

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION

EVALUATION RESULTS

April 21st, 2011

1. OVERVIEW

Thank you to all students who attended the April 21st 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 125 evaluations were received from 136 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 125. A copy of the April 21st 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 Honours:

Total Responses	112
0-2yrs	77
3-4yrs	11
5-6yrs	4
>6yrs	20

Previous University of Adelaide student?

Total Responses	124
Yes	77
No	47

Length of time since enrolling

Total Responses	124
0-3mth	100
4-6mth	10
6-9mth	7
>9mth	7

Program enrolled in:

Total Responses	125
PhD	99
Masters	26

International or Domestic student?

Total Responses	122
International	27
Domestic	95

Evaluation responses by Faculty

Total Responses	125
ECMS	7
Health Sciences	30
Humanities & Social Sciences	26
Professions	7
Sciences	34

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 Dean of Graduate Studies / AGC (Prof John Williams)	6.01
2.2 Researcher Education & Devt (Ms Lalitha Velautham)	5.67
2.3 Research Branch (Ms Michelle White)	5.17
2.4 Student Support Services (Ms Audrey Stratton)	5.68
2.5 Information Technology Services (Mr Terry O'Donnell)	5.65
2.6 Student Care Office (Mr Chris Gent)	5.80

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 + Animal and Veterinary Sciences)
- 2) Sciences B (Chemistry & Physics + Molecular & Biomedical Sciences + Earth and Environmental 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.

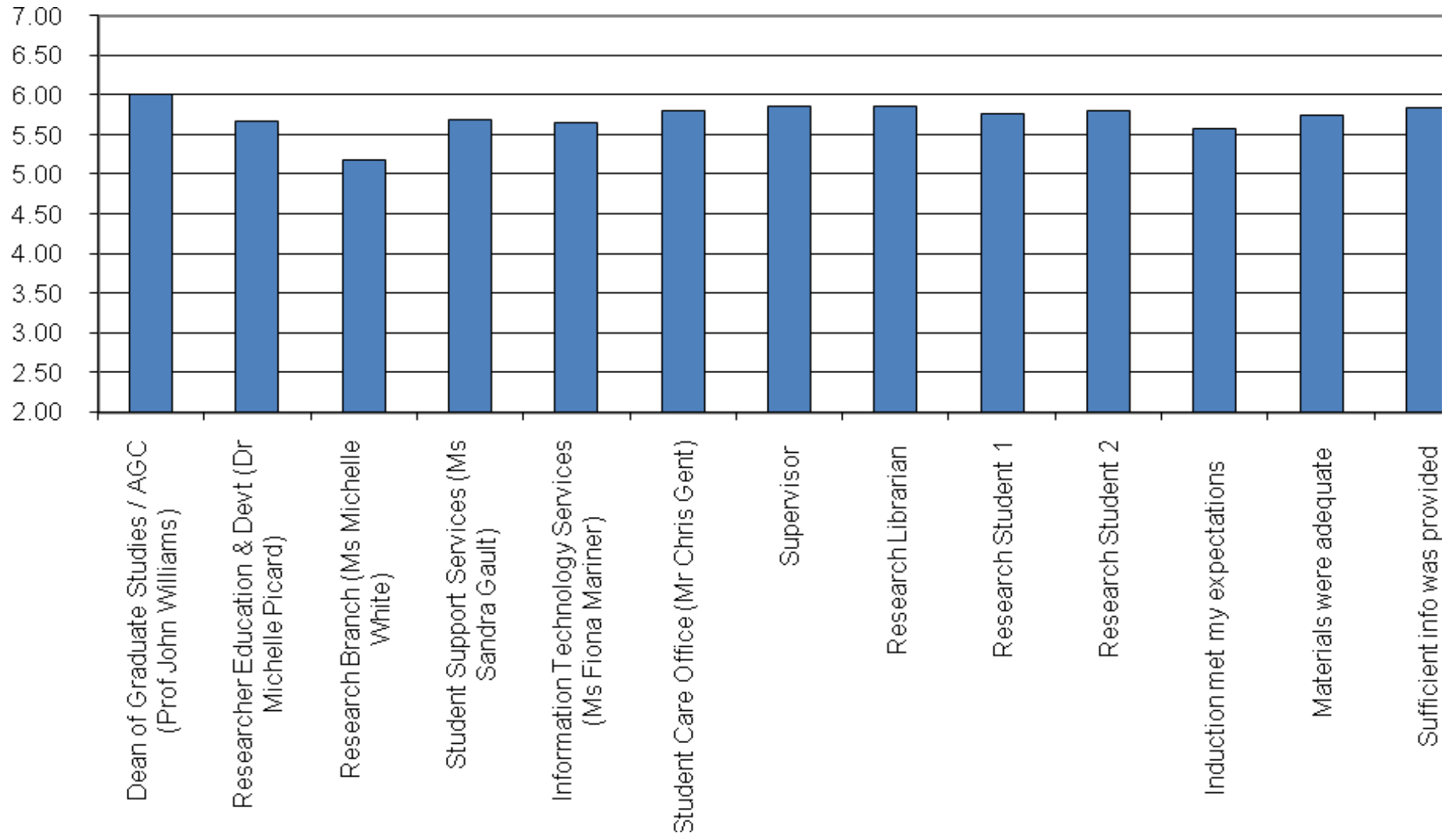
THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS WAS INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING	
AREA/SPEAKER	
3.1 Supervisor	5.86
3.2 Research Librarian	5.85
3.3 Research Students	5.77

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	5.57
4.2 The materials provided were appropriate	5.74
4.3 The sessions contained sufficient information for a student beginning his/her program	5.83



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 and in view of the response has continued this process for 2011. An on-line induction has also been developed for students who cannot attend the formal Induction sessions. Students who enrol between sessions may also 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.

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 research 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 the 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 April induction found it useful and informative.

**POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION
SEMESTER 1, 2011**

Thursday, 21st April, 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.

8.45 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 Ms Lalitha Velautham, 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 Audrey Stratton, Advisor, Transition Advisory Service, 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 Mr Chris Gent, Education and Welfare Officer, Student Care Office</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

SESSION 2 Thursday, 21st April, 2011

Designed to give students the opportunity to hear from an experienced supervisor and two senior postgraduate students 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
SCIENCES A School of Agriculture, Food and Wine School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences	Ms Libby Hamilton	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Stuart Roy <i>School of Agriculture, Food and Wine</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Angela Mills <i>Waite and Roseworthy Library</i> Research Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Sarah Noack <i>School of Agriculture, Food and Wine</i> • Mr Josh Lee Hixson <i>School of Agriculture, Food and Wine</i> 	Napier Building Napier 209
SCIENCES B School of Chemistry and Physics School of Earth and Environmental Sciences School of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences	Ms Sarah Pearson	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor John Wallace <i>School of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Ursula Henderson <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Patrick Michael <i>School of Earth and Environmental Sciences</i> • Mr Lewis Tunstall <i>School of Chemistry and Physics</i> 	Napier Building Napier LG29
Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences	Ms 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 Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Sarah Jewell <i>School of Civil, Environmental & Mining Engineering</i> • Mr Luke Balzan <i>School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering</i> 	Napier Building Napier G03
Health Sciences (Including Dentistry and Medicine)	Ms Barbara Little	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mark Hutchinson <i>School of Medical Sciences</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Michael Draper <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Suzanne McAllister <i>School of Medical Sciences</i> • Dr Alana Hansen <i>School of Population Health and Clinical Practice</i> 	Napier Building Napier LG28
Humanities and Social Sciences and The Professions	Ms Diane McInnes	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Charles Bodman Rae <i>School of Humanities and Social Sciences</i> Research Librarian	Napier Building Napier G04

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ms Jennifer Osborn <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Students <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ms Carley Norman <i>School of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>▪ Mr Robert Ralston <i>School of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>	
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