Welcome from the eGSA Director

Hello, and welcome to the December edition of the e-Grad School’s newsletter. I find it hard to believe we’re coming to the end of yet another year. We have just completed a very successful year in the Graduate Certificate of Research Commercialisation/Master of R&D Management with the highest number of unit enrolments, 319, (excluding summer semester), since the program commenced in 2007 (this was well and truly over our target for the year of 290). In addition the Graduate Certificate/Masters was ranked highest overall in terms of student satisfaction for QUT courses.

Other big news for the year is that the Masters course has now been made even better with the introduction of more dedicated IP, finance and law content and a name change that reflects the changes. You can read more about this below.

I wish you all the best for the festive season and a wonderful year in 2012.

Best wishes

Paul Burnett

New in 2012! Master of Research Management and Commercialisation

As mentioned above, changes are afoot for next year. With the demise of the Commonwealth Commercialisation Training Scheme Scholarships we took the opportunity to review our Graduate Certificate and Masters programs and due to broader interest we have made some minor amendments to provide an even better postgraduate degree that helps researchers and research managers unlock the commercial potential of their work. (See attached article published in The Australian on 29Nov11)

The renamed Master of Research Management and Commercialisation (MRMC) will be offered from Semester 2, 2012 in recognition of a significant need for a formal postgraduate award which provides training in best practice management skills and commercialisation to the research sector.

This is the only Masters degree in Australia which offers recognised qualifications in both research management and commercialisation. With content that is provided fully online and is relevant to all technical disciplines, we believe that this will become the postgraduate degree of choice for all professional research managers/administrators, researchers and innovators wanting to further their careers.

Students enrolled in the current Master of R&D Management will be given the opportunity to change to the MRMC.


Course Structure: Each unit is online, facilitated by expert moderators for 13 weeks, with discussions, readings and activities around the topic.

Cost per unit in 2012: Domestic - $2600, International - $2900

Student Profile – Larissa Melanie – Master of R&D Management Student

Current Master of R&D Management student, Larissa Melanie, is a Project Manager in the QUT Learning and Teaching Unit

Larissa says:

With qualifications across the Arts, Sciences, and Project Management, the Master in R&D Management further enhances not only my own personal academic achievements, but also in turn provides relevant and transferable skills and knowledge back into my workplace.

Working at QUT in the Learning and Teaching Unit provides opportunity to engage and connect with academic and professional staff across all faculties and levels, and reinforces the need to cross fertilise research and development approaches with learning and teaching strategies for continuing innovative collaborations and interdisciplinary approaches.

The Master in R&D Management provides valuable insights for my work in supporting QUT staff in applying for national learning and teaching grants and the work of the Learning and Teaching Unit more broadly in advancing the scholarship of learning and teaching at QUT.

The transference of knowledge and applicability from the Master R&D Management directly into my workplace, speaks loudly of the relevance and currency of the course. The flexibility of the online delivery fits well with achieving realistic work/life/study balance.

I would highly recommend the Master in R&D Management delivered through the ATN eGrad School.

Did you know.......?

- If you have completed the Graduate Certificate in Research Commercialisation and would like to do the Masters, you’re half way there, taking into account your four-year undergraduate degree!
Meet your Moderator – Susie Chant – Grad Cert/Masters Moderator – Entrepreneurial Foundations

Susie Chant has been teaching entrepreneurship at the University of Adelaide since completing a Masters in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and a Masters in Gastronomy. She has been lecturing in the areas of innovation and creativity, ethics and cultural aspects of entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurship in the hospitality industry. At the e-Grad School, Susie is moderator for the Graduate Certificate/Masters program in Entrepreneurial Foundations.

Susie is also Senior Academic Writer at the global culinary institution Le Cordon Bleu, where her focus is primarily in the area of writing entrepreneurship into their current bachelor of business and MBA degrees, as well as developing two new bachelor of business degrees in Food Entrepreneurship and Wine Entrepreneurship. She additionally consults to the School of History and Politics at the University of Adelaide, where she is investigating Australian perceptions of ethical food consumption, particularly in the areas of organic foods and genetically modified foods. As well as owning many successful and award winning hospitality businesses in tourist regions around South Australia, Susie is also a property developer and in the past has lived and worked as a successful chef in many locations around the world such as Grand Cayman Island in the West Indies and at Blenheim Palace in England for the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough.

Since leasing out her last business in 2008, Susie has acknowledged every opportunity that has come her way to “see where it takes me” and has ended up on the academic path. She says the most rewarding aspect of teaching is helping students reach their goals on their academic journeys. She also enjoys being in a supportive research environment both at the University and at Le Cordon Bleu, where the stress levels are minimal compared to running a business in the hospitality industry where there is an expectation that everything is done “yesterday”.

What our students are doing.... Can you help???

One of our Grad Cert students from the Information Systems Discipline, Thomas Kohlborn, is doing a PhD into how people identify services that should be grouped together on a government portal and how they perceive the quality of the groupings. Governments face the challenge to provide hundreds or even thousands of services to a heterogeneous and vast target audience, namely their citizens. Recent advances in technology allow governments to utilise the Internet to deliver their services in cost effective way online while increasing citizen satisfaction. In order to achieve these goals, a user-friendly and citizen-centric way of structuring and categorising information contained as part of the website or portal needs to be developed.

Thomas is looking for people to complete a short activity online followed by an online questionnaire. The results will help to understand and improve how millions of people interact with governments online.

Upon successfully completing the online survey, participants are given the chance to provide an email address, which allows them to participate in a raffle to win an iPad 2 at the end of the study!! (The study has been approved by the QUT Human Research Ethics Committee).

Please contact Thomas Kohlborn- tkohlborn@qut.edu.au if you would like to help by participating in the survey.

Thomas says of the Grad Cert: “The content I have learned during the course has greatly been advantageous to my studies and career. There are so many different perspectives that one has to consider in becoming an entrepreneur… it has been of great value for me to have been introduced to the topic as part of this course.”

Staff changes

- Michael Doneman, moderator of Knowledge Transfer and Research Commercialisation since the e-Grad School began in 2006, has left and Michael Peterson has taken over the moderator role of that unit for the Summer Semester.
- Susie Chant has taken over the Entrepreneurial Foundations moderator role from Gary Hancock.

eGSA Non-Award Programs

Maximising Your Career – building research and academic careers - is one of the resources offered free to ATN University students (Curtin, RMIT UniSA, UTS, QUT). Feedback from students confirms its usefulness:

Forces you to think about your own strengths and weaknesses, what sort of career you want in the future and how to get there.

I feel like I will be better prepared for when I go into a career. The skills I have learnt .... I will build on over the next 3 years, not have to backtrack.

Resources are also available to non-ATN participants at a cost of $350 per person per module.

For more information contact egsaordinator@qut.edu.au

Interesting websites/publications