



2015

Student retention and learning analytics:

A snapshot of Australian practices and a framework for advancement

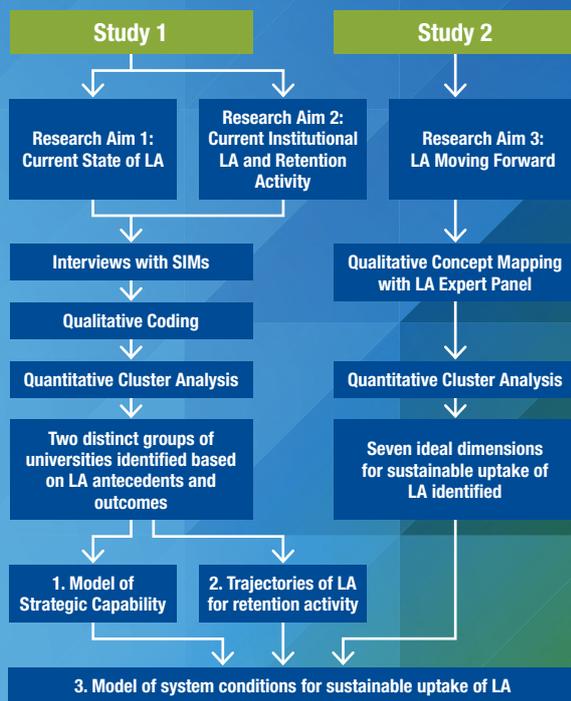
The Project

Higher education institutions are heavily investing in learning analytics (LA). This is driven by the potential for LA to enhance teaching, learning and retention outcomes. While there is broad consensus across the sector as to the importance of LA, there are significant challenges in how such endeavors are effectively and efficiently rolled out across an organisation.

To aid and advance the sophistication of future implementations of LA in the Australian context, this report aimed to:

- Determine the current state of LA in the Australian higher education context, as shaped by institutional goals, plans, preparation and implementation activity
- Determine critical relationships between institutional LA and retention initiatives
- Elicit insight into the affordances and constraints of sustainable and effective LA implementations

The Research Process



The Findings

LA is **complex** and **situated**.

LA and retention activity is shaped by the **intersection** of multiple dimensions including:

- How LA is conceptualised
- Institutional readiness
- Leadership
- Deployment methods

The study identified **two trajectories** for the implementation of LA:

1. a predictive or measurement tool for identifying students at risk
2. developing understanding of, and improvements in, learning and teaching

The study suggests areas that require further consideration if LA is

to provide long term sustainable impact for the education sector. These include:

- Facilitating broader discussions of LA and its capacity to inform sectorial challenges.
- Developing capacity building initiatives.
- Developing and supporting new models of education leadership that embrace complexity and enable innovation, organisational agility and adaptability.
- Raising awareness and development of resources for supporting institutional LA ethics and privacy matters.

Find out more:

August to December 2015. State based seminars and a national symposium held within ALASI. See he-analytics.com for details and other resources, including the full report and a growing library of videos showcasing important national and international initiatives.