

footnotes

UWS Office of Research Services uwsresearchstudentnewsletterFebruary2011

UWS Rated Five Star



The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations rated UWS as a “five star” institution for our research students resources policy.

Other institutions that achieved the top rating of five star were James Cook University, University Tasmania, University Canberra, Murdoch University, UNE and Victoria University. Some of the larger, well established universities rated surprisingly poorly.

You can read the full report at <http://www.capa.edu.au/>

Link to UWS Research Higher Degree Candidature Essential Resources Policy:

http://www.uws.edu.au/research/current_research_students/candidate_support

You will need to log on to the UWS intranet as a student or staff member.



Research Conference and Careers Day in the School of Medicine



School of Medicine research students Rania Fatouleh, Megan Steele, Victoria Gauci, Ursula Kemp, and Dr David Mahns in the background.



Victoria Gauci, Dr Paul Willis (Catalyst) and Bernadette Westcott

School of Medicine research students held an inaugural UWS Student Conference & Careers Day with contributions from postgraduates in the School of Biomedical & Health Sciences & the School of Complementary Medicine.

The conference provided an interactive platform for research students to express their ideas before a non-judgmental, but scientifically aware audience and to present a lead-in to the employment opportunities within and beyond university-based research.

Organiser Saad Nagi wrote that “In the ever-evolving world of science, it is an absolute necessity to have such student-focused platforms in order to sustain, and enhance, competitiveness in research and innovation. The numbers speak for themselves – research postgraduates contribute ~ 65-70% of Australian universities’ research¹. Furthermore, ~73% of research students enter non-university occupations², reflecting the diversity of interests and opportunities upon completion of doctoral studies. The daylong conference flourished with contributions from research students across the College of Health and Science and a number of guest speakers including Professor Alison Jones (Dean of Medicine) and Paul Willis (Catalyst, ABC). Student prizes added a competitive vibe to the conference. Given the success of the inaugural conference, the organising committee hopes to make this an annual event on the UWS calendar”.

References

- ¹ Siddle, D. (1997). Submission to the Committee conducting the Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy. Eds. On behalf of Professor Baverstock, P., Milne, T. & Praeger, C. Council of Deans and Directors of Graduate Education, Brisbane, QLD: www.dest.gov.au/archive/highered/hereview/submissions/submissions/D/DeansDirGradEd
- ² The Group of Eight (2007). Researcher supply and demand. The Group of Eight, Canberra.



Professor Alison Jones – Dean of Medicine talking about Gender and a Prosperous Scientific Career



Student speakers Iman Hegazi, Lloyd Mirto, Mark Burgess, Cherylea Browne, Elise Wright and Elie Hammam



Congratulations Troy!

Saad Nagi (L) PG Student Representative and Troy Rubin. Dr Troy is the first Doctoral graduate from the School of Medicine.

Successful Innovation Workshop



PhD students Antonio Aloschi Scott Willis, Marina Belkina and Anwen Krause-Heuer were part of the group of UWS students who benefited from the Successful Innovation Workshop. Dr. Fiona Cameron from UWS Innovation & Consulting (Middle right) and Hamish Hawthorn



The workshop was held at the National Innovation Centre, Australian Technology Park, Sydney

Five lucky UWS students from Honours and PhD programs in the College of Health Science were able to attend ATP Innovation's 8th annual Successful Innovation Workshop. Students explored ways to commercialise their research through practical case studies, workshops, and networking. As seen in the picture, the students met the CEO of ATP Innovations and also had the opportunity to meet with the UWS I&C team.

PhD student Scott Willis said that "The workshop was a good introduction to IP and provided insights into the world of entrepreneurs." He learnt that while a fundamental understanding of intellectual property is important, the ability to be innovative in the commercial application of research is also critical to success.

PhD student Anwen Krause-Heuer had this to say about the workshop: "The workshop was a real eye-opener about the hard work and effort that goes into commercialising a concept, with a particular emphasis on start-up companies. It was a great opportunity to mix with postgraduate students from other universities and discuss their research areas. There was a good mix of presentations, activities and discussions that promoted interactions between the group."

The UWS Innovation team is delighted that the College of Health and Science provided funding for the five UWS students who were able to experience the workshop. Practical commercialisation knowledge is essential for any researchers who wish to translate their work into real world applications. We hope that the opportunity will now be available each year and interested students should talk to their supervisors about developing a good case for their attendance in 2011.

If you have any intellectual property or commercialisation questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Burnside at UWS Innovation & Consulting on 02 9685 9742 or email at r.burnside@uws.edu.au



DDoGS on the Loose



DDoGS discussion under the jacaranda outside the Female Orphan School

Forty-two Deans and Directors of Graduate Study (DDoGS) from universities across Australia met at the Female Orphan School, Parramatta campus for a two day meeting at UWS in November.

The DDoGS group is a very collegial group of senior academic administrators responsible for higher degree by research education at their respective universities. They meet annually to share ideas and to discuss topical matters.

Members reported on current and upcoming research studies. Prof Sid Bourke, SORTI, U Newcastle, spoke about a study on PhD candidate factors related to attrition and completion.

Dr Margaret Kiley, ANU, announced a 2011 study jointly with DDoGS and ALTC on pathways into higher degree by research; a topical subject at UWS as research education is becoming an increasingly popular career move among established professionals in non-academic workplaces. Other topics discussed included:

- » Four year doctoral programs
- » Formal coursework in doctorates
- » Matching the disciplinary mix of research students with national needs
- » Assessing quality in research degrees
- » Joint degrees
- » Best practices for indigenous students
- » Conflict of interest in examination
- » Generic skills of Higher Degree by Research graduates



Writing and Society Soiree

In September 2010 the Writing & Society Research Group held its annual postgraduate soir e, with readings by group members Alexis Wright, Jane Skelton and Patrick Jones. The event was held at The Art House Hotel in the centre of Sydney. It was a great opportunity for Group academics, postgraduates and intending postgraduates to meet and engage.



Nick Gordon and Kathleen Olive



Guest chatting at the soiree

On-Line Program – Completion and Beyond



Completion and Beyond is a six module program covering specific aspects of completing and submitting a Masters (Honours) or doctoral thesis, as well as planning for life after the thesis. Each module is self-contained, so you can choose when and in what order you wish to access them.

Check vUWS to see if you have access. If not, send a request with your student id to Mary Krone, m.krone@uws.edu.au

The course incorporates lots of video clips of supervisors, candidates and career advisors.

You can create a private log of thoughts or responses to module tasks, and the Discussion Forum facilities allow candidates to discuss experiences and explore concerns and problems with other candidates and the program facilitators.

Module content

1 – Writing to Finish

This module helps candidates identify and hone practical skills needed to write the first full draft of their thesis. It provides a series of practical tips on managing thesis documents, right through to using templates, dealing with footnotes and references, and using bibliographic programs such as RefWorks and EndNote. Further information is provided on what to do if things go wrong, or what to do if candidates want to further develop their word-processing skills.

The actual technique of writing up is largely a personal decision, but the approach that I took came from a mentor of mine that I met through a teaching experience. And his advice, and it's something that I followed, was to write first thing in the day. Do it before everything else gets in the way of writing. So, for instance, I would get up, have a quick breakfast at home and start writing and then I would get into the office or the apartment when I felt like I'd either exhausted everything that I had in my mind during that period of time, or was completely frustrated with the experience and was time to move on to do a little bit more reading.
Quote, from video clip.

2 – The Editing Clinic

One of the most under-appreciated skills of a candidate is the ability to edit. *The Editing Clinic* has advice on how to edit for structure and argument, write effective introductions, develop 'flow' and manage concepts. Divided into two discrete sections – macro editing and micro editing – the module also talks about polishing and clarifying language as well as the importance of using paragraphs effectively, pruning overly long sentences and proofreading documents properly.

3 – Submission and Examination

There are first-hand accounts of examination – from both candidates and supervisors. The formal steps required in order to submit are outlined as a way of helping you to understand how your thesis will be judged, how your examiners are chosen and what they are looking for in a thesis.

An overwhelming conclusion from this research was the extent to which examiners' first impressions counted. These first impressions were not irreversible, but they did influence the examiner's frame of mind for the rest of the thesis. Experienced examiners decide very early in the process whether assessment of a particular thesis is likely to be 'hard work' or 'an enjoyable read'.

Source: Mullins, G. and Kiley, M. 'It's a PhD not a Nobel Prize': How experienced examiners assess research theses', *Studies in Higher Education*, 27 (2002): 369 - 86. p. 377.

4 – Maintaining Momentum

This module recognises that there is more to maintaining momentum than merely writing and sticking to a schedule. Staying motivated and managing the challenges of work commitments are also some of the common obstacles that beset many candidates. If you are feeling less than passionate about your thesis or if you are experiencing some doubts as to whether you are going to complete your thesis, then this module will give you some practical tips on how to rediscover your interest and get your drive back.

Timeline to Completion

- » What is your road to submission looking like?
- » What work lies ahead of you, and how long do you expect it to take?
- » Try drawing a map or timeline of the time you have left and the tasks you still have to complete.

5 – Supervision – Managing the Changing Relationship

You will be asked to reflect on your current supervisory relationship, which will help direct you through the remainder of the module. You will be encouraged to work out what you need from your supervisor during these final stages of your research degree and be given advice on how to negotiate what you need. Also, if things aren't going as well with your supervisor as you would like then look to this module for some strategies that might help smooth the changes that inevitably take place in any supervisory relationship.

6 – Beyond the Research Degree

Advice concerning career awareness and professional development is discussed, as well as writing for publication and oral presentations. Grants and postdoctoral opportunities are presented, and you are encouraged to compose an inventory of your skills and competencies. This module can provide you with some assistance with the transition from HDR candidature to whatever you choose to do beyond the research degree.



Dr Megan Watkins and attendees at the Centre for Cultural Research "Completions and Beyond" seminar.

Dr Megan Watkins organised a very well attended seminar on Completion and Beyond – *Professional and Personal Perspectives*, in the Centre for Cultural Research. Recent graduates Beatriz Cardona, Justine Humphry and Sarah James talked about important aspects of the final stages such as re-drafting, editing, time management, keeping sane and the examination process.

They also spoke about what they're doing now and how they got their job, whether it's something they enjoy ie. do they need to go into academe with a PhD or are there other options, what are they, etc. Mary Krone, Office of Research Services spoke about resources for completing students and some of the material now available to people planning their new careers.



AHEGS Plain Language Statement

http://www.uws.edu.au/graduation_statement/AHEGS

The Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS) is a Commonwealth initiative that has been introduced to improve the recognition and portability of Australian qualifications.

UWS will issue AHEGS to all graduating students from 2011. Students who complete their course at the end of 2010 and graduate at the April 2011 graduation ceremonies will be the first to receive a Graduation Statement.

Graduation Statements will include information about:

- » the award
- » UWS
- » the graduate's academic results
- » additional course details

- » special awards or achievements
- » the Australian Higher Education sector

You will be asked to provide a 100 word plain language statement that explains your title to a non-specialist reader. This is different to the abstract, which has a more specific purpose.

The abstract clearly places your work and methodology to assist potential examiners in determining whether they should undertake the examination and it is used in library searches after graduation through the Australian Digital Thesis Project.

You will be asked to provide the plain language statement on the Examination Submission form, available at: http://www.uws.edu.au/research/current_research_students/examination/thesis_loggement

School of Law Hosts Research Student Afternoon

Prof Steven Freeland organised an afternoon tea for research students, School academic and administrative staff and staff from the Library and Office of Research Services. The Head of School Prof Michael Adams and Prof Bobby Banerjee, Associate Dean, Research opened the event. It was a good opportunity to find out “who does what”, and for staff and students to meet each other, in person. Prof Freeland stressed the importance of research students to the School and said that following the success of the day more such opportunities will be offered.



David Sinfield, Prof Michael Adams and Biplob Kumar Saha



Doctoral candidate Bethaina Dababneh with Professor Steven Freeland



School of Law Research students Gao, Qi and Hem Lata





The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) Initiative; UWS

The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative assesses research quality within Australia's higher education institutions using a combination of indicators and expert review by committees comprising experienced, internationally-recognised experts.

ERA is an initiative of the Australian government and is conducted by the ARC using leading researchers to evaluate research in eight discipline clusters. ERA aims to detail areas within institutions and disciplines that are internationally competitive, as well as point to emerging areas where there are opportunities for development and further investment.



Announcing the outcomes of the first national Excellence in Research for Australia evaluation, Innovation Minister Senator Kim Carr said it shows us that Australia has a large number of research strengths. UWS is proud of its contribution to the excellence of the national innovation system with the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment and the Centre for Cultural Research being assessed - by evidence - as having outstanding research performance well above world standard.

Overall, of 21 broad fields of research UWS was assessed as at or above world standard in 11 areas. This is a strong result of which all UWS researchers and research students can be proud. Congratulations to all our research students for their contribution to this outcome.



The Third International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts and Responses

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 21-22 July 2011 <http://www.Climate-Conference.com>

This Conference will examine evidence of climate change, its natural and human causes, its ecosystemic impacts and its human impacts. The Conference will also concern itself with technological, social, ethical and political responses to climate change.

Brazil is the perfect location to discuss the issues surrounding climate change. As a developing nation, Brazil is not required to set targets for the reduction of CO2 emission. However, they have decided to go beyond that and pledged to reduce emissions to 38.9% by 2020. Nearly half of the world's remaining tropical rainforest lies in Brazil's Amazon Rainforest. The country has already reduced deforestation in the Amazon from 28,000 square kilometers in 2004 to 7,000 in 2009, and pledges to continue the effort to find sustainable ways to graze cattle and allow native people to earn a dignified living.

The conference includes plenary presentations by accomplished researchers, scholars and practitioners, as well as numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations. Presenters may choose to submit written papers for publication in The International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses. If you are unable to attend the conference in person, virtual registrations are also available which allow you to submit a paper for refereeing and possible publication.

Humanities Research Centre's 2011 Conferences are now on the HRC

Website <http://hrc.anu.edu.au/2011-conferences>

Call for Papers now open for

The World and World-Making in Contemporary Art: Connectivities and Differences Conference

8:30am Thursday 11 August 2011 to 5:00pm Saturday 13 August 2011

Venue: Sir Roland Wilson Building, ANU, Australia

The Australasian Association for Literature (AAL), the Australian Association for Literary Translation (AALITRA) and the Literature Research Unit,

Monash University, are holding a conference on Literature and Translation Conference

Monash University (Caulfield Campus), Melbourne, 11-12 July 2011

Plenary speakers: David Damrosch (Harvard University), Andrew Benjamin (Monash University)

Conference organisers: Brian Nelson (Email: Brian.Nelson@monash.edu) and Chris Worth



Mary Krone with Indonesian academics visiting UWS on a trip that show-cased UWS research and research education. The visit was a collaboration between the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs and UWS Office of Deputy Vice Chancellor International and Development

