

## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION

### EVALUATION RESULTS

FEBRUARY 26, 2010

#### 1. OVERVIEW

Thank you to all students who attended the February 26, 2010 Induction and took the time to complete and hand in an evaluation. The evaluation is an excellent opportunity for us to review the induction process overall and consider student suggestions for change to improve the success of future Induction programs.

A total of 170 evaluations were received from 216 attendees and the results are summarised in the following sections of this report.

It should be noted that not every student completed every question so some totals will be less than 170. A copy of the February 20, 2010 Induction Program is provided in Attachment A for reference purposes. Outlined in Section 6 is the Graduate Centre's response to some of the comments made by students in their evaluations.

#### 2. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Length of time since completing Pre-Post Graduate Research studies:

Total Responses	141
0-2yrs	78
3-4yrs	28
5-6yrs	10
>6yrs	25

Previous University of Adelaide student?

Total Responses	170
Yes	81
No	89

Length of time since enrolling

Total Responses	168
0-3mth	107
4-6mth	39
6-9mth	13
>9mth	9

Program enrolled in:

<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>PhD</b>	138
<b>Masters</b>	32

International or Domestic student?

<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>Domestic</b>	102
<b>International</b>	63

Evaluation responses by Faculty

<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>ECMS</b>	23
<b>Health Sciences</b>	45
<b>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</b>	23
<b>Professions</b>	25
<b>Sciences</b>	54

### 3. SESSION 1 (8:50am- 11:40am)

The first session comprised speakers from each of the following areas: Adelaide Graduate Centre; Researcher Education and Development Programs (RED); Research Branch; Information Technology Services; Student Support Services; and Student Care Office. Speakers gave a presentation relevant to their area of responsibility.

The evaluation forms provided students with the option of selecting from a scale of 1-7 (1=strongly disagree; 4=undecided; 7= strongly agree) to indicate whether they found the content of each of the talks to be informative and interesting. There was also the option of providing further written comments on Session 1, if desired.

The figures listed below are averages.

<b>THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS WAS INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING</b>	
<b>AREA/SPEAKER</b>	
<b>2.1 Adelaide Graduate Centre/ Prof. Richard Russell</b>	5.44
<b>2.2 RED Programs/ Dr Michelle Picard</b>	5.24
<b>2.3 Research Branch/ Ms Michelle White</b>	4.60
<b>2.4 Information Technology Services/ Ms Fiona Mariner</b>	5.11
<b>2.5 Student Support Services/ Ms Sandra Gault</b>	5.14
<b>2.6 Student Care Office/ Mr Chris Gent</b>	5.45

#### 4. SESSION 2 (11:50am-1pm)

In session 2, students attended one of five faculty based discussion groups in the following areas: 1) Sciences A (Agriculture, Food & Wine *and* Earth & Environmental Sciences); 2) Sciences B (Chemistry & Physics *and* Molecular & Biomedical Sciences); 3) Engineering, Computer & Mathematical Sciences; 4) Health Sciences (including Dentistry and Medicine); 5) Humanities & Social Sciences *and* The Professions.

Each faculty group consisted of a panel of four members: one senior and experienced supervisor, one research librarian, and two senior research students.

The evaluation forms provided students with the option of selecting from a scale of 1-7 (1=strongly disagree; 4=undecided; 7= strongly agree) to indicate whether they found the content of each of the talks to be informative and interesting. There was also the option of providing further written comments on Session 2, if desired.

The figures listed below are averages.

<b>THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS WAS INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING</b>	
<b>AREA/SPEAKER</b>	
<b>3.1 Supervisor</b>	5.54
<b>3.2 Research Librarian</b>	5.49
<b>3.3 Research Student 1</b>	5.43
<b>3.4 Research Student 2</b>	5.9

#### 5. OVERALL PROGRAM

The evaluation form provided students with the option of selecting from a scale of 1-7 (1=strongly disagree; 4=undecided; 7= strongly agree) to indicate how they rated the Induction Program overall. There was also the option of providing further written comments if desired.

The figures listed below are averages.

<b>OVERALL PROGRAM</b>	
<b>4.1 The Induction met my expectations</b>	5.31
<b>4.2 The materials provided were appropriate</b>	5.48
<b>4.3 The sessions contained sufficient information for a student beginning his/her program</b>	5.63

**POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION  
SEMESTER 1, 2010**



Friday, 26 February 2010  
Rennie Lecture Theatre, Johnson Building (Map C2)

**SESSION 1:**

*An introduction to University of Adelaide Staff, Services and Resources available as you commence your postgraduate research degree.*

8.50 am	<b>Student Registration: Collection of Induction Packs and Name Labels</b>
9.10 am	<b>The Adelaide Graduate Centre and how to get off to a good start with your research degree</b> <i>Presented by Professor Richard Russell, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Operations) and Dean of Graduate Studies, Adelaide Graduate Centre</i>
9:50 am	<b>Researcher Education and Development (RED)</b> <i>Presented by Dr Michelle Picard, Director, Researcher Education, Adelaide Graduate Centre</i>
10.05 am	<b>Research Ethics and Compliance</b> <i>Presented by Ms Michelle White, Manager, Ethics and Compliance, Research Branch</i>
10.20 am	<b>Morning Tea Break</b>
10.50 am	<b>Online Services</b> <i>Presented by Fiona Mariner, IT Training Officer, Information Technology Services</i>
11.05 am	<b>Student Services at North Terrace Campus</b> <i>Presented by Ms Sandra Gault, Transition Unit Coordinator, Student Support Services</i>
11.20 am	<b>Student Care Office of the Adelaide University Union (AUU)</b> <i>Presented by Mr Chris Gent, Education and Welfare Officer, Student Care Office</i>
11.35 am	<b>Proceed to respective venues for session 2 (see over)</b>
	<i>Each panel member presents a talk: (see over)</i>
11.50 am	Supervisor talk
12.10 pm	Research Librarian talk
12.20 pm	Research Student 1 talk
12.30 pm	Research Student 2 talk
12.40 pm	Group Discussion, information sharing, questions and answers
12.55 pm	Evaluation
1.00 pm	<b>Program Conclusion</b>

P.T.O.

## SESSION 2

Friday, 26 February 2010

*Designed to give students the opportunity to hear from senior postgrads on how to survive..... and enjoy life as a research student!  
Session 2 also addresses: useful information about supervision, navigating the library, putting together your research proposal and a valuable group discussion, question and answer time.*

GROUP	AGC LEADER	PANEL	VENUE
<p>SCIENCES A</p> <p>School of Agriculture, Food and Wine</p> <p>School of Earth and Environmental Sciences</p>	Ms Sheryl Jurgens	<p>Supervisor Dr Chris Ford <i>School of Agriculture, Food &amp; Wine</i></p> <p>Research Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms Angela Mills <i>Waite and Roseworthy Library</i></li> </ul> <p>Research Student 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Ismail Ismail <i>School of Agriculture, Food &amp; Wine</i></li> </ul> <p>Research Student 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mark Brindal <i>School of Agriculture, Food &amp; Wine</i></li> </ul>	Napier Building Napier 208 (Map K12)
<p>SCIENCES B</p> <p>School of Chemistry and Physics</p> <p>School of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences</p>	Mrs Diane McInnes	<p>Supervisor Professor John Wallace <i>School of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences</i></p> <p>Research Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms Ursula Henderson <i>Barr Smith Library</i></li> </ul> <p>Research Student 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Miss Rachel Crees <i>School of Chemistry &amp; Physics</i></li> </ul> <p>Research Student 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Miss Kristie Lee <i>School of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences</i></li> </ul>	Napier Building Napier 209 (Map K12)
Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences	Ms Rosanna Scarsella	<p>Supervisor Professor Anthony Roberts <i>School of Mathematical Sciences</i></p> <p>Research Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms Kay Leverett <i>Barr Smith Library</i></li> </ul> <p>Research Student 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Morteza Mohammadzaheri <i>School of Mechanical Engineering</i></li> </ul> <p>Research Student 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Jayesh Minase <i>School of Mechanical Engineering</i></li> </ul>	Hughes Building Level 2 Hughes Lecture Theatre (Map J8)
Health Sciences (Including Dentistry and Medicine)	Ms Barbara Little	<p>Supervisor Dr Claire Roberts <i>School of Paediatrics &amp; Reproductive Health</i></p> <p>Research Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Michael Draper <i>Barr Smith Library</i></li> </ul> <p>Research Student 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Miss Izza Tan <i>School of Paediatrics &amp; Reproductive Health</i></li> </ul> <p>Research Student 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr Victoria Wade <i>School of Population, Health &amp; Clinical Practice</i></li> </ul>	Mawson Building Ground Mawson Lecture Theatre (Map B11)
Humanities and Social Sciences <i>and</i> The Professions	Mrs Jade Wildy	<p>Supervisor Dr Alison Dundon <i>School of Social Sciences</i></p> <p>Research Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms Margaret Hosking <i>Barr Smith Library</i></li> </ul> <p>Research Student 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms Lizzie Summerfield <i>Business School</i></li> </ul> <p>Research Student 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms Hannah Stark <i>School of Humanities</i></li> </ul>	Badger Laboratories Ground Macbeth Lecture Theatre (Map D3)

## 6. ADELAIDE GRADUATE CENTRE RESPONSE TO STUDENT FEEDBACK

General or recurring themes noticed in comments provided by students are summarised below:

### **Timing of Induction Program**

The Adelaide Graduate Centre is running further Induction programs on April 9, 2010 and 23 July to capture students who commence candidature after 20 February. An on-line induction is also being developed for students who commence between Induction sessions. Students who enrol between sessions may access relevant information in the Research Student Handbook via the Graduate Centre website:  
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/handbook/>

Information about the Induction Sessions is also available on the Graduate Centre website:  
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/induction/>

### **Separate Induction Sessions for new and continuing students of the University**

The Graduate Centre is aware that some of the information may already be known by some students particularly those who have studied at the University of Adelaide previously. The program has been developed however to cater to students new to the University, as well as those who are commencing a research degree for the first time, to ensure that all receive the information required to set them on the right path. We could consider separate sessions for new and continuing students in the future but it is an opportunity for students to meet others from different backgrounds as well as some supervisors.

### **Quality of Presentations and Powerpoints**

The feedback from students is much appreciated and the Graduate Centre will work with presenters to attempt to deliver presentations that are legible, understandable and interesting to all participants. All presenters will also be asked to define any acronyms used.

Currently the Graduate Centre provides a template to all presenters to assist in the preparation of a Power Point presentation and will ask all presenters to provide a display and printout of the slides for students who would like one.

Perhaps when the on-line Induction is introduced all students will be able to access presentations via the Adelaide Graduate Centre - Induction - website.

### **Environment**

It is difficult to ensure that the environment is comfortable for students but the Graduate Centre will endeavour to address this issue in the future.

### **Paper bags**

The Graduate Centre recently moved to distributing induction materials in recyclable brown paper bags as a cost effective, environmentally friendly alternative to blue cloth bags. It is regrettable that these are noisy.

### **Information about Intellectual Property**

In previous inductions Adelaide Research and Innovation (ARI) gave a presentation on Intellectual Property (IP) during the first session but this presentation was subsequently removed when feedback indicated that all students did not consider this information relevant to their needs. Supervisor Presenters in Session 2 have therefore been asked to address Intellectual Property Issues relating to individual schools and disciplines in their presentation. Information re IP is also available on the ARI website: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/aripl/investors/policy/?template=2>

### **Information for remote students**

The information presented is valuable for remote students. Any problems with accessing facilities should be addressed on admission or when applying for remote status.

## 7. CONCLUSION

The Graduate Centre appreciates students' feedback and suggestions for improvements to the Sessions and will review future programs to meet the needs of all students.

It is apparent that the Induction program is still considered to be of benefit to postgraduate research students and it is hoped that the development of the on-line version will address some of the issues raised by the participants. It is hoped that all students who attended the February induction found it beneficial.