Welcome from the eGSA Director

Hello and welcome to the e-Grad School’s end of year newsletter. It’s been a busy year and the e-Grad School online modules have been popular across the five Australian Technology Network universities (Curtin, QUT, RMIT, UniSA and UTS) as well as non-ATN universities. 911 students from 9 Universities participated in the LEAP (Learning Employment Aptitudes Program) and MORE (Modules Online for Research Education) modules during 2014 – a 45% increase on 2013. In addition 69 Research Administrators from 15 universities participated in Leadership and Communication and Project Management, modules tailored specifically for research professionals. The modules provide opportunities for participants to connect, share ideas and build networks with other students from across Australia - something that is particularly useful for those studying off-campus or part-time.

As Christmas approaches I wish you all the best for the holiday season and the New Year.

Best wishes
Paul Burnett

New initiatives in 2014

- Developing Your Career (DYC): Introduced in Semester 2, DYC aims to help students to assist in identifying skills and career building strategies to help them make the most of every career opportunity and empower them with skills and knowledge they can use throughout their working life. Students will begin to develop their own Careers Portfolio to identify the knowledge, skills and experience they currently have and those they will require in order to achieve their goals.

The moderator is the Deputy Director of the e-Grad School, Dr Paige Maguire.

- NEW Resources: QUT has developed 2 internal online training resources in supervisory practices (for all supervisors) and on research integrity and ethical practices (for research students).
  - Effective Supervisory Practices; and
  - Research Ethics, Integrity and Safety for HDR Students

Both are mandatory at QUT and due to their success and interest from other unis, QUT can now offer access to these via eGSA for a very reasonable fee:

- Universities will be given perpetual licence to use materials for teaching within their own universities
- These are brilliant modules and very relevant to today’s research training environment.

For more information please contact us at: egsacoordinator@qut.edu.au

Reward someone in your team!! LEAP/MORE in 2015

Looking for ideas for end of year student or staff prizes/rewards? Do you have to spend your budget by the end of 2014?

Consider pre-purchasing modules in the moderated offerings of LEAP or MORE in 2015 for your students or research administrators.

Contact: egsacoordinator@qut.edu.au if you’re interested.

Moderated online modules for Professional Staff in 2015

Following its huge success in 2014, the Leadership and Communication module for professional staff will be offered again in Semester 1, 2015. The module will run from 25 April until 29 May. Topics covered are:

- Leadership Qualities
- Effective Communication
- Interpersonal Skills
- Team Membership
- Mentoring and Coaching

The Semester 2 offering for professional staff will be the Research Commercialisation module. Dates are 25 July to 28 August.

Student Profile – Richard Voss – Curtin Masters student

Q: What led you to do the Developing Your Career module?
A: During the previous two years I have been undertaking a Masters Degree in Education at Curtin University that is due for completion late in December 2014. In 2015 I plan to undertake a PhD and the Developing Your Career module has allowed me to establish some career
goals and create professional networks with other research students in order to share ideas and experiences to benefit one another.

Q: Have you done any other e-Grad School modules? (If so which ones?)
A: I have completed several e-Grad School modules that include Project Management, Leadership and Communication, Critical and Creative Thinking and Developing your Career. Next year I plan to enrol in research commercialisation and public policy to further assist with undertaking a PhD.

Q: What is your background, ie what area are you currently working in and were the resources useful?
A: My background includes working in the education sector as a casual relief teacher in Victoria. The module resources were particularly useful as it allowed me to re-assess my interests, values and the ‘soft skills’ that are required to move my career to the next level.

Q: What do you expect from the module (s)?
A: My main expectation of the modules is that it allows students to create networks, collaborate and share experiences in order to learn from one another. From the perspective of a student undertaking a degree via distance education, this is as close as I can get to a university classroom environment.

Q: How is the fit between your expectations of the course (s) and what is being delivered so far?
A: The fit between my expectations and what is being delivered is extremely good. The course moderators are all supportive along with my fellow research students. The discussions between all the students (and the moderator) have always been proactive and it has opened my eyes and allowed me to appreciate different points of view.

Q: Any other comments you’d like to make?
A: I believe that undertaking the e-Grad school modules has been a worthwhile experience. As a student if you are prepared to put the time and effort in, the rewards are certainly worthwhile.

Meet your Moderator – Dr Svenja Kratz – Practice-led Research in Creative Arts, Media and Design

As more arts practitioners engage in HDR research, it is imperative to discuss and explore a range of methodological pathways, as well as strategies for integrating creative practice within a research framework and effectively communicating research outcomes. This module introduces students to key terms in Practice-led Research, with particular emphasis on reflective practice, creative data collection and analysis and relevant methodological approaches. The module also provides a supportive space for HDR students to connect and share their research progress with peers from a variety of creative fields.

On completion of this module students will be able to:
- Understand the relationship between Practice-Led Research and professional practice.
- Understand the major methodological principles that underpin the practice, including ethics and intellectual property implications.
- Understand key terms in Practice-Led Research
- Acquire knowledge of particular methods and approaches in Practice-Led Research.
- Develop an understanding of international benchmarks and quality assurance indicators in Practice-Led Research, including examination methods and ATN regulations.
- Consider exemplars of practical methods and approaches in Practice-Led Research
- Access a bibliography of important literature on the topic
- Participate in collaborative activities and group discussions

The module is moderated by Svenja Kratz, a contemporary artist and sessional academic within the Creative Industries Faculty at QUT. Svenja completed her PhD in ArtScience practice in 2013 in a creative partnership between the Creative Industries Faculty (Visual Arts) and The Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (Cells and Tissues) at QUT. Her thesis examined the critical and creative potentials of cross art-science practice using a methodological and conceptual framework of creative becoming. During her candidature, she published three peer-reviewed journal articles on transdisciplinary methodology and practice and ethics in biart. The work produced during her PhD also led her to receive the 2012 Premiere’s New Media Scholarship from QAG/GOMA, to undertake an ArtScience residency in genetic engineering and mutagenesis at Leiden University in The Netherlands in 2013. Since completing her doctorate, Svenja has worked as a sessional academic at Griffith University and QUT, and has continued to develop her creative practice and research across art and science. Her most recent creative work The Absence of Alice: Instance #8, developed in response to her PhD research, will be showcased at Experimenta Recharge 6th International Biennial of Media Art, launched at RMIT Gallery in November 2014.

www.svenjakratz.com

Interesting Links and Articles:

Research suggests that as little as 30% of PhD graduates in Australia remain in academia for their careers. Here are some interesting articles and insights on what life /careers are like after completing a PhD:
UC Berkeley study sheds light on where PhDs end up a decade after their degree

Where do PhD Scientists work?

Blog: Get a PhD - but leave academia as soon as you graduate

Career options after a PhD

Alternative careers for PhD students

On the lighter side:

• PhD Comics

Tips ‘n Tricks

• Always use Firefox as your browser for Blackboard
• When preparing posts for the Discussion Board in the e-Grad School modules, write and save it in Notepad first, then copy and paste it into the Discussion Board.
• Save your Notepad posts somewhere handy in case, for some reason, your Blackboard post doesn’t appear gets lost.
• Read the criteria for receiving a certification of completion carefully so you’re not disappointed at the end if you find you’re not eligible for a certificate. There are specific criteria for posting on the Discussion Board that can influence this.
• If you’re struggling with your studies or life in general and need support, contact your University Counselling Service. Most universities provide free individual professional counselling services to enrolled students.

Testimonials

Entrepreneurship
I have managed to learn so much about entrepreneurship and leadership. I always thought I knew the basics but there were many things that were new to me. I really appreciate this opportunity.

RMIT student

Also in interaction with colleagues I tested some of the learning from the course and it assisted me greatly in working more productive with others.

UTS student

Project Management
The outcome of the module was most positive. I have just completed my Masters Degree and wanting to undertake a PhD and the module has broadened my thoughts into how to set up the study to benefit the stakeholders as well as myself.

Curtin student

Research Commercialisation
The materials from the tutor and discussions on the blackboard were useful. Importantly, reading through other participants comments about each topic every week were awesome. It shows how divergent our ideas, opinions and future plans are as upcoming researchers.

USC student

Global Sustainability
Outcome for me is a much better understanding of global sustainability and greater confidence when discussing this topic.

UOW student

Critical and Creative Thinking
Gained better insight and some tools on how to approach my research practice more critically and creatively.

QUT Student

Practice-led Research in Creative Arts, Media and Design
I gained some tools for negotiating writers block and how to think more laterally about my writing

UTS Student

’Bye for now

From all the team at eGSA, thanks for a great year, we have enjoyed interacting with you and wish you and your families a safe and happy summer over the holiday period!

See you in 2015!

Paul Burnett        Paige Maguire      Lisa Reyes      Lynda Torrie