

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION

EVALUATION RESULTS

June 22nd, 2011

1. OVERVIEW

Thank you to all students who attended the July 22nd 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 83 evaluations were received from 104 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 83. A copy of the July 22nd 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

2.1 Length of time since completing Honours:

Total Responses	78
0-2 years	30
3-4 years	9
5-6 years	6
> 6 years	10
N/A	23

2.2 Previous University of Adelaide student?

Total Responses	83
Yes	26
No	57

2.3 Length of time since enrolling

Total Responses	80
0-3 months	56
4-6 months	11
6-9 months	5
>9 months	8

2.4 Program enrolled in:

Total Responses	83
Doctorate	62
Masters	21

2.5 International or Domestic student?

Total Responses	80
International	40
Domestic	40

2.6 Evaluation responses by Faculty

Total Responses	83
ECMS	18
Health Sciences	31
H&SS	3
Professions	1
Sciences	30

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.

3.1 The content of the talk was informative and interesting

Area/ Speaker	
Dean of Graduate Studies / AGC (Prof Richard Russell)	6.06
Researcher Education & Devt (Dr Michelle Picard)	5.85
Research Branch (Ms Karen Burke)	5.50
Student Support Services (Ms Audrey Stratton)	5.85
Information Technology Services (Mr Terry O'Donnell)	6.14
Student Care Office (Mr Chris Gent)	6.01

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.

4.1 The content of the talk was informative and interesting

AREA/SPEAKER	
Supervisor	6.19
Research Librarian	6.12
Research Students	6.15

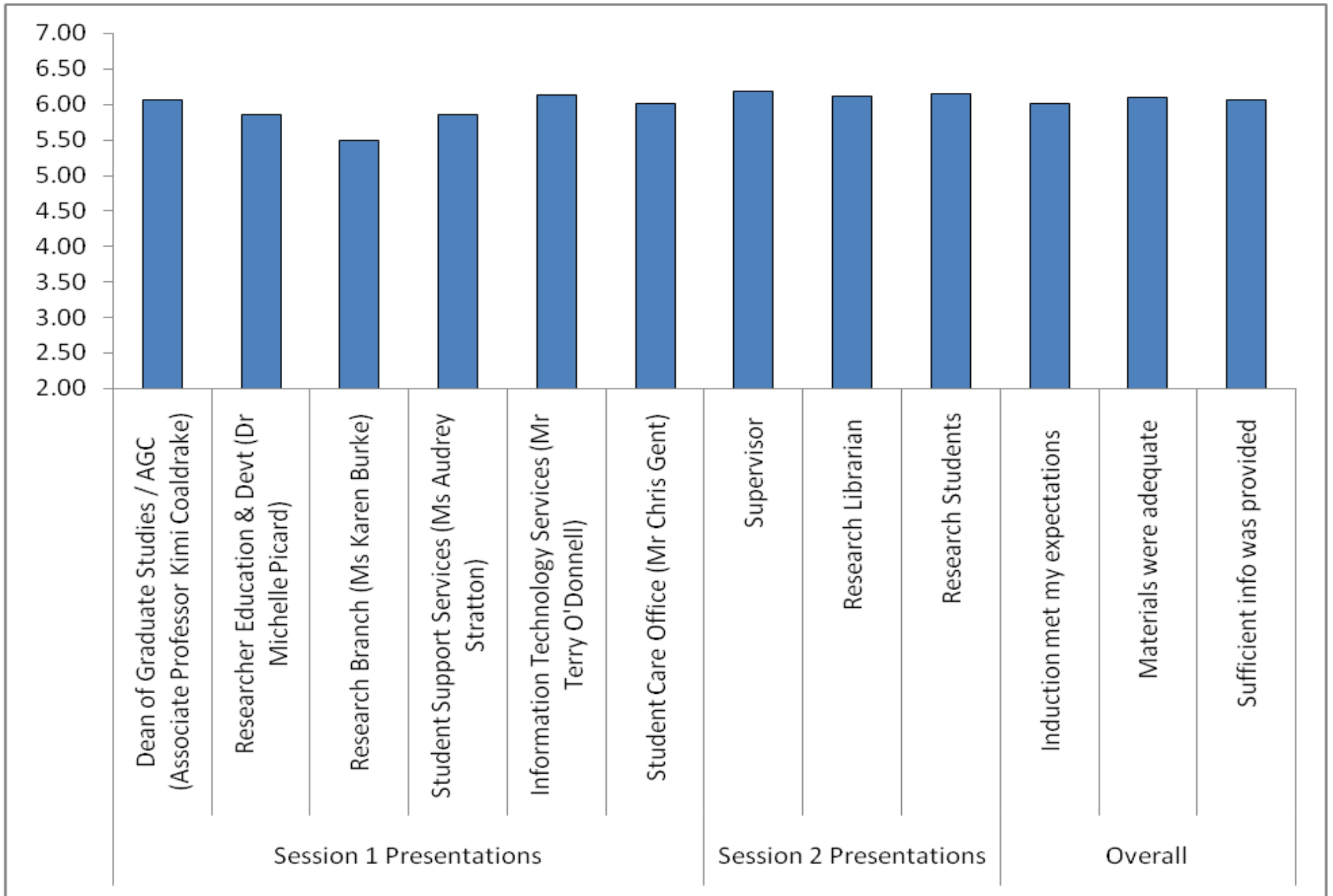
5. OVERALL PROGRAM

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.

5.1. Overall program responses

The Induction met my expectations	6.01
The materials provided were appropriate	6.10
The sessions contained sufficient information for a student beginning his/her program	6.07



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.

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.

Separate Induction Sessions for domestic and international students

The Graduate Centre acknowledges that some students attend the induction hoping for different information to be covered, particularly candidates who have joined the University from overseas institutions. The program has been developed to cater to all students of the University, to ensure that *all* students receive the information required to set them on the right path.

For specific information, international students are recommended to contact the International Office.

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 April induction found it useful and informative.

**POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION
SEMESTER 2, 2011**

Friday, 22nd July, 2011
Horace Lamb Lecture Theatre, Horace Lamb 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 Associate Professor Kimi Coaldrake, Acting 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 Karen Burke, 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 Friday, 22 nd July, 2011 GROUP	AGC LEADER	PANEL	VENUE
SCIENCES A School of Agriculture, Food and Wine School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences	Ms Mary-Anne Mwendwa	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Cameron Grant <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"> • Mr Mark Brindall <i>School of Agriculture, Food and Wine</i> • Mr Gasul Azam <i>School of Agriculture Food and Wine</i> 	Napier LG24
SCIENCES B School of Chemistry and Physics School of Earth and Environmental Sciences School of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences	Ms Rosanna Scarsella	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor John Foden <i>School of Earth and Environmental 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 Timothy Richards <i>School of Earth and Environmental Sciences</i> • Mr Lewis Tunstall <i>School of Chemistry and Physics</i> 	Napier 208
Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences	Ms Sheryl Jurgens	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate Professor Mark Jaksa <i>School of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering</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"> ▪ Mr Morteza Mohammadzaheri <i>School of Mechanical Engineering</i> ▪ Mr Luke Balzan <i>School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering</i> 	Napier 209
Health Sciences (Including Dentistry and Medicine)	Ms Barbara Little	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate Professor Simon Koblar <i>School of Medicine</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Maureen Bell <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Vicki Xafis <i>School of Population Health and Clinical Practice</i> • Ms Daniela Ribeiro <i>School of Dentistry</i> 	Horace Lamb Lecture Theatre
Humanities and Social Sciences and The Professions	Ms Sarah Pearson	Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Gerald Groot <i>School of Social Sciences</i> Research Librarian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Fiona Mariner <i>Barr Smith Library</i> Research Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Judith Coxell <i>School of Social Sciences</i> ▪ Mr Marshall King <i>School of History and Politics</i> 	Napier G03