

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION

EVALUATION RESULTS

MARCH 26, 2009

1. OVERVIEW

Thank you to all students who attended the March 26, 2009 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 88 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 88. Attachment A provides a summary of the average student ratings for each presenter. A copy of the March 26, 2009 Induction Program is provided in Attachment B for reference purposes. Outlined in Section 7 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	76
0-2yrs	55
3-4yrs	14
5-6yrs	1
>6yrs	6

Previous University of Adelaide student?

Total Responses	88
Yes	53
No	35

Length of time since enrolling

Total Responses	88
0-3mth	74
4-6mth	9
6-9mth	1
>9mth	4

International or Domestic student?

DOMESTIC Total Responses	63
Sciences	29
ECMS	3
Health Sciences	19
H&SS	10
Professions	2

INTERNATIONAL Total Responses	22
Sciences	11
ECMS	5
Health Sciences	4
H&SS	4
Professions	1

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

The first session comprised speakers from each of the following areas: Adelaide Graduate Centre; Psychology; Researcher Education and Development Programs (RED); Research Branch; Information Technology Services; Student Support Services; Adelaide University Union and Adelaide University Postgraduate Students' Association (AUPGSA). 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.

THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS WAS INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING	
AREA/SPEAKER	
2.1 Adelaide Graduate Centre/ Prof. Richard Russell	5.85
2.2 Psychology/ Dr Shona Crabb	5.55
2.3 RED Programs/ Dr Michelle Picard	5.63
2.4 Research Branch/ Ms Michelle White	5.26
2.5 Information Technology Services/ Ms Fiona Mariner	5.67
2.6 Student Support Services/ Ms Sandra Gault	5.68
2.7 Adelaide University Union/ Ms Eirean James	5.62
2.8 AUPGSA/ Mr Nathaniel Jewell	5.13

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.

THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS WAS INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING	
AREA/SPEAKER	
3.1 Supervisor	5.79
3.2 Research Librarian	6.13
3.3 Research Student 1	5.78
3.4 Research Student 2	5.49

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	5.75
4.2 The materials provided were appropriate	5.84
4.3 The sessions contained sufficient information for a student beginning his/her program	5.95

6. SUMMARY

A summary of student ratings for each presenter in the March 26, 2009 Induction together with the other components of the program has been provided in the form of a graph in Attachment A. Instructions are provided on the graph about how to display only those responses from students in a selected Faculty. This allows the reader to determine, for example, how the students in the Faculty of Sciences rated the individual speakers in the Sciences discussion panel.

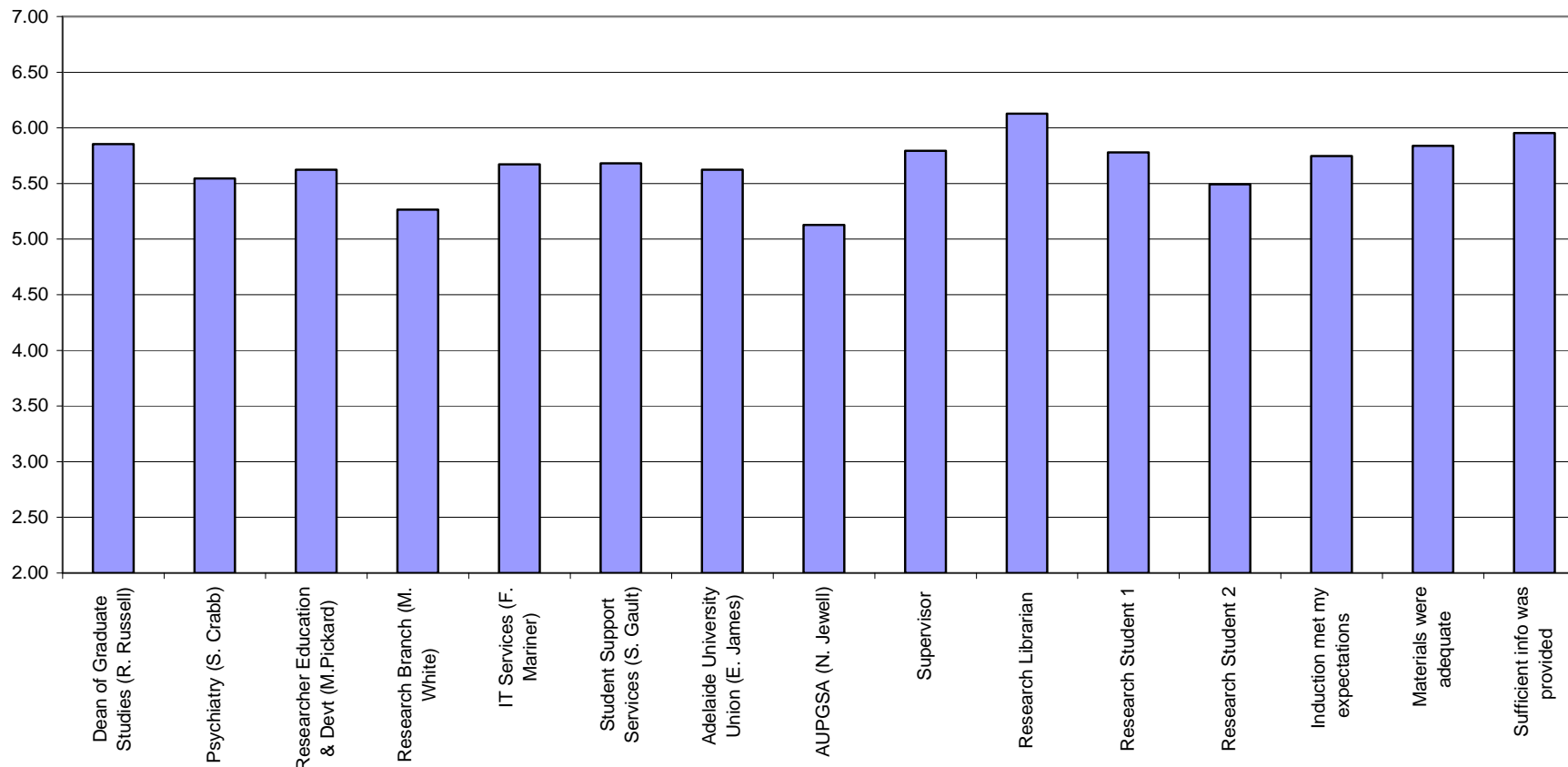
Please note, that to see the averages for individual faculties, you must double-click the chart to activate it.

A copy of the Program for March 26, 2009 has been provided in Attachment B.

Postgraduate Research Induction, 26 March 2009
 Average response to "The Content of the Talks was Interesting and Informative..."
 (scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 4 = undecided; 7 = strongly agree) **Double click chart to activate**

ECMS (All) HS (All) H&SS (All) Professions (All) Sciences (All)

****To see the averages for an individual Faculty, select 1 for the Faculty you are interested in by clicking on the arrow to the right of the Faculty name in the relevant box above. The remaining Faculties' boxes must be set to (All)****



Average Ratings For Induction Presentations & Feedback Measures



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INDUCTION SEMESTER 1, 2009

Thursday, 26 March 2009
Eclipse Room, Level 4, Union House

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, Dean of Graduate Studies, Adelaide Graduate Centre</i>
9.50 am	Meeting in the middle: expectations of PhD students and supervisors <i>Presented by Dr Shona Crabb, Senior Research Officer, Discipline of Psychiatry</i>
10.00 am	Researcher Education and Development (RED) <i>Presented by Dr Michelle Picard, Lecturer, Adelaide Graduate Centre</i>
10.15 am	Research Ethics and Compliance <i>Presented by Ms Michelle White, Manager, Ethics and Compliance, Research Branch</i>
10.25 am	Morning Tea Break
10.55 am	Online Services <i>Presented by Fiona Mariner, IT Training Officer, Information Technology Services</i>
11.10 am	Student Services at North Terrace Campus <i>Presented by Ms Sandra Gault, Transition Unit Coordinator, Student Support Services</i>
11.25 am	Student Care Office of the Adelaide University Union (AUU) <i>Presented by Ms Eirean James. Education and Welfare officer</i>
11.35 am	Adelaide University Postgraduate Students' Association (AUPGSA) <i>Presented by Mr Nathaniel Jewell, Postdoctoral Research Associate & AUPGSA Former Vice-President</i>
11.40 am	Proceed to respective venues for session 2 (see over)
	<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	Program Conclusion

P.T.O.

SESSION 2

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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Ron Smernik <i>School of Earth and Environmental Sciences</i> <p>Research Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Angela Mills <i>Waite & Roseworthy Library</i> <p>Research Student 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abigail Goodman <i>School of Earth and Environmental Sciences</i> <p>Research Student 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Cathy Todd <i>School of Agriculture, Food and Wine</i> 	Union Cinema Union House Level 5
<p>SCIENCES B</p> <p>School of Chemistry and Physics</p> <p>School of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences</p>	Mrs Diane McInnes	<p>Supervisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor John Wallace <i>School of Molecular and Biomedical Science</i> <p>Research Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Ursula Henderson <i>Barr Smith Library</i> <p>Research Student 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Milena Czyz <i>School of Chemistry and Physics: Chemistry</i> <p>Research Student 2 (DID NOT ATTEND)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Timothy Wiese <i>School of Chemistry and Physics: Physics</i> 	Little Theatre Union House Ground
Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences	Ms Rosanna Scarsella	<p>Supervisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Tony Roberts <i>School of Mathematical Sciences</i> <p>Research Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Kay Leverett <i>Barr Smith Library</i> <p>Research Student 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr David Roberts <i>School of Mathematical Sciences</i> <p>Research Student 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Morteza Mohammadzaheri <i>School of Mechanical Engineering</i> 	W.P. Rogers Room Union House Level 4
Health Sciences (Including Dentistry and Medicine)	Ms Barbara Little	<p>Supervisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Charlotte de Crespigny <i>School of Population Health and Clinical Practice</i> <p>Research Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Mick Draper <i>Barr Smith Library</i> <p>Research Student 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Karina Bria <i>School of Population Health and Clinical Practice</i> <p>Research Student 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Dana Teusner (DID NOT ATTEND) <i>School of Dentistry</i> 	Eclipse Room Union House Level 4
Humanities and Social Sciences <i>and</i> The Professions	Mrs Jade Wildy	<p>Supervisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Alison Dundon <i>School of Social Sciences</i> <p>Research Librarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Margaret Hosking <i>Barr Smith Library</i> <p>Research Student 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Matt Fisher (DID NOT ATTEND) <i>School of Humanities</i> <p>Research Student 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Francisco Ben <i>School of Education</i> 	Margaret Murray Room Union House Level 4

7. ADELAIDE GRADUATE CENTRE RESPONSE TO STUDENT FEEDBACK

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

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 the current program provides an opportunity for students to meet others from different backgrounds as well as some supervisors.

More Specific School and Individual Program Information

In Session 2 we divide into Faculty/School groups to attempt to provide more specific information to students. Due to room capacities and numbers of students it is not feasible to have a separate group for each school. Most Schools also hold their own individual Induction program.

Supervisors in Session 2 try to give an overview of research candidature and often include information about developing a research proposal, producing conference papers and journal articles, ethics, intellectual property and myuni. Sometimes time constraints prevent an in depth discussion on individual subjects however. As this information can also vary from school to school it would be better for the differences to be covered at the Individual induction program conducted by most schools. As school induction programs are traditionally held at the beginning of the year however some students may not have commenced studies in time to attend their School's induction program

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.

Information about Intellectual Property

In previous inductions Adelaide Research and Innovation (ARI) gave a presentation on Intellectual Property (IP) during the first session. However feedback indicated that many students did not consider this information relevant to their needs. As a result it was removed from the first session to shorten the first session.

In the February 20, 2009 induction an ARI staff member attended the Session 2 presentations for the Health Sciences faculty to address IP related questions. In future ARI may organise to have representatives at the second sessions if they wish.

Information re IP was provided in the resource bag and is also available on the ARI website:
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/aripl/investors/policy/?template=2>

Scholarship Information, including travel scholarships

Because of time constraints it is difficult to provide extensive information in the Sessions. Information re Scholarships is available on the Graduate Centre website:

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/scholarships/postgrad/>

Information about finances, operational grants, how to buy equipment

This information is specific to Schools/Disciplines and it is expected that this information is addressed at School Induction programs or provided to students by the supervisors.

8. 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 hoped that the introduction of a second induction for students commencing in semester 1 has provided attendees with the information and resources that they need in a more timely fashion given that these same students would previously have had to wait for the July induction.

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 March induction found it beneficial.