mainstream classes.
2. How to make the step towards online learning in a classroom setting. Engaging and stimulating learners online while providing teachers with additional teaching tools, particularly for students where English is their second language and communication is a challenge.

The Journey

Vital English presented to the principal of Macleans, Byron Bentley, focusing on the pre-arrival learning product. He immediately saw potential in this product and arranged for key people at Macleans, including the head of ESOL, marketing manager and deputy principal, to be involved in follow up meetings to scope out the opportunity further. During the scoping process the range of Vital English products and courseware were discussed as part of a wider discussion on how they might fit within the Macleans context.

The Solution

Following the scoping process Vital English prepared a detailed proposal including costing that suggested the use of two products to meet the challenges outlined above.

Pre-Arrival Learning, in China

- Access codes given to a class of students from a partner school in China, 3 months before their departure for Macleans in New Zealand.
- Placement test, supervised by a teacher in class, with results emailed to Macleans.

- Appropriate level general English course, based on test result.
- Customised Macleans orientation tour online.
- Living in New Zealand home-stay course.

Online Self Study, with placement test, for immersion students

- Access codes given to immersion ESOL students in class.
- Placement test, supervised by a teacher, and results emailed to the teacher.
- Appropriate level general English course, based on test result.
- Option to enrol in additional general English course and vocabulary course.

Feedback

“Vital English has been fantastic to work with in creating PAL. New Zealand companies produce some superb IT programmes, rivalling many of the international products and we have been especially impressed at the speed of turn around and cost effectiveness. We are really looking forward to the benefits of this training solution.”

- Byron Bentley, Principal of Macleans College

Included in the solution is an ILS Plus system, with customised branding and both English and Chinese language options.

The Results

The implementation of online self study for immersion students has been completed and the feedback from the teachers of the immersion classes is very positive.

Students in China are due to receive their Pre-arrival Learning access codes in May and we look forward to further feedback on that implementation.

