

Undergraduates Transforming Higher Education in Australia

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A NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK FOLLOWED
BY FOUR INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS

Overall Aim: To move the agenda for undergraduate research in Australia through breaking down taboos, involving undergraduates in pedagogical research, staff development for curriculum change, and providing opportunities to showcase best practice

**Australian Learning and Teaching Council (National) Fellowship (\$300,000):
Enhancing undergraduate engagement through research and inquiry:**

Aim
to identify national needs, existing practice and available resources; carry out a study tour overseas to identify further resources to meet needs; build and disseminate resources

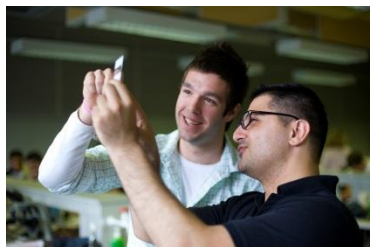
Strategies

- State-wide Roundtables & National Summit
- Undergraduate scholarship
- Extended Network
- Newsletter (URNA)
- Website of resources

Outcomes

1. Raised the profile of undergraduate research nationally
2. Surveyed & reported on research experience programs in Australia
3. Provided and disseminated resources

Project A (\$30,000)
The development of undergraduates' awareness of, and engagement in, research



Aim
to enhance performance and showcase excellence in curriculum practices related to ensuring that the curriculum is informed by current research; to exemplify specified learning outcomes and coordinated assessment practices in research learning

Strategies

- Second undergraduate scholarship
- University-wide working group
- Research projects on awareness & experiences
- Australian research experience programs surveyed

Outcomes

1. Interviewed 200 students about their awareness of research
2. Investigated visibility of undergraduate research on campus
3. Surveyed and interviewed coordinators and students about research experience programs
4. Working group shared practice

Project B (\$ 10,000)
Stimulating strategic teaching and learning initiatives through enhanced familiarity with undergraduate research and inquiry

Aim
to extend staff and student engagement by disseminating findings of investigations into, and critical reflections on, best practices and identified challenges



Strategies

- Dissemination of investigations through journals, newsletters, etc.
- Working Group through 2013
- Staff development program
- Blog, Facebook and Twitter facilities on the Undergraduate Research website
- Organisation of the first Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research

Outcomes

1. ACUR Macquarie September 2012
2. Showcase of best practice
3. Working Group meetings through 2013
4. New media discussions
5. Student/staff co-written journal articles

Project C (\$4,000)
The role of research in enhancing learning in undergraduate education

Aim
to provide for further data analysis and publication in international peer reviewed journals, preparation of an Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) (national) proposal and conference presentations

Strategies

- Analysis of questionnaire and interview data
- Collaborative writing
- Networking

Outcomes

1. 3 published papers in refereed journals written in collaboration with students
2. Two conference presentations
3. Preparation of a national (OLT) project proposal



Project D (\$20,000)
Creating a community of undergraduate research scholars



Aim
to create a revolution by inviting students to develop as a strong and vibrant community of scholars, provide a focus for undergraduate research activities on campus, carry out pedagogical research, & be ambassadors for curriculum change

Strategies

- Pedagogical research by undergraduates collaborating with disciplinary academics
- Undergraduate research student Ambassadors
- Conference preparation
- Networking

Outcomes

1. 5 undergraduate pedagogical research scholarships
2. Undergraduate Research Student Society
3. Second Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research (ACUR 2013) with students as key organisers