



Research Students Centre | RSC Grad News | November 2007 |

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NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- Graduation cut-off dates
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GRADUATING SOON ?

Make sure you are aware of the cut-off dates for submission of your final thesis to enable you to graduate at 2008 ceremonies.

Find out more.....

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Research Students Centre News

Cut-off dates for Graduation

The December graduation cut off for the Faculty of Education HDR eligible graduands is **30 November 2007**. By that date the RSC need to receive the final thesis, an e-copy on CD and the graduation citation (if relevant).

For all other HDR graduands the next ceremony will be in February 2008 and the cut off will be **17 December 2007**. For further information please refer to the [Student Services website](#).



Research Scholarships Update

The annual QUT scholarship round closed on 12 October 2007. Applications are currently being processed and the first round of offers will be mailed out on 5 December with a follow up round of offers released on 12 December 2007.

A reminder that you can continue to search for scholarships and other opportunities for financial assistance all year round.

[APAI scholarships](#) to support collaborative research and development projects between QUT and industry partners are currently available.

For further details visit the [Research Students Centre website](#) or the [JASON](#) national postgraduate scholarships database.

Online Forms Update

Progressively through 2006-8 a project is under way to convert many existing Research Students Centre forms into online forms via QUT Virtual (QV). The entire process from instigation of a form, through the approval process and final update of your student records will be managed online.

This will:

- reduce delays in receipt of forms
- reduce paper based file management
- allow you to track progress of your form
- streamline entry of information to systems
- reduce turnaround time for application outcomes.

The 2007 Annual Progress Report and Scholarship Application Online Forms!

The latest forms to be released online are the Annual Progress Report (APR) and the Scholarship Application forms.

Whilst the APR was released to a small number of students last year, 2007 is the first time it has truly been tested. We offer a big thank you to the 1000+ research students and 100+ of academics and staff who have now successfully submitted or processed an Annual Progress Report. If you have yet to submit yours then why not do it now through QUT Virtual.

The annual Scholarship Round for domestic students has also jumped on board the online forms train and for the first time ever, currently enrolled domestic scholarship applicants have been able to apply online with electronic tracking of their application making the process more robust. We hope to roll this process out to all students in the future.

For the remainder of 2007 and with continued support into 2008 we'll be working on the following forms as well:

- Extension Form (available by Dec 2007)
- Stage 2
- Confirmation
- Change of Supervisory Team
- Change of Study Mode
- Nomination of Examiners
- Submission of Final Thesis
- Final Seminar
- Lodgement for Exam
- Transfer Form
- Miscellaneous Form.

If you wish to submit an online form simply log on to [QUT Virtual](#) (using your student username and password) and head to the Research Forms area under your Student Services tab and check online forms out. For further assistance, please send an email to research.candidature@qut.edu.au.

Postgraduate Careers Update

by Alan McAlpine - Careers and Employment

Making the most of your Postgraduate Study

Postgraduate Careers is career support dedicated to the needs of postgraduate researchers. We run workshops, seminars, provide one on one career counselling and dedicated web pages.

The "What's On" section of our web pages outlines the suite of programs delivered by Postgraduate Careers. Workshop details (times, dates, registration information) will be found on the [Careers](#) webpages and on the [Research Student Centre's](#) web pages.

"Good speakers – thanks! I was initially wondering if I was going to get much from the session but I loved it and really appreciated it." (Student)

Our next large event will be the ever popular "transition to academia" to be held on the 23rd of November.

We look forward to meeting you along your career journey

Postgraduate Careers

Making the most of your postgraduate study

- Individual consultations
- Workshops
- Search Strategies
- Resources

"If you have any talent, or any occupation that delights you, do it, and do it to the hilt. Don't ask why, or what difficulties you may get into."

Richard Feynman

Training and Resources Update

Introduction to Research for International Students – IRIS

The Research Student Centre in collaboration with Language and Learning Services, International Student Services offers a program called 'Introduction to Research for International Students' (IRIS). It is designed to assist recently arrived International Research Students.

In 2007, 116 international students registered to attend this program. Ninety four students graduated from the program. This represents a retention rate of 81%. Students graduate from the program by presenting a 10-15 minute presentation of their research-to-date.

The program has been very successful and the feedback suggests that the students greatly appreciate the opportunity to develop their presentation skills. One of the students commented on the presentation by saying: *'I was scared at first, but [making a presentation] was a good opportunity to reflect on my research and to be more objective about my performance and also "the sense" of my research.'*

Supervisors take part in presenting some of the information to students and are invited to attend this final presentation and the general feeling in the feedback from students can best be explained by this quote: *'Supervisor participation makes the IRIS program more valuable and informative. The boundary between a supervisor and students seems less restrictive in the sense that expectations are communicated in a "less threatening" environment.'*

The programme covers topics such as

- Understanding your research process
- The literature review
- Research Writing in an Australian Context
- Oral Presentations
- PowerPoint training.

Supervisors too seem to appreciate the program. One supervisor's feedback was: *'I had a student undertake this course this semester and I could see a marked improvement in their progress during the semester. I have supervised several international students over recent years and I could see that this student last semester seemed to cope a lot better and didn't seem to have such strong demands upon my time as has occurred in the past.'*

In the past the enthusiasm and interest generated at the sessions has been encouraging, has boosted motivation and has given the students an opportunity to get to know one another and build a social network. We have been successful in our aim to make this an important part of international students induction into the research culture at QUT and we are particularly pleased with one student's feedback: *'The strength [of this program] is that it is a "must" for all international research students because it armed all of us with tools to be used in doing the research as well as enforcing the networks among students.'*



2007 IRIS graduates

The range and diversity of research topics amongst the International students has been extremely impressive confirming how important it is for us as a University to encourage the enrolment and inclusion of as many nationalities and cultures in order to enrich our research base and our community as a whole. The 2007 program catered for international students from 30 countries and their research topics encompassed all QUT faculties. In a global research environment it is clear that international research students will be an increasingly significant factor in research at QUT.

The IRIS program is one of the ways that we aim to support and manage their candidature efficiently to achieve excellent outcomes. With planned increases in the number of international research students it is likely that the IRIS program will become a compulsory part of the early phase of candidature of international students and it is encouraging to hear from those who took part that their expectations were fulfilled: *'I enjoyed this program. It went far beyond my expectations.'* Another student said: *'This was impressive; I was especially shocked by other students presentations and their huge progress.'*

The IRIS program has been designed specifically for International Postgraduate Research Degree Students.

If you fit into this category and have only just arrived, please contact Kerry Kruger on 313 89240 | k2.kruger@qut.edu.au for further information on the IRIS program and to register to attend.

Upcoming research workshops

FRAO Forum (for staff)
20/11/2007 1.30 – 4.30 KG Room Q430

Transition to Academia (for students and supervisors)
23/11/2007 2.30 – 6.30 GP Room V714

Writing for Publication: (for students)
27/11/2007 9.30 - 4.30 GP Room V714

QIPS5: Supervising International Students (for supervisors)
29/11/2007 10.30 - 1.00 GP Room V714
03/12/2007 10.30 - 1.00 KG Room B304

Supervisor Solutions
(Moderated modules begin 3/12/2007 [end 5/1/08])
ONLINE

Statistical Course: 4 parts (for students)
08/01/2008 (1)
15/01/2008 (2)
22/01/2008 (3)
29/01/2008 (4) 9.30 - 12.00 GP Room V714

Session One: Introduction to SPSS (for students)
15/01/2008 1.00 - 3.00 GP Room O508

Session Two: ANOVA in SPSS (for students)
22/01/2008 1.00 - 3.00 GP Room O508

Session Three: Regression in SPSS (for students)
29/01/2008 1.00 - 3.00 GP Room O508

2008 Date Claimer

HDR Students Orientation - GP Campus, 04/03/2008
HDR Students Orientation - KG Campus, 06/03/2008
HDR International Students Orientation, 13/03/2008

Details of the 2008 training program will be released later in the year. Visit the [Research Students Centre website](#) for further details.

Competition Winners Announced

bluebox Discovery Competition for 2007

Innovative ideas in orthopaedic surgery, wound healing and computer gaming were honoured at the inaugural **bluebox** Discovery Competition for 2007. Open to imaginative, unique and inventive research within Queensland University of Technology, the competition rewarded ideas that were commercially viable and beneficial to the community, industry or government.

Two research groups from the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation and a group from the Faculty of Information Technology shared \$10,000 in prize money to help translate the benefits of their research to the real world.

bluebox Chief Executive Officer Michael Finney said that the standard of the winning entrants was very high, particularly for a competition in its first year.

"The commercial potential of QUT research showcased during the competition shows impressive signs for things to come," said Mr Finney.

"It is fantastic to see QUT researchers and students not only producing high quality research, but also beginning to consider the market potential of their work. **bluebox** looks forward to working with this year's winners to take their ideas to the market place," he said.

First place (\$5,000):

Dr Ben Goss (QUT PhD graduate), Cameron Lutton, and Dr Lance Wilson Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
For the development of a new orthopaedic surgery tool to cut bone cement.

Runners up (\$2,500):

Dr Tim Dargaville
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
For a new method of improving wound healing using pH indicators.

Alfredo Nantes (PhD student)
Faculty of Information Technology
For an artificial intelligence system for computer game testing.

Notable mentions:

Sam Wallace (Masters student)
Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering

Dr Madeleine Schultz, Dr Mark Wellard and Professor Judith Clements
Faculty of Science

2007 postgraduate research poster competition

The Research Students Centre is pleased to announce prize recipients in the recently held poster competition. Students were asked to submit content for a poster for the purpose of communicating their research to an external audience.

Competition finalists, nominated by faculties, each received a gift voucher for \$50 and a poster professionally designed by QUT's Marketing and Communication Department.

Finalists:

Faculty of Business – Nadia Zainuddin
A relational approach to value creation in social marketing by Governments

Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering – Mark Glickman
Disturbance monitoring in distributed power systems

Creative Industries Faculty – Debra Adams
The democratisation of journalism practice for a politically informed citizenry: the capacities of new media to re-engage citizens with public affairs – a case study

Faculty of Education – Anna Free
Representations of the post-apocalyptic in young adult fiction

Faculty of Health – Kathleen Finlayson
Identification of factors contributing to recurrent chronic venous leg ulcers

Faculty of Information Technology – Jan Recker
Understanding continuance of process modelling grammars

Faculty of Law – Nicola Durrant
Regulating climate change emergent law, liabilities and the markets

Faculty of Science – Daniel Sando
Advancement of 3D optical data storage holography and waveguides

Congratulations to all finalists and to the overall competition winners, Anna Free and Daniel Sando. Anna and Daniel each received a \$400 gift voucher. Thank you to all who submitted a competition entry.



Winning poster by Anna Free



Winning poster by Daniel Sando

What's New !

Nvivo software

NVivo software is now available for download from the [QUT software website](#).

To enquire if your organisational area is licenced for this software, please discuss your needs with the IT Helpdesk (x84000 or email ithelpdesk@qut.edu.au)

New brochures

If you are travelling interstate, overseas, or visiting contacts locally, don't forget to pack some new QUT research brochures. Help spread the word about QUT as a fantastic destination for work and study or perhaps plant the seed for future collaborative research projects. Now available....

Research training brochure - your guide to research training at QUT (featuring Dr Marcus Foth, QUT PhD graduate on the cover).



Solutions brochures - research and commercialisation highlights.



Supplies of brochures can be obtained from your local research office. Alternatively contact Tracey Foran, Marketing Officer (Research and Commercialisation) via email at t.foran@qut.edu.au

Looking back at September/October highlights

"The Power of Procrastination"

by Dr Jorge Cham

presented by the Research Students Centre

During the 2007 QUT Postgraduate and Research Showcase, research staff and students were thoroughly entertained by Jorge Cham, instructor at Caltech and cartoonist behind the popular comic strip Piled Higher and Deeper (PHD).



Jorge Cham at the QUT Gardens Theatre, 18 September

QUT fans of the PHD comics enjoyed a light-hearted break from the stresses of graduate studies and academia as Jorge examined the source of their anxieties and explored the guilt, the myth, and the power of procrastination.

If you missed out on the lecture and book signing, you can 'research' his most recent comics on the [PHD Comics website](#).

8th Annual Environmental Student Awards Evening

The Institute for Sustainable Resources (ISR) co-sponsored this event and assisted in organising the night at the Gardens Point Theatre on 22 October. Approximately 80 academics, students and key industry people attended, with a total of 14 postgraduate and undergraduate student entrants, including eight from QUT with strong ISR connections.

The diversity of sponsors (BAC, Origin, Thiess, BCC, EPA, Maunsell, SALA Homes, Griffith University and SITA) is testament to the interest across the engineering and science sectors to produce environmental scientists of the highest quality. ISR has particular interest in providing scholarships to interested students and these are available through the normal QUT funding round.

What's On

Everything you want to know about environmental banking but were afraid to ask!

Organiser: Institute for Sustainable Resources

Date: Thursday 22 November

Venue: B117

Time: 9am - 12.30pm

Speakers: Kevin Noon, Hugh Lavery, Peter Grace, Niki Durrant, Lorraine Stevenson, Mike Young, Tim Reeves

Ecosystems services - what does it mean - basically what is the function (or service) that an ecosystem e.g. forest, natural bushland, wetland, delivers to the community. They are not just nice places to visit, but native systems are also natural filters and remove harmful chemicals. Carbon and water from our ecosystems are also on the list of tradeable commodities.

On November 22 one of the world's foremost conservationists, Dr Kevin Noon, from the USA, will be working with ISR and headlining a public workshop on how to profitably maintain these services. Be sure to attend!

Celebrating Success

ATN LEAP wins teaching excellence award

A project designed to help postgraduate researchers improve their employment skills was honoured with one of five prizes won by Queensland University of Technology at this year's Carrick Awards.

QUT Dean of Graduate Studies Professor Rod Wissler led the winning Learning Employment Aptitudes Program for postgraduate research students.

Professor Wissler said the joint project, initiated and run by the five Australian Technology Network universities, provided research students with the skills and capabilities necessary to their future employability.

Find out more about the award-winning [Learning Employment Aptitudes Program \(ATN LEAP\)](#).....

QUT toasts smart state women

Three women from Queensland University of Technology have been recognised as some of the brightest and most innovative in the state taking top honours in the 2007 Smart Women - Smart State Awards.

Associate Professor Lin Ma, PhD student Katrina McDonald and undergraduate student Helen Gorell, all from QUT's Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering, won awards for making significant contributions within their industry.

The Smart Women - Smart State Awards aim to promote careers in the traditionally dominated industries of science, engineering, communication and information technology.

[Read more....](#)

Vice Chancellor's Awards

Recipients of the 2007 Vice-Chancellor's awards were recently announced and it was great to see many members of the research support community recognised for their outstanding level of service and innovation.

Some familiar faces at the awards ceremony included:

The Vice-Chancellor's Performance Fund recipients: *(acknowledging and rewarding outstanding achievement of individual academic and professional staff)*

- Diane Kolomeitz, Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering
- Mary Clowes, Faculty of Education
- Jim Watters, Faculty of Education
- Ricky Tunny, Faculty of Information Technology
- Elizabeth Stein, Faculty of Science
- Barbara Hanna, School of Humanities and Human Services
- Radka Preclikova, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
- Susan Gasson, Research Students Centre
- David Wiseman, Office of Research

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence recipient: *(recognising exceptional performance of staff who demonstrate sustained and outstanding achievement in activities that are aligned to the University's vision and goals)*

- Kristy Bensley, Faculty of Health

It was wonderful to see a large number of research supervisors also recognised for their outstanding contribution. Congratulations to all Vice-Chancellor's Award recipients.



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