

ACHIEVEMENT STATEMENT

(at end of project)



OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

National Postgraduate Student Experience Symposium

- 107 delegates (72 university staff and 21 postgraduate students) of the 114 registrants attended the Symposium.
- Delegates represented 28 different Australian universities, as well as organisations such as the ACER, CAPA, NATSIPA, and OLT
- More than 90 per cent of evaluated delegates reported being “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the sessions offered and the overall event.
- The Symposium’s various sessions were described as informative, well-organised, thought-provoking, and energising.

Australian national research on postgraduate student experiences case studies (3)

- First year postgraduate student experience
- Postgraduate student diversity
- Career development and employability

Impact

- As a result, Australian non-partner institutions: re-oriented student support services to meet the needs of postgraduate students, created dedicated postgraduate spaces on campus, enhanced career development and employability supports, and improved communication channels for ongoing postgraduate student feedback.
- Bond University have included whole-of-institution transitional supports for the progression from PhD to academia into their strategic plan.
- Bond University have made faculty-level (Health Sciences & Medicine) revision of employability support for HDR students.

Good Practice Guides (3)

- Supporting a quality postgraduate student experience
- Good practice for coursework postgraduate students
- Good practice for research postgraduate students

Output	Number
Final Report	1
Journal Papers	7
Case Studies	3
Good Practice Guides	3
Conference Presentations	7
Invited Addresses & Workshops	12
Total	33

KEY FINDINGS



Overall, postgraduate students and the staff who support them are dissatisfied with the student experience and believe that universities should improve services and supports.

Postgraduates’ depiction of what the student experience is like for them:

- Challenging
- Stress
- Network
- Isolating
- Uncertainty
- Fun
- Hardwork
- Independence
- Support
- Discovery
- Interesting
- Learning
- Supervision
- Knowledge

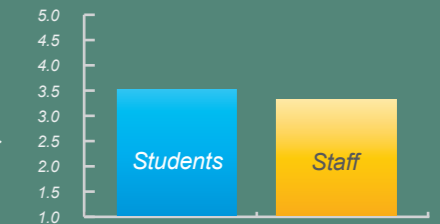
Key factors postgraduates believe universities should improve:

- 1 Financial support
- 2 Student supports
- 3 Academic staff
- 4 Supervision
- 5 Campus environment
- 6 Library services and resources
- 7 Employability

- The overall design concept of the postgraduate student experience (particularly of coursework students) is largely ignored by universities.
- Postgraduates are highly diverse and the resulting complexity / multiplicity of student experiences are not sufficiently accommodated in universities.
- Postgraduate students do not receive adequate support for their transition to postgraduate modes of study.
- There is a pervasive assumption that postgraduates do not need career and employability supports and partially as a result (alongside a tough economic context) graduate career outcomes are unsatisfactory.

Postgraduates and staff rating

Overall students rated their satisfaction with their experience at 3.5 out of 5 and staff rated their provision of student experience as 3.3 out of 5.



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES



Secondary Analysis of National Surveys
(n = 67,800 students)



Student Engagement Breakfasts
(n = 223 students)



Interviews & Focus Groups
(n = 96 students, n = 47 staff)

N = 366

AIMS



To undertake a comprehensive analysis of the broad experiences of Australian coursework postgraduate students, and the relationship these broad experiences have to learning.



To establish evidence based recommendations, including best practice guidelines, that can be used to impact and enhance Australia’s postgraduate students’ broad experiences.