

2nd ACUR Exchange Colloquium

1st February 2023

Notre Dame University, Broadway Campus, Sydney



Creating career-ready graduates: The role of undergraduate research

Program*

9:15 am

WELCOME

Emeritus Professor Angela Brew, Chair of ACUR

INSTITUTIONAL WELCOME

Professor Elizabeth Labone, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching, Notre Dame University

OPENING ADDRESS

Preparing Undergraduates for Future Life and Careers: Bringing Together Communities of Practice

Emeritus Professor Angela Brew, Chair of ACUR sets the scene and outlines the intentions and objectives for the day

9:40 am

INTERACTIVE KEYNOTE

What Research Tells Us About How to Prepare Students for Employment

Professor Dawn Bennett, Bond University leads an interactive session focused on the graduate labour market and the future of work, establishing a case for why engaging students in research is a powerful tool in preparing them for employment.

10:30 am

MORNING TEA

11:00 am

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Industry-University Partnerships and the Student Experience

Professor Chris Moran, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Curtin University

Traditionally, universities were not seen as places where industry could interact with ease. Even though universities have a long history of university involvement, it is only in recent years where the concept of transacting has shifted towards relationship building. When universities develop relationships with companies, generally via formalising a partnership, opportunities for students abound. The next phase of development is to mature the situation so that the number of opportunities for students is balanced with the quality of the experiences. This will require changes and co-learning in companies and universities. This talk will outline an approach and discuss a range of experiences in three organisations; CSIRO, The University of Queensland and Curtin University.

12:00 pm

PANEL DISCUSSION

Perspectives of Past ACUR Presenters on how their Undergraduate Experiences Prepared Them

Olivia Jessop, The University of Queensland

Seak Lin Ly, The University of Newcastle

Chris Kilby, The Cairnmiller Institute

Supreet Saluja, Macquarie University

1:00 pm

Lunch

1:45 pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Exploring the Synergies of Work-Integrated Learning and Undergraduate Research in educating future professionals

Professor Franziska Trede, University of Technology Sydney

WIL is an educational partnership between students, university and external partners with the shared goal of enhancing students' employability. Through exposure to authentic work-based practices students are enabled to develop professional practice capabilities that cannot be learnt from textbooks alone. This emphasis of WIL on skills, work-readiness and employment outcomes seemingly excludes the role of undergraduate research as being part of WIL. Narrow perspectives on WIL and undergraduate research engagement are not adequate to equip graduates for a future of further disruptions and uncertainties.

In this talk Associate Professor Franziska Trede, University of Technology Sydney will critique narrow approaches to WIL and undergraduate research engagement and outline a broader framing for an integrative approach that builds bridges between theory, research, practice capabilities and professional values. The compatibility and possibilities in pedagogical approaches and touchpoints between WIL and UG will be explored. Such an integrative approach will educate future professionals for a wide-life career.

EXAMPLE OF PRACTICE

Community-based research and Indigenous students

Jennifer Campbell, Griffith University

From 2014-2022 the Kungullanji Research Program provided a summer research experience and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Kungullanji is a Yugambah word meaning "to think", therefore this program challenges students to think about research careers and to have a voice in research communities. It challenges us to think about undergraduate research as a modality for research training, creating new research communities and privileging Indigenous knowledges, voices and ways of doing research. The program has supported more than 100 research placements in various disciplines and is coordinated and led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff. It has influenced the trajectory of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, contributing to an increased students progressing to Higher Degree Research programs and employment in research positions.

2:45 pm

Afternoon Tea

3:00 pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Exploring the Link Between Engaging Students as Partners and Career-Ready Graduates

Associate Professor Kelly Matthews, The University of Queensland discusses the numerous beneficial outcomes of engaging students as partners in educational endeavours. Together, we will identify how those outcomes are career-preparing and how the process of partnership is central to those outcomes. Then I will focus our attention on equity, specifically drawing attention to which students get (and don't get) access to the many beneficial outcomes arising through partnership process.

EXAMPLE OF PRACTICE

Dr Tai Peseta and student partners (Western Sydney University) explore initiatives at Western Sydney University to develop students as partners

4:30 pm

CLOSING DISCUSSIONS

5:00 pm

End

** Program subject to change without notice*