

University of Wollongong



living@ campus east

James Atkinson has been the Head, Campus East since July 2005. Although he has spent 19 years managing university residential colleges and halls in both Australia and the United States of America, James' enthusiasm for the on-campus residential college experience has not been dampened but rather enhanced by the thousands of students he has had the pleasure to work with.

Whilst as an undergraduate student at The University of Queensland he majored in economic theory and political science, James' academic interests later developed such that he has earned postgraduate degrees in public administration (also from The University of Queensland) and higher education and student affairs (Bowling Green State University, USA) and a postgraduate certificate in management (University of Southern Queensland). In addition to his experience in residential colleges and halls, James has also served terms as Executive Officer to three of Griffith University's four vice-chancellors, as coordinator of that university's International Centre and as Assistant Private Secretary to the Premier of Queensland.

James was the first serving head of an Australian university college to be elected an honorary fellow of the National Association of Australian University Colleges, the peak representative body for tertiary students living in college, reflecting his commitment to a student-focussed collegiate experience. He is also currently serving as a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of College University Student Housing published by the Association of College and University Housing Officers – International.

James' family also share his interest in the residential community at Campus East. His wife, Bronte, is currently on extended leave from her position as a middle school teacher with Education Queensland having her hands full as the primary care giver for their three young children – Elspeth, Gwilym and Oliver. They all live together on-campus in the Head's Residence.