

**Connectivity for better learning and
teaching outcomes**

**Connecting for learning:
onshore and offshore
students interact via social
media**



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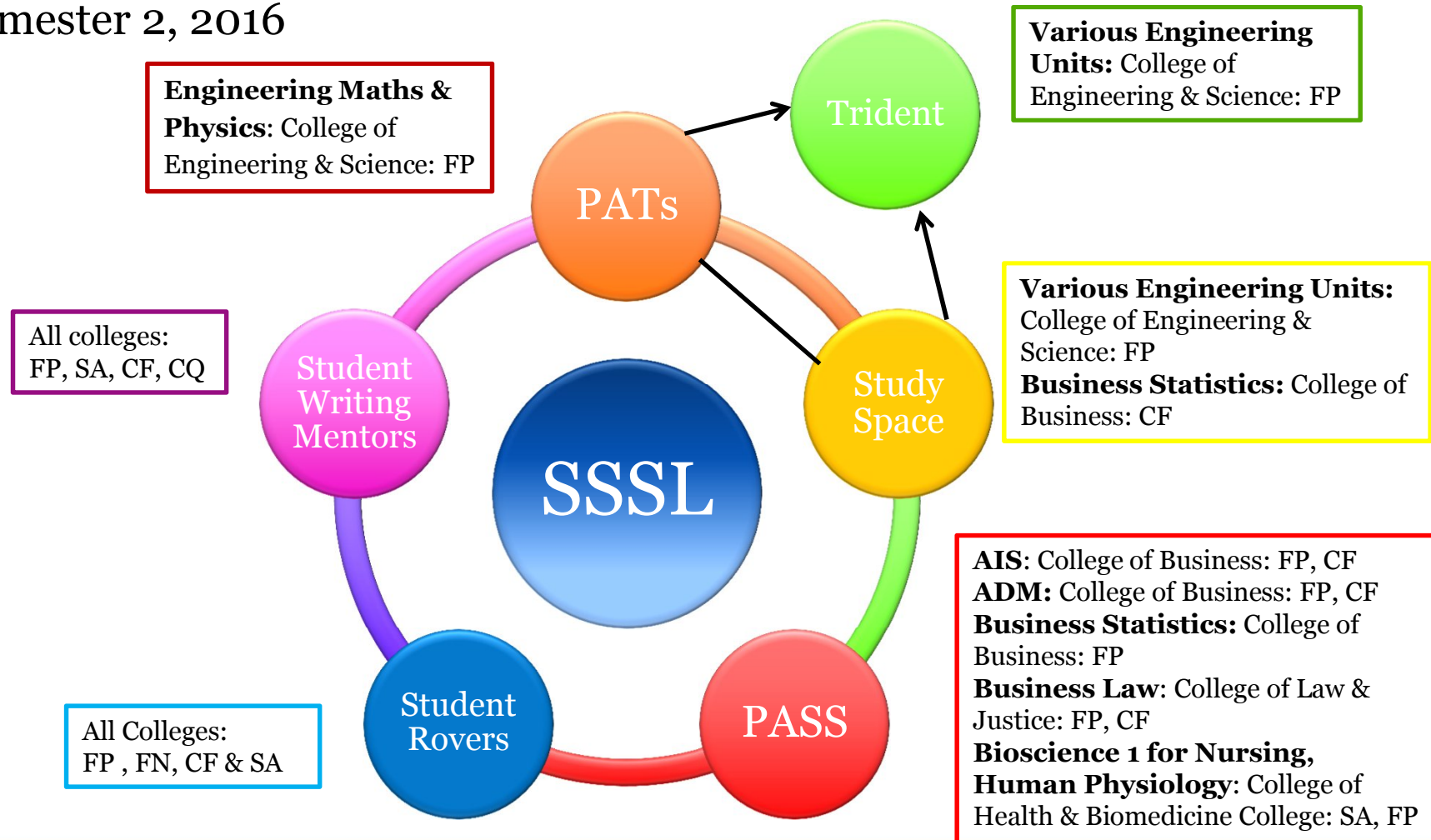
Outline

- Explore the aims, design, implementation and evaluation
- Discuss this online Student Mentoring program at Victoria University
- Respond to any questions about this or other Student Mentoring programs at Victoria University

Students Supporting Student Learning

Student Mentoring Programs

Semester 2, 2016



VU- Victoria University

CUFE - Chinese University of Finance and Economics

- First year Bachelor of Business students
- Victoria University accredited
- Accounting for Decision Making (ADM) unit
- 'Just in time' pre-exam academic assistance
- Synchronous online delivery
- Adapted existing program

Student Mentor sessions (6 hours
contact time) =

4%

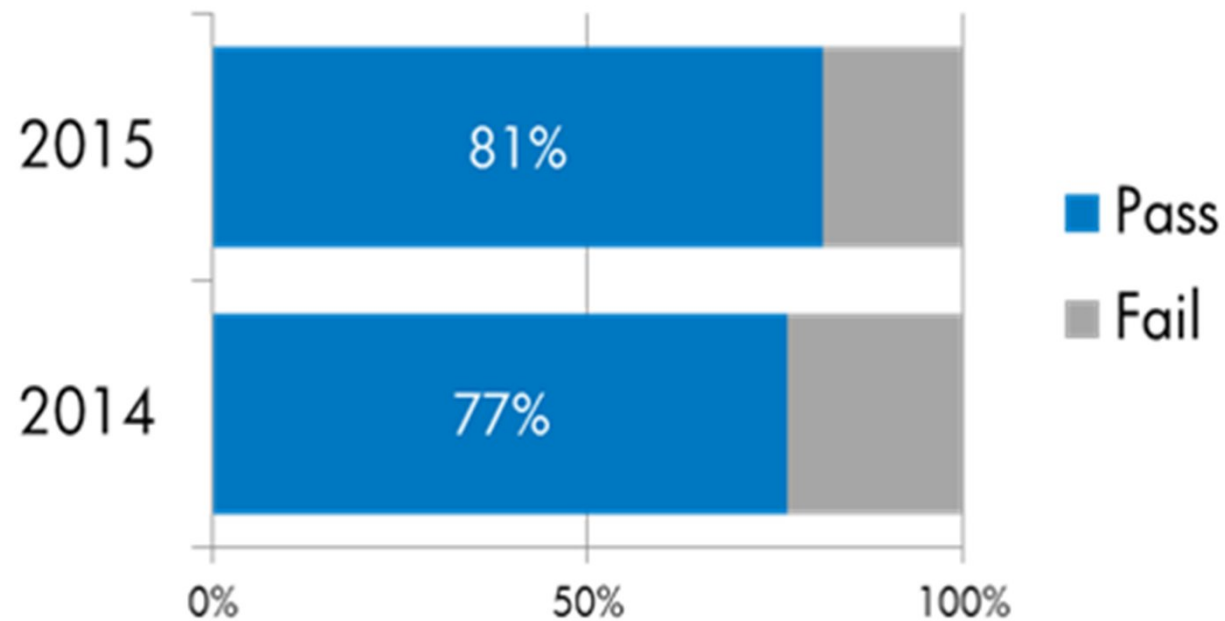
12

\$287.50

- **4% increase**
- **12 more students passed (than 2014)**
- **8 contact hours, 2 hours planning, development & feedback**
- **10 hours @ \$28.75 for three week peer-led learning intervention cost the university: \$287.50**



Unit results 2014:2015



Student Mentors at VU

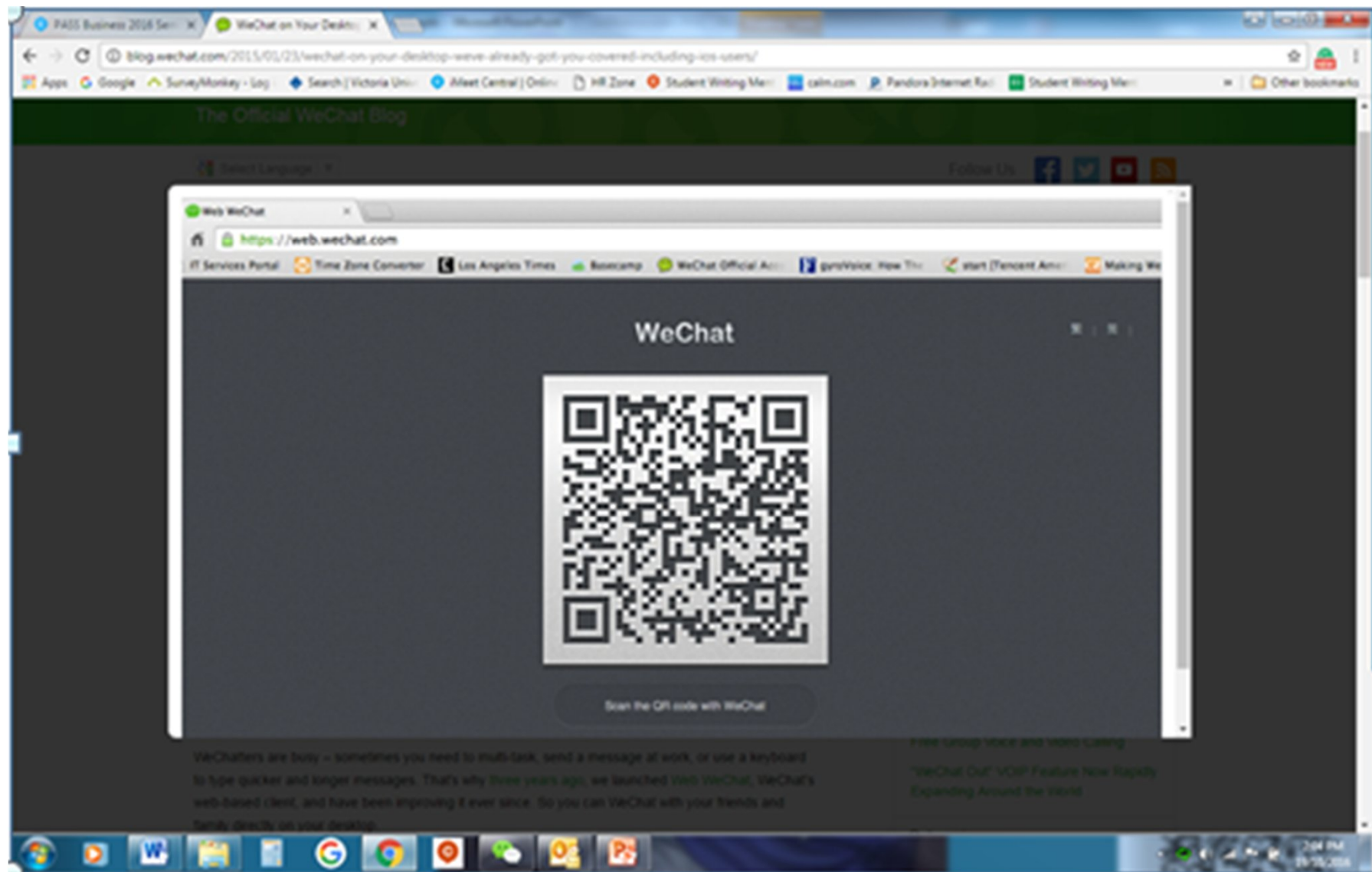


SSSL
@VU

PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions)

- Internationally recognised peer-learning
- Unit-specific academic support
- Different to lectures, tutorials and labs
- Facilitated by two Student Mentors who have previously achieved high grades in that unit
- A voluntary, free academic assistance program
- Students learn together
- Collaborative learning environment

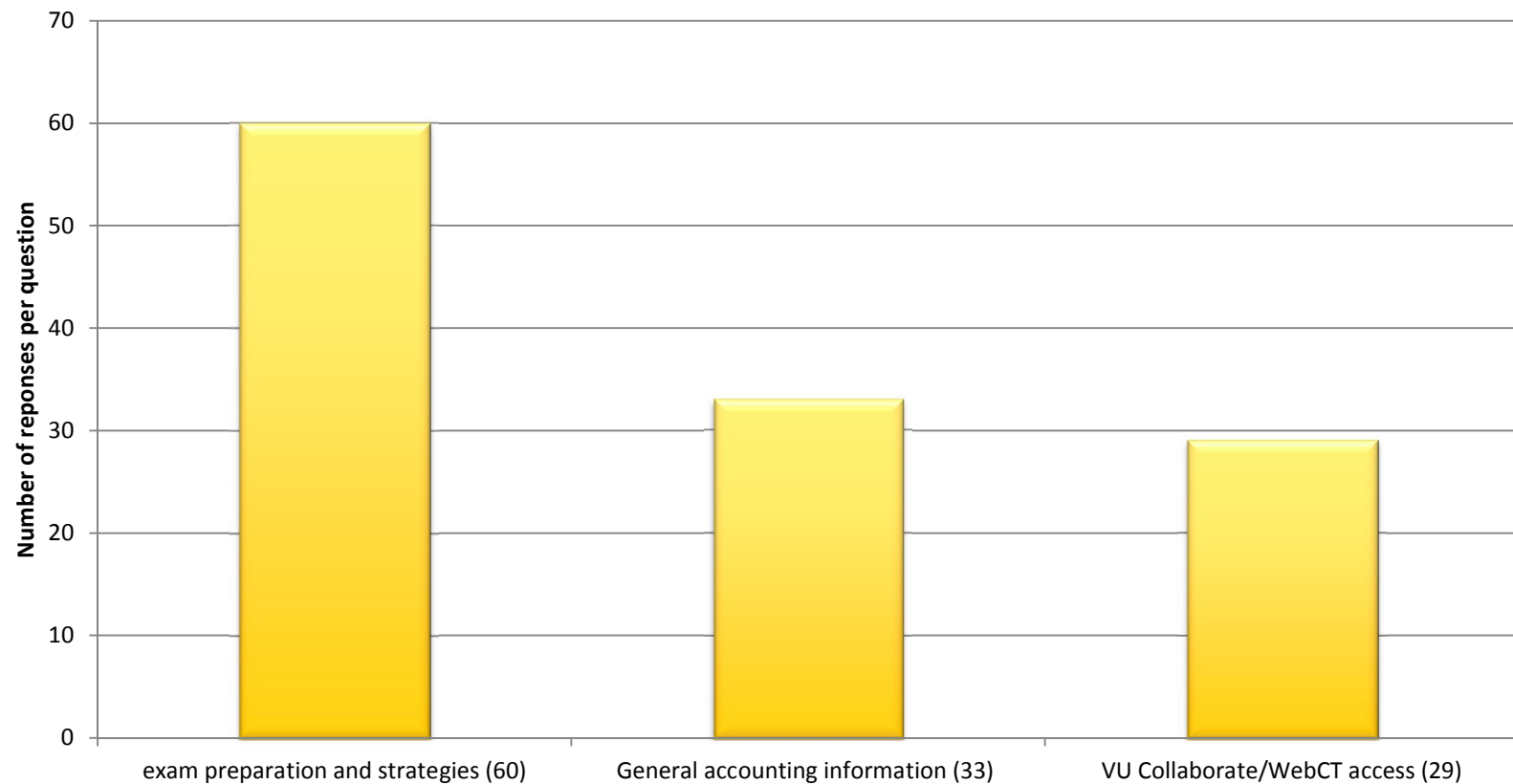




Hi CUFE students, I am Mary, a student mentor from SSSL Team of Victoria University. I am here for assisting all of you preparing for the accounting exam. This is not a formal interview time so please do not be nervous. As a senior student major in Accounting, I am very glad to share my experiences and strategies with you. Feel free to ask anything this subject ~



Questions asked by the CUFE students in the WeChat sessions



“develop English skills”

“classmates study
with each other and
we can discuss the
difficulty problem”

“I learn a lot from the
senior grade student
for how to prepare for
the examination”

“I can get
information
quickly”

“We chat
freely”

When did these sessions run?

- Across three weeks leading up to ADM exam
- Two hour sessions offered twice a week
- Timed for maximum student connectivity
- Variation in weekly uptake

Evaluating the program

- 165 enrolled ADM students
- 59 enrolled in the WeChat group sessions
- 140 completed evaluation survey
- 123 students said they would participate in a future WeChat Student Mentoring group.

Non-attendees reasons for not joining the WeChat group

Number of respondents	Reason
12	Did not know about the group
2	Forgot about it
3	Was not sure how to join
4	Did not: have the time/have any questions
1	Seldom uses WeChat

Student Mentor feedback

- Adaptation of PASS facilitation challenges
- Requested more training beforehand and advice
- Boundaries
- One student mentor for all sessions
- Built their own confidence
- Smaller groups may encourage engagement

Future program considerations

- Developing student understanding of the support
- Clarifying the role of the Student Mentors
- Encouraging participation in English
- Contacting other Chinese partners
- Exploring funding opportunities

WeChat

BENEFITS

Student-friendly

Synchronous

Conversation thread easy to follow

Allows for question and answer

Can upload photos - resources

CHALLENGES:

Gatekeeping

Technology accessibility

Useability on PC

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-_nDjmTQP4



Student Mentor training and development

- Recruitment process
- Pre-semester training
- Tutorial observation and feedback
- Weekly online reflective practice
- Continued regular weekly development for delivered by the SSSL teaching team
- Development interview

Having a Student Mentor in my tutorial...	
n=82	Agree/strongly agree
Was helpful overall	93%
Helped me to understand the subject	86%
Helped me feel positive about attending	78%
Improved my confidence about the subject	77%
Helped me develop effective study strategies	72%
Helped me develop different ways of studying	60%
Improved my friendship networks	53%
Helped my approach to other subjects	45%
Helped me to manage time better	36%

