

Concurrent Session L
Wednesday 2 September
1.55pm – 2.45pm



Session 4
Reaping the Benefits of Increased International RHD Enrolments in Engineering
Kirstin Dunncliff, Chanel Hopkinson
University of Newcastle

Chanel Hopkinson is the Research and Research Training Officer at The University of Newcastle (UoN). She has worked in Research Administration since 2000 at QUT, UQ and UoN. Chanel received the Highly Commended Award for ResearchMaster award for Excellence in Research Management in 2014.

Kirstin Dunncliff is the Centre Coordinator for the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Geotechnical Science and Engineering, UoN. She has worked for two decades at three Australian Universities: QUT, UWS and Newcastle. She received a PG Certificate in Creative Industries (Creative Writing), a Bachelor of Arts is currently studying a Master of Business.

It is difficult to attract domestic research students in the field of engineering. An undergraduate degree qualification in Engineering provides high employment rates with 100% of graduates securing full time employment (Australian Graduate Survey 2012) with an average starting salary of \$77,300 per annum (Engineers Australia Statistical Overview 2013). To increase our research student cohort, there is a need to recruit offshore. A review of engineering enrolment data shows that the University of Newcastle (UoN) has experienced a significant increase in international student enrolments for the period 2010 - 2014. This presentation will discuss the successful strategies in place which have boosted enrolments. These include utilising the Commonwealth Government's International Tuition Fee Waiver Scheme as well as a 50:50 scholarship scheme whereby the Faculty or supervisor contributes 50% of scholarship funding with central research training providing the remainder. Further, the Faculty is leveraging funding through international offshore home government schemes such as Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) and Vietnamese International Education Development (VIED). It has also been noted that increased International research student enrolments has resulted in a corresponding increase in completion rates. Over the period 2010 – 2013, on average international students complete in a shorter timeframe, compared to domestic students. A quicker completion rate results in higher income generated from research block grants through increased RHD load and completions.