Legacy Down Under:
Documenting and Promoting the Melbourne Project Center

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WPI Local Coordinator: Jonathan Chee
Sponsor: WPI IGSD
The WPI Plan

“A bold experiment in higher education”
The Global Projects Program

Legend
- Projects Active this Term
- No Projects this Term
Interactive Qualifying Project
The IQP Process

Preparatory Term (7 weeks)
- Understanding the Problem
- Social Science Research
- Proposal

Project Term (7 weeks)
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Community Interactions
- Deliverables and Recommendations
# High Impact Learning

## Learning Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project-Based Learning</th>
<th>Service Learning</th>
<th>Study Abroad*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Manage multiple tasks&lt;br&gt;• Collaborate effectively on a team&lt;br&gt;• Communicate with multiple stakeholders&lt;br&gt;• Create innovative and relevant solutions&lt;br&gt;• Improve understanding of underlying material</td>
<td>• Education via community service&lt;br&gt;• Improve personal efficacy&lt;br&gt;• Enhance individual growth&lt;br&gt;• Combat reductive seduction tendencies</td>
<td>• Improved open-mindedness&lt;br&gt;• Experience learning as a way of life&lt;br&gt;• Intercultural development</td>
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## Unique Application to the IQP

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<td>• Contribute research and recommendations to address open-ended problems&lt;br&gt;• Hands-on group work&lt;br&gt;• Project spanning several months</td>
<td>• Community-based nature&lt;br&gt;• Working alongside organizations and their communities</td>
<td>• Immersion into an unfamiliar culture&lt;br&gt;• Emphasis on ethics and collaborative practice</td>
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*Not all IQPs are completed abroad*
Melbourne Project Center: 1998-2016

~160 Projects
~40 Sponsors
~600 Students
Current Sponsors of IQPs
Project Goals
Shortcomings

Limited information about the MPC
Lack of documented feedback from sponsoring organizations
Reliant on word-of-mouth information from peers
Little information produced by WPI on the Melbourne area
Project Goal: Understand and Improve the Impacts of the MPC

Sponsor Liaison Interviews <-> Program Needs and Goals <-> MPC Student Survey

Deliverables:
- Database
- Website
- Social Media
- Informational Content
- Student Video
- Sponsor Video
Findings
Perceived Impacts from Sponsor Liaisons

- **83.3%** High Impact on Sponsoring Organization
- **75.0%** High Impact on Project Community Stakeholders
- **70.8%** Long Lasting Impacts
- **92.6%** Positive Experience with the WPI IQP
- **88.9%** Positive Experience with WPI Students and their Professionalism
Student Survey Results

Findings

- 73.6% of respondents requested a List of Activities to do at the Project Center.
- 63.7% of respondents requested the Project Center Specific Video.
- 61.9% of respondents requested the Project Center Specific Website.
Deliverables
<table>
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<th>Descriptions</th>
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| Projects                | Information on projects from 1999 to 2017  
Includes: titles, abstracts, authors, sponsors, link to final report                                                                 |
| Sponsor Overview        | Overall information about the sponsors  
Includes: how many projects they sponsored, if they were contacted or interviewed for this project                                    |
| Project Sponsors        | Contact information for sponsor liaisons                                                                                                      |
| Sponsor Impacts         | Raw data from sponsor liaison interviews                                                                                                   |
“In terms of the impact.. it gave them [service providers in Fawkner] the evidence base to gain funding to set up a small community market. It helped them to show that food insecurity needed to be addressed. Now fresh fruit and vegetables are sold at discounted prices.”
- Meredith Lawrence, Fawkner Community House
The experience of spending 2 months living and working in a foreign country really broadened my understanding of the world and its different cultures. Working every day in an interdisciplinary team helped me learn how to collaborate with people of differing backgrounds and areas of expertise.
Deliverables

Website

Projects

Each year the Melbourne Project Centre at WPI conducts a set of 6 or 7 projects, typically with 3 or 4 students per project team, during B Term (from late October to mid-December) and another set of projects in D term (from mid-March to early May). In these pages you will find links to the reports of projects completed from 1999 to the present. The projects have been organized by sponsor, by year and term, and by the themes of the projects. For the full report PDF of each project, see the links provided at the bottom of each project page.

(Please Note: These are draft pictures)
Gas or Electricity — An Evaluation of Electricity and Natural Gas as a Residential Energy Source

Authors
Ashleigh C. Collins, Jake A. Brown, Andrew M. Andraka

Sponsor
Alternative Technology Association

Advisors
Andrew G. Klein, Seth Tuler

Term
March – May 2014

Abstract
Australian natural gas prices are projected to increase 30-50% by 2030, leaving many residential consumers with higher cooking and heating expenses. The Alternative Technology Association (ATA) recognized this impending increase and is seeking ways for consumers to reduce the costs of cooking and heating. ATA is creating a financial model to determine the cost of energy for consumers in the future. Our goal was to assist ATA in informing consumers of cost efficient cooking and heating appliances. For their model, we determined initial and consumption costs of each of three electric appliances: cooktops, hot water heat pumps, and reverse cycle air conditioners. Through a series of fact sheets, we suggested how different households could save money on their energy bill.

Final Report
Gas or Electricity — An Evaluation of Electricity and Natural Gas as a Residential Energy Source

Supplementary Materials
ATA FactSheets.zip
Sponsor Video

Deliverables
Conclusion

Elements of the WPI Strategic Plan

- More in Four
- Competency-based Online Education
- Center for Project-based Learning
- Global Projects for All
- WPI PhD Plan
- Global Partnerships
- Major and a Mission
- Research Enterprise
- Foisie Innovation Studio
Acknowledgements

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Questions?

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Image Sources

https://www.wpi.edu/offices/marketing-communications/resources

https://au.pinterest.com/pin/32088216065513053/

https://www.princetonreview.com/schools/1023881/college/worcester-polytechnic-institute

https://www.wpi.edu/academics/undergraduate/project-based-learning/global-project-program

https://wpi-sa.terradotta.com


https://www.facebook.com/WPIMPC/?ref=bookmarks

http://wp.wpi.edu/strategicplan/

Additional content was created by the MPC team.
Resources Currently Available to Students

Mean score of the value of the resource in informing a student’s decision to apply to the MPC

- Fall 2016
- Spring 2017
- AY 2017-2018
- Average

Appendix
Information Students Found Important

Information content ranked on importance in informing a student’s decision to apply to the MPC

- B15
- D17
- AY 2017-2018
- Average

Bar chart showing the importance of different types of information.

- Start and End Dates
- Cost of Attendance
- Project Descriptions
- Past IOP Reports
- Activities to do at the Project Center
- Housing Descriptions
- Information about the City/Region
- Alumni Testimonials/Comments
Resources for Future Participants

Resources students believe would be the most helpful in informing future students about the MPC

- Website
- Video
- Social Media
- Sponsor Testimonials
- Documented Alumni Testimonials
- List of Activities to do at the Project Center
- IQP Reports Available through a Project Center Specific Website

Percent of Students

- Fall 2016
- Spring 2017
- AY 2017-2018
- Average