

Gold Coast Saudi Club holds advisory session at Griffith

Almost 200 international students from Saudi Arabia, studying at several institutions, attended an advisory session at Griffith University's Gold Coast campus on June 29, about living and studying with success in Australia.

Griffith Pro Vice Chancellor (International) Chris Madden said the University was pleased to participate in the event, which was organised by the Gold Coast Saudi Student Club, and welcomed a delegation from the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia to the campus.

Several government representatives spoke to the students, giving them advice about personal safety, visa regulations, and the Queensland school system:

- Queensland Police Service Sergeant Brendan Wiblen provided information about the law, personal and property safety, and ways of reporting matters to the police;
- Robert Turowski, from The Department for Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), gave advice on visa regulations and processes; and
- Shaun Rogers from Education Queensland International spoke about the opportunities for the enrolment of dependant students in Queensland state schools.

Griffith University staff members gave a series of presentations covering topics including student advisory assistance, support services and equity considerations, academic and learning services, and sponsored student support.

In addition, overseas Student Health Cover representative Andrea Konecna spoke about student health cover in Australia.

Overall the session was an excellent initiative of the Saudi Club and will assist Saudi Arabian students in achieving their academic goals. It also provided useful information for both newly arrived and continuing students and also gave the wider-community of Saudi students living at the Gold Coast an opportunity to meet each other and share their experiences.

Officials from the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Canberra, including His Excellency Dr Ali Mohamed Albishri from the Cultural Attaché, and Mr Hussain Alasiri, the Deputy Ambassador, attended the advisory session.

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