Welcome from the eGSA Director

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Well we’re past the shortest day of the year which means we’re over the half way mark and steaming our way into the second half of yet another year. Where does the time go?

There has been considerable change in the e-Grad School this year, the most notable being a change of focus towards raising the bar in research training, by offering our non-award Learning Employment Aptitude Program (LEAP) modules to professionals working in the field of research administration, ie research managers and administrators employed not only in universities, but across public and private sectors, voluntary agencies, medical institutes, independent research organisations and so on. We are kick starting this initiative by offering the LEAP Project Management module to research administrators and you can read more about this below.

Best wishes
Paul Burnett

What do we offer?

Are you looking for flexible, affordable professional development opportunities for your research administration staff and/or research students?

The e-Grad School offers professional development through short, fully online and easily accessible courses designed to provide research sector professionals with skills and development in areas that employers require of them.

At a cost of $350 per person, per module these courses are flexible, affordable and easily accessible online 24/7 from anywhere in the world. They provide the opportunity for participants to increase global networks and learn generic work related skills:

- **Learning Employment Aptitude Program (LEAP)** – learn professional skills to boost your career:
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Project Management
  - Leadership and Communication
  - Research Commercialisation
  - Global Sustainability
  - Public Policy
  - Maximising Your Career

- **Modules Online for Research Education (MORE)** – covers skills required for the postgraduate research journey:
  - Ethics
  - Risk Management
  - Critical Writing
  - Critical and Creative Thinking
  - Practice-led Research in Creative Arts, Media and Design

If you prefer a mix of online and face-to-face, or half or one-day courses, please contact us at: egsacoordinator@qut.edu.au to discuss the possibilities.

We will tailor courses to suit your needs!

Professional Development opportunity in Project Management for Research Managers and Research Administrators

Do you manage projects and wish you had more skills in this important area? The e-Grad School recently surveyed members of the Australasian Research Training Association (ARTA) to assess their professional development and training requirements and presented the results at their annual conference in Brisbane in May. The overwhelming response indicated a demand for training in several areas including Financial Management, Project Management, Legal/Contract Skills, Ethics, Negotiation skills, and Leadership skills and as a result eGSA is offering research administrators and research managers a dedicated offering of the Project Management module.

The aim is to provide participants with skills and experience in defining a project, identifying key components for planning a project and determining specific needs and processes involved in successfully managing a project.

Commitment is approximately 3 hours per week for this fully online course which runs from 5 August (Week 0) to 13 September. The cost is $350 + GST with a 20% discount for ATN members.

To register please contact: egsacoordinator@qut.edu.au

Meet your Moderator – Dr Shari Walsh – Maximising Your Career

All e-Grad School modules are developed and taught by industry and research sector experts. Shari graduated from QUT with a Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) in 2004 and is a registered psychologist. She completed her PhD in 2009 in the QUT School of Psychology and Counselling. Shari worked as a postgraduate careers counsellor with QUT Careers and Employment from February 2008 to February 2012 and focused on providing post-graduate career services. Her previous roles as a counsellor, psychology tutor, and research assistant have provided her with a solid understanding of issues facing students and how to assist them.

Shari is the Principal Psychologist and owner of Growth Psychology in Brisbane. Fundamental to her approach is her commitment to helping people understand their strengths and how to make the most of their future.

Did you know.......?

The Entrepreneurship Module is one of the LEAP modules offered by the e-Grad School!

If you’re engaged in, or want to be engaged in:

- the start-up and growth of new ventures
- corporate entrepreneurship
- the venture capital, banking or informal investment industry
- government or other policy or regional development agencies or authorities
- support services to new ventures and the SME sector
• social enterprise to support and facilitate independence for disadvantaged or minority communities.
• financing new ventures run by entrepreneurs

then this module may be of interest because it aims to develop those who wish to be more effective in their role as a social, economic and technological change agent. It is designed for those who wish to directly undertake, support, finance or facilitate the creation and growth of new ventures that are based upon innovative ideas which significantly change the status quo. On completion, the participant will be able to analyse some basic principles behind how entrepreneurs may positively influence and alter the market dynamics of the world we live in.

Our moderator’s often share interesting links and ideas such as the following video clip: The happy secret to better work: http://www.ted.com/talks/shawn_achor_the_happy_secret_to_b etter_work.html

Student Profiles

Flexibility is one of the positives of participating in the e-Grad School non-award short courses. Our students are scattered around Australia and indeed, around the world, as can be seen from the profile below on a Curtin University student based in Malaysia.

In addition, subscriptions are available to any non-ATN universities wishing to provide their HDR students with skills to improve their employability and make the most of their candidature journey. The University of Wollongong is one of these universities and one of their doctoral students is also profiled below.

SHAMIL, MOHAMED MIHILAR M. – Off-shore Curtin University PhD student

Q: What are you doing at the moment (working/study)?
A: Currently I am pursuing my doctoral studies at Curtin University off shore campus located in Malaysia. I am currently on leave to pursue my studies and I am a lecturer at the Faculty of Commerce & Management Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Q: What eGSA modules have you participated in and what was the latest?
A: I completed my BA Arts, MRes and I am now half way through my PhD on Place Branding. I am conducting my PhD at the University of Wollongong. In addition to study, I tutor and lecture for public relations subjects part-time. These commitments make it hard for me to take on extra work so I was pleased with the 5 week structure for the entrepreneurship module.

Q: What eGSA modules have you participated in and what was the latest?
A: The LEAP Entrepreneurial module is the first eGSA course I have taken.

Q: What attracted you to the module and how was the fit between your expectations and what was delivered?
A: I was informed about this module by the research office here at the University of Wollongong. What caught my eye was the prospect of learning skills I know are important to my career, but those I didn’t get a chance to cover in my bachelor degree. I expected to learn the basics of entrepreneurship and how I could apply this knowledge to recognise and analyse potential business opportunities. My expectations were exceeded by the well structured and informative course design.

Q: What do you regard as the strengths of the module?
A: As a teacher and student, I really appreciated the moderator for this module. I felt they did a great job at facilitating the discussion and helped consolidate ideas at the end of each week. We also received guidance when we had misinterpreted the information which is extremely helpful. The module was also well structured, the site design was easy to navigate and the module material was interesting. The moderator and the choice of study resources helped keep me engaged and eager to participate.

Q: Any other comments you’d like to make?
A: This was a really enjoyable module and I look forward to the next one.

New eGSA Website – coming soon

The e-Grad School’s website is undergoing a much needed review. Please be patient as we work towards a new and more exciting website which we will have up and running by the end of the year.