

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION

EVALUATION RESULTS

February 25th, 2011

1. OVERVIEW

Thank you to all students who attended the February 25th 2011 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 231 evaluations were received from 253 attendees and the results are summarised in the following sections of this report. More students attended than had registered, so there was a shortage of Induction packages.

It should be noted that not every student completed every question so some totals will be less than 231. A copy of the February 25th 2011 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	164
0-2yrs	101
3-4yrs	18
5-6yrs	14
>6yrs	31

Previous University of Adelaide student?

Total Responses	230
Yes	111
No	129

Length of time since enrolling

Total Responses	229
0-3mth	126
4-6mth	63
6-9mth	19
>9mth	21

Program enrolled in:

Total Responses	230
PhD	150
Masters	50

International or Domestic student?

Total Responses	224
International	84
Domestic	140

Evaluation responses by Faculty

Total Responses	231
ECMS	42
Health Sciences	70
Humanities & Social Sciences	41
Professions	7
Sciences	71

3. SESSION 1 (8:50am - 11:30am)

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 informative and interesting. There was also the option of providing further written comments on Session 1, if desired.

The figures listed below are averages.

THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS WAS INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING	
AREA/SPEAKER	
2.1 Adelaide Graduate Centre / Prof. Richard Russell	6.2
2.2 RED Programs / Dr Michelle Picard	5.4
2.3 Research Branch / Ms Michelle White	5.2
2.4 Student Support Services / Ms Sandra Gault	5.65.7
2.5 Information Technology Services / Mr Terry O'Donnell	6.2
2.6 Student Care Office / Ms Christine Lewig	5.5

4. SESSION 2 (11:40am – 12:50pm)

In session 2, students attended one of five faculty based discussion groups in the following areas:

- 1) Sciences A (Agriculture, Food & Wine + Earth & Environmental Sciences)
- 2) Sciences B (Chemistry & Physics + Molecular & Biomedical Sciences + Animal & Veterinary 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 informative and interesting. There was also the option of providing further written comments on Session 2, if desired.

The figures listed below are averaged over all faculty groups.

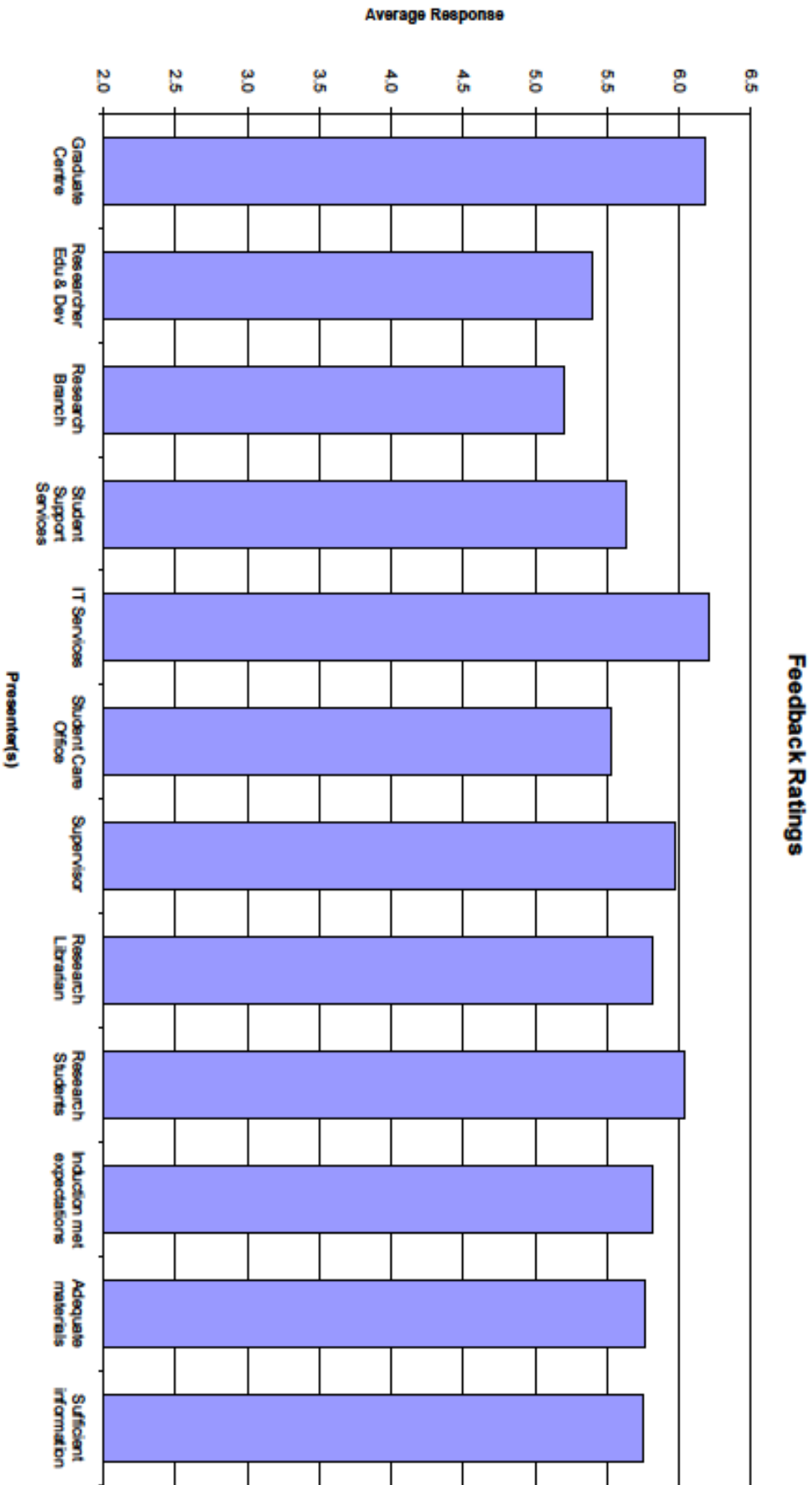
THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS WAS INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING	
AREA/SPEAKER	
3.1 Supervisor	5.0
3.2 Research Librarian	5.8
3.3 Research Students	6.0

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.

OVERALL PROGRAM	
4.1 The Induction met my expectations	5.8
4.2 The materials provided were appropriate	5.8
4.3 The sessions contained sufficient information for a student beginning his/her program	5.7



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 ran the Induction Program three times in 2010. An on-line induction is being developed for students who cannot attend the formal 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/>

Feedback on Session One presentations

Overall the comments were very positive. Those who responded with a low score did not provide feedback comments.

Information needs to be available earlier in candidature

It is the student's responsibility to ensure they attend the first available Induction Program. The Research Student Handbook is available online at: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/handbook/>

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 to cater to all students of the University, especially those who are commencing a research degree for the first time, to ensure that *all* students receive the information required to set them on the right path. This is also a valuable opportunity for students to meet others from different backgrounds as well as some supervisors.

Some information is duplicated between talks, and covered in other programs such as Orientation

It is important that *all* students are made aware of the information presented. While much of this is also available online and in publications such as the Research Handbook, the Induction talks given by qualified staff are an opportunity to put all this information into perspective.

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 beneficial to postgraduate research students. The development of an on-line Induction Program will address some of the issues raised by the participants. It is hoped that all students who attended the July induction found it useful and informative.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION SEMESTER 1, 2011

Friday, 25th February, 2011
Napier 102 Lecture Theatre, Level 1, Napier Building

SESSION 1:

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

8.50 am	Student Registration: Collection of Induction Packs and Name Labels
9.10 am	The Adelaide Graduate Centre and how to get off to a good start with your research degree <i>Presented by Professor Richard Russell, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Operations) and Dean of Graduate Studies, Adelaide Graduate Centre</i>
9.45 am	Researcher Education and Development (RED) <i>Presented by Dr Michelle Picard, Lecturer, Adelaide Graduate Centre</i>
10.00 am	Research Ethics and Compliance <i>Presented by Ms Michelle White, Manager, Ethics and Compliance, Research Branch</i>
10.15 am	Morning Tea Break
10.45 am	Student Services at North Terrace Campus <i>Presented by Ms Sandra Gault, Transition Unit Coordinator, Student Support Services</i>
11.00 am	Online Services <i>Presented by Mr Terry O'Donnell, Team Leader, Training Services, Information Technology Services</i>
11.15 am	Student Care Office of the Adelaide University Union (AUU) <i>Presented by Ms Colleen Lewig, Manager, Counselling & Disability Services</i>
11.30 am	Proceed to respective venues for session 2 (see over)
	<i>Each panel member presents a talk: (see over)</i>
11.40 am	Supervisor talk
12.00 pm	Research Librarian talk
12.10 pm	Research Student 1 talk
12.20 pm	Research Student 2 talk
12.30 pm	Group Discussion, information sharing, questions and answers
12.45 pm	Evaluation
12.50 pm	Program Conclusion

P.T.O.

SESSION 2**Friday, 25th February, 2011**

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 Members & School	VENUE
SCIENCES A School of Agriculture, Food and Wine School of Earth and Environmental Sciences	Sheryl Jurgens	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Cameron Grant <i>Agriculture, Food & Wine</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Angela Mills <i>Waite and Roseworthy Library</i> Research Student 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sarah Noack <i>Agriculture, Food and Wine</i> Research Student 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rebecca West <i>Earth and Environmental Sciences</i> 	Napier Building Napier 208
SCIENCES B School of Chemistry and Physics School of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences	Sarah Pearson	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Gordon Howarth <i>Animal and Veterinary Sciences</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Ursula Henderson <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Student 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rachel Crees <i>Chemistry and Physics</i> Research Student 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Hilary Coleman <i>Chemistry and Physics</i> 	Napier Building Napier 209
Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences	Rosanna Scarsella	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Barry Eley <i>ECIC</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Kay Leverett <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Student 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Sarah Jewell <i>Civil, Environmental & Mining Engineering</i> Research Student 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Luke Balzan <i>Electrical and Electronic Engineering</i> 	Napier Building Napier LG28
Health Sciences (Including Dentistry and Medicine)	Barbara Little	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Lindsay Richards <i>School of Dentistry</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Maureen Bell <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Student 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brett Scholz <i>School of Medicine</i> Research Student 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Vicki Xafis <i>Pop Hlth & CP / Paed & Reprod Health</i> 	Napier Building Napier 102
Humanities and Social Sciences and The Professions	Jade Wildy	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Gerry Groot <i>Chinese Studies</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Helen Attar <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Student 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Carley Norman <i>English</i> Research Student 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Joshua Nash <i>Linguistics</i> 	Napier Building Napier LG29