



كليات التقنية العليا
HIGHER COLLEGES OF TECHNOLOGY



Independent Learning Centres Annual Report

AY 2012/13



ILC Annual Review

AY 2012/13

**Fujairah Men's College
Student Success Center
of Excellence**

Executive Summary



The FMC SSCE has had a busy year. Our successes have included working with Ed Tech on the "My Success at HCT" app and a new student database that is portal friendly, getting a Bachelor Year 4 student through his IELTS, being involved with the i-Pad initiative, spearheading a seatbelt campaign, working with hundreds of student requests for help with their learning and offering fun and innovative PD.

The SSCE has played a part in student retention by giving students a safe environment to learn in, has nurtured student volunteers so that they feel invested in the space and made students feel wanted so that they are willing to return time and time again.

One of our best successes has been our At Risk Program which has given our students the freedom to study outside of the SSCE in their own time by accessing materials on our Edmodo site. Students who have been selected by their grades or previous academic performance are contacted personally by the SSCE Coordinator who explains the program, gets the student to sign their learning plan and assigns them an SSCE mentor who contacts them weekly and encourages them to attend a special session set aside each week for them to come to the SSCE for personalized instruction. The mentor also contacts their academic advisor and supervisor each week to update them on the student's progress. Participation and attendance is not mandatory, but voluntary. Also students who are not at risk are also offered the Edmodo site and may come and study with friends who are at risk.

Official name of ILC facility Student Success Center of Excellence (SSCE)

Campus student numbers AY 2012/13 553

Staffing structure

1 ILC Coordinator (Darcy Harris) and two part time temporary assistants (Ofunne Olele, Kenny Allen) plus, throughout the year, we have a number of student volunteers who help with tutoring in areas such as Physics, Engineering and English. Although not limited to Foundation students, we report to the Foundation Chair, Lorraine Doherty.

Facilities & Services

We are a self-contained space located near the library (LRC). Plus, we have a small study room located next door to the SSCE (RM 230). Both spaces can be used independently of a tutor and may be booked in advance by students or faculty.

Resources

The SSCE (plus RM 230) has 21 computers, 4 i-Pads, 1 photocopier, 2 Smartboards, 2 projectors, 5 tables, seating for 30 people, LCD TV Screen (located outside the door), and 3 electric bars used for charging i-pads and laptops. The Smartboard in the SSCE is i-Pad compatible.

Learning Technologies

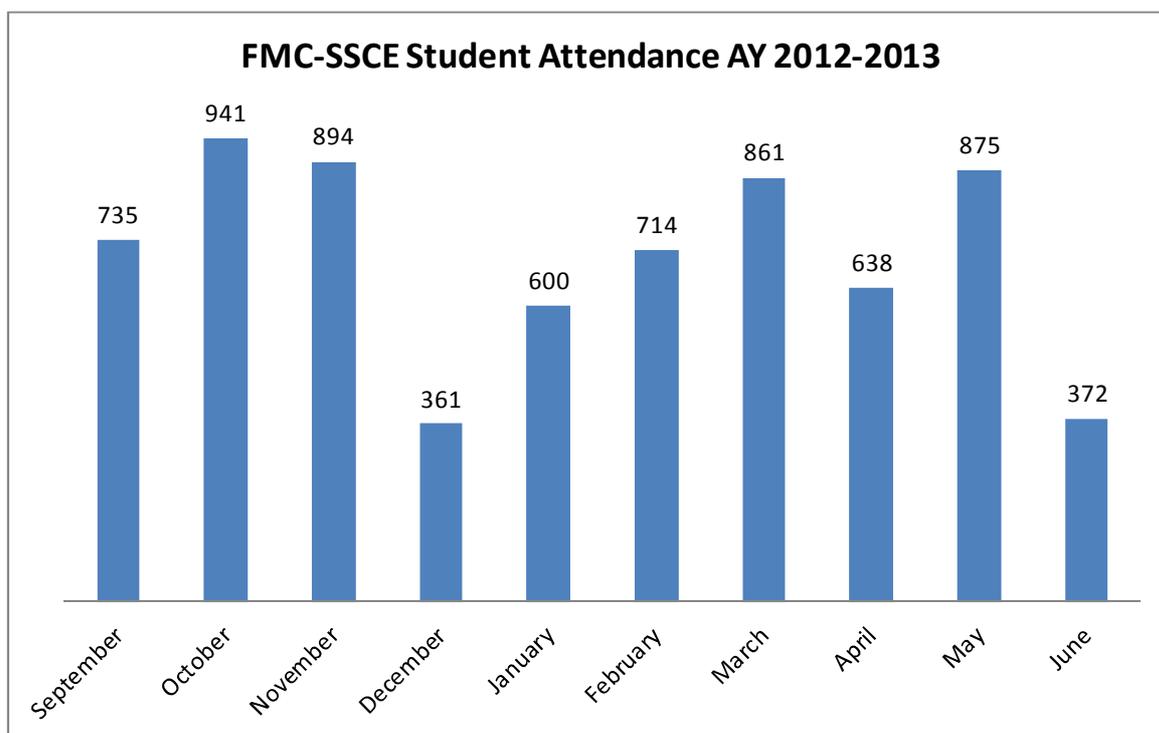
The SSCE worked with the ED Tech department (Chris Haddow and Saleimah Sebait) to come up with an app "My Success at HCT" that allows students to use our resources on their iPads. This app is now available to all colleges. Plus, the links and sites that are used at other colleges may be added to the app by sending the links to the ILC Coordinator (Darcy Harris). For the first time, our SSCE is able to integrate its materials in the classroom and at home allowing teachers and students to have everything on their iPads in one place. The app also allows for more integration in the Bachelor program where students need a higher level of autonomy.

To celebrate the i-Pad initiative, we made a collage called "Everyone at FMC uses iPads" in which we got all the students and faculty to bring their iPads to the SSCE; photographed them using their i-Pads and then a student volunteered to put all the pictures together in the shape of a giant i-Pad which was displayed outside the SSCE. Bi-weekly, we offer 'appy hour. This gives faculty and staff a chance to gather informally and discuss their iPad needs, share the apps that are working best and help each other with any frustrations or problems they may be having in using the iPad. Once a month, we also offer an iGenius session which is run by student volunteers for students. The iGenius lets students share their iPad needs and discoveries with each other. In our monthly newsletter, we offer apps that students

should try – the majority of the apps have been recommended by students either directly or after trialing them for the SSCE. The SSCE Coordinator gave a workshop at the E-Learning Conference in Sharjah on apps for independent, autonomous learning based on apps that were primarily recommended by student learners. Our SSCE also worked with our ED Tech department to create a database that allows the SSCE to enter individual student visits directly onto the portal. Teachers / management / academic advisors/ counselors may now access our comments and student SSCE visits directly through the portal making it easy to check their students' SSCE trails. We also ran the At Risk Program through Edmodo.

Student Support

Our SSCE's main function is student support. We offer real time learning in which students drop in to get help as they need it. Our services are open to all students on campus. Our largest group still remains Foundations, but more and more Bachelor students are using us. Although the male Bachelor students used us more this year than last, the female Bachelor students still outnumber the males. Teachers also use our services to help their classes. They either book their classes in to have extra support while they teach, or they have an SSCE assistant come to help out during their lessons. We also keep in constant contact with the academic advisors so we are up to date on the help that our students require. Our new database will help to make this process more efficient. In addition, we feel it is important that students take ownership of the SSCE and this has led to our volunteer program which has been a very big success this year. Students may volunteer to help other students with their studies or volunteer to give service in other more creative ways.



To ensure that students know, and use, our services, the SSCE has offered student orientation to both Foundation and Bachelor students; 1-1 and small group tutoring; PD workshops and the At Risk program. In addition, we supported three clubs this year: Chess, Chanting and Drawing, all were student generated.

The SSCE is also a popular and safe place for co-ed project groups to study. Moreover, we have promoted student success by getting involved in campus activities such as supporting the iPad initiative with a collage called "Everyone at FMC uses iPads" in which we got all the students and faculty to bring their iPads to the SSCE; photographed them using their iPads and then a student volunteered to put all the pictures together in the shape of a giant iPad which was displayed outside the SSCE.

We have also run a year-long seat-belt campaign (Everyone at FMC wears a seatbelt), to support the safe driving initiative, by photographing students, faculty and staff in their cars wearing their seatbelts and displaying it on the TV screens. Each picture included a safety fact about the importance of wearing seatbelts. Besides showing events on our TV screens, we also have an SSCE Facebook page, and the SSCE staff participate in or attend as many college events as possible.

Curriculum Support & Collaboration

The SSCE works closely with Foundation teachers to insure that the materials we use support the curriculum and learning objectives of our students. Team leaders share their detailed semester and weekly teaching plans with us. The SSCE coordinator attends all Foundation meetings to share the latest practices. We collaborate on the Oxford 3,000 Vocabulary project which gives students the opportunity to be responsible for their vocabulary learning. We collaborate with faculty on Spelling City and our new app, "My Success at HCT". We are available every day to offer teacher and student support when it is needed.

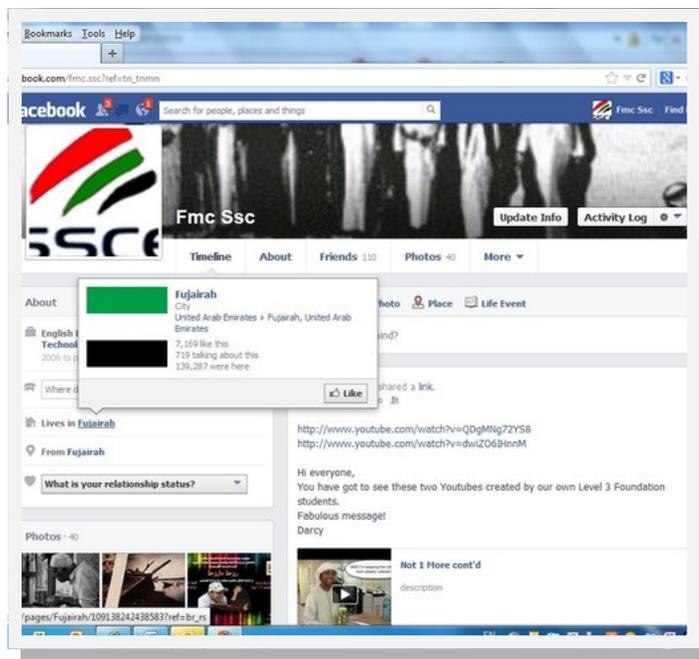
Promotion & Advocacy

To promote the SSCE, we have a monthly newsletter, e-mail announcements, billboards that change regularly, a weekly slideshow on the SSCE TV Screens. Students are photographed holding up their passing IELTS or their graduation certificates thanking the SSCE and these are put up around campus. We also have a presence on the Orientation website for new students. Our best promotional tactic, is walking around speaking individually to students, asking about their classes, taking an interest in their lives and making students feel that the SSCE is the place to be.

ILC Web link(s)

http://orientation.fwc.hct.ac.ae/%20learning_resources_FMC.htm

https://www.facebook.com/fmc.ssc?ref=tn_tnm



Community Outreach

We are open to anyone who visits FMC. This year we have given CEPA tutoring to potential students who wanted to raise their scores in order to get direct entry into the bachelor program. We offer services to our continuing education classes, alumni and community members who are seeking to improve their English abilities. Students often request help for younger siblings who may be potential HCT students. We also support the language needs of many of our staff who are working on improving their education by taking higher education degrees as well as courses such as CELTA and DELTA.

Professional Development

Every month we have offered PD aimed at students on such diverse topics from IELTS Training to social etiquette. We have offered i-Genius and 'Appy Hour - i-pad training. The SSCE Coordinator has given workshops around the UAE on learner autonomy, reading motivation and i-Pads. All the staff in the SSCE has taken advantage of the Diverse PD sessions that are offered at the Fujairah Colleges in order to stay current in our field.

Special Responsibilities

The SSCE Coordinator has been involved on the System ILC Committee and worked, along with Peter Waters and Brenda Boyle, on Action Plan Group Self-Assessment, Evaluation, Statistics & Data. Darcy was also involved on three committees at Fujairah Colleges: Health and Safety, Open Day / Art without Borders and Environment Committee.

Goals for Next Year

Following the college strategic plan, the SSCE hopes to continue being involved in student retention, building stronger bonds with our Bachelor students especially year 1 & 2 students, work more closely with content teachers, continue to improve our At Risk Program and to support our students, staff and faculty learning needs so that we are a valuable member of the FC community.