

Enacting strategies for graduate employability: How universities can best support students to develop generic skills

Achievements Statement

The project '*How universities can best support students to develop generic skills: Enacting strategies for graduate employability*' was led by Curtin University in partnership with the University of Sydney, The University of Melbourne, Flinders University and the Australian Council for Educational Research. The final report was delivered in March 2015. Project resources can be found at <http://graduateemployability.curtin.edu.au/>

The project aims were twofold: to increase understanding of critical issues in enhancing graduate employability in higher education; and to identify support for educators seeking to develop student employability. Key achievements and outputs include:

- Survey data from 415 students in three countries
- Case study data from 60 individuals (graduates, students, leaders, careers advisors)
- A [website](#) with a “toolkit” of resources for enhancing graduate employability
- Eleven employability workshops including a half-day workshop at the 2014 Bond University National Forum, a half-day workshop at the 2015 [Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia](#) (HERDSA) conference, and a half-day workshop and expert panel at the 2015 [International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning](#) (ISSOTL) conference (see [Appendix F](#) for project activities)
- Six academic papers by team members
- Presentations at 32 conferences and events including the RMIT [National Employability Forum](#), Bond University's [Teaching and Learning Symposium](#), and the Joint CubeNet/VIBEnet/National Committee for Biomedical Sciences [Forum](#)
- Case studies with performing arts graduates developed into career “profiles” for Music Australia's national [Music Journal](#), with negotiations underway for resource sharing with the UK-based [Incorporated Society of Musicians](#) and the [Department of Culture and the Arts](#), Western Australia
- Career development and sustainability adopted as a priority for Music Australia's [National Music Industry and Careers Advisory Group](#)
- Refinement of tools and resources developed through CI Bennett's Australian Learning and Teaching [Fellowship](#) (2010), trialled with 1,700 students in 2014
- Industry snapshots and/or graduate outcomes summaries (Appendix G) and
- Aggregated data summaries for four institutions planning employability initiatives.

Moving forward:

- Continued development of the toolkit
- Analysis of a combined dataset of 1,095 responses from students in this and extant projects (Bennett, 2008, 2009; Bennett et. al., 2014; Male & Bennett, 2015)
- An international alliance to [enhance employability in music](#), launched March 2015
- Initial agreement with nine national and international bodies to share project resources and link with the website
- A new international network of educators and leaders with whom toolkit development and collaborative research will extend the findings and impact and
- A symposium on employability in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) at the [LH Martin Institute](#) (June 2015).

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