



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training



2016 Australian Awards for University Teaching





2016 Australian Awards for University Teaching

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2016

Australian Awards for University Teaching

Message from the Minister

The Australian Government recognises that higher education is fundamental to the lives and aspirations of Australians and has a transformative role on the economy, on the workforce and throughout the community. Higher education prepares students for their future careers and their contribution to society. Quality teaching supports the development of innovative and agile graduates with the skills to meet the challenges of the future.

The individuals and teams recognised through the Australian Awards for University Teaching are among those at the forefront of quality higher education learning and teaching. Their sustained efforts contribute to the improvement of the Australian higher education system and ensure that students continue to receive a world class education, relevant to the challenges of the 21st Century and focused on high-quality employment outcomes.

I congratulate the 30 individuals and teams recognised in 2016. These award winners are national leaders in their field and I commend their dedication to achieving exceptional student outcomes. Their outstanding contributions are to be acknowledged and celebrated to ensure even more Australians can benefit from high quality teaching and innovative programs.

I also commend the 2016 Australian University Teacher of the Year, Associate Professor Karen Burke da Silva, for leading the transformation of the biological science curriculum, across the higher education sector, at a time when innovation and science are critical to growth in Australia. I greatly appreciate the contribution of Associate Professor Burke da Silva and am confident that she will continue to influence, inspire and motivate students, colleagues and the broader community.

All of the 2016 award winners deserve our recognition and admiration. Thank you for leading the way to higher education learning and teaching of the future.

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham
Minister for Education and Training

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2016

Award for Australian
University Teacher
of the Year



2016 Award for Australian University Teacher of the Year

Associate Professor Karen Burke da Silva

Flinders University

Associate Professor Karen Burke da Silva is recognised as one of Australia's most influential science educators. She has transformed the delivery of science curricula, creating an outstanding learning environment for students. She is an inspirational leader who engages and motivates others to implement effective new ways to teach science through reconceptualising teaching delivery. Associate Professor Burke da Silva's strong commitment to student learning extends beyond her discipline and faculty, having significant impact across Flinders University, and driving cross-institutional collaboration in teaching innovation among all South Australian universities.

Associate Professor Burke da Silva is a role model in excellent teaching delivery, curriculum design and pedagogical development. Her delivery focuses on personalising the experience for individual students and overcoming the challenges in engaging very large first year cohorts of more than 1500 students. She has been instrumental in pioneering an integrated teaching environment that fosters and encourages interaction between teaching and research. This involves innovative, authentic, student-centred approaches that develop problem solving and critical thinking skills. Using these techniques, she has increased student participation by inspiring, motivating and substantially improving scientific literacy of science and non-science students.

Associate Professor Burke da Silva is a successful change agent, exemplified through her community of practice program 'Scientists leading Scientists'. This program acts as a vehicle to improve the attitude and culture of science academics toward teaching through the formation of collegial teaching and learning networks. Associate Professor Burke da Silva's work has strengthened the skills of university teachers through multiple national programs and has combined training of academic staff with scientifically informed teaching practice.

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2016

Awards for Teaching Excellence

The Awards for Teaching Excellence celebrate Australia's most outstanding university teachers who have made significant contributions to the quality of learning and teaching in higher education. The Awards recognise teachers who have demonstrated excellent leadership through their commitment to innovation and delivery of quality teaching. These recipients have shown sustained dedication to enriching and improving student learning outcomes in higher education.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, HEALTH AND RELATED STUDIES

Professor Paul Mills

The University of Queensland

Professor Paul Mills is a veterinary pharmacologist and internationally recognised leader in innovative veterinary education. In 2007, he received an Australian Learning and Teaching Council, Teaching Excellence Award in the Early Career category. Professor Mills' contributions to teaching and learning continues to be highly successful and inspirational, with his recent initiatives focusing on enhancing outcomes for international students and mentoring early career academics.

Professor Mills has led a global collaboration in curriculum development involving the United States, South Korea and Europe, as well as the introduction of an advanced veterinary curriculum in South East Asia. He is shaping the field of veterinary education at institutional, national and global levels, ensuring sustained learning outcomes for students and establishing strong pathways for career development of graduates and veterinary educators.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, HEALTH AND RELATED STUDIES

Associate Professor Mario Ricci

The University of Adelaide

Associate Professor Mario Ricci has demonstrated an exceptional ability to inspire and motivate students to learn about the wonders of the human body for more than a decade. As coordinator of Human Biology (University of Adelaide) and Essential Human Biology (edX.org), and creator of the YouTube series Human Biology Explained he has shared his passion and knowledge for anatomy with over half-a-million learners from 207 countries. He has developed an inclusive approach whereby students feel supported and stimulated both in-class and online.

Associate Professor Ricci has contributed to building academic capacity across the university by mentoring staff, leading curriculum and program renewals, and establishing communities of practice to support, enhance and promote outstanding learning and teaching practices. His success and achievements have been recognised by a Stephen Cole the Elder Teaching Award (2013), the global Apple Distinguished Educator program (2013) and admittance into the Adelaide Education Academy (2016).



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

EARLY CAREER

Mrs Michelle Quail

Curtin University

Mrs Michelle Quail is an early career teacher with a passion for supporting speech pathology students to engage in clinical practice. She uses a humanistic approach to teaching to support students' self-efficacy and development of professional identity, through reflective practice and experiential learning. Mrs Quail leads work-integrated learning across the curriculum; designing, reviewing and maintaining high quality placements to ensure work-ready graduates. She has developed and secured funding for student placement models that will ensure the sustainability of the program, and has led the introduction, evaluation and implementation of simulated placements into the curriculum.

Mrs Quail's active engagement in the scholarship of teaching and learning, innovation and commitment to improving the student experience has also been recognised through a Curtin University Teaching Excellence Award in 2014 and 2015.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

Professor Dawn Bennett

Curtin University

For almost 30 years, Professor Dawn Bennett has played a leading role as an educator and scholar. She is a strong advocate for meeting the needs of diverse student cohorts, particularly in the arts. Professor Bennett leads the Aboriginal Community Engagement teaching initiative, where journalism and screen arts students produce creative works, including independent journalism. A particular focus of her work has been on building student capacity and resilience and explicit employability skills for the work environment.

Professor Bennett's work is underpinned by scholarship evidenced in over 150 academic papers with the common focus of preparing students for 21st century careers. An active mentor and supervisor, Professor Bennett leads the Curtin Academy for quality learning and teaching, co-directs the university's Creative Workforce Initiative and leads the new Curtin Higher Education Research College. Professor Bennett's other leadership roles include being a National Senior Australian Learning and Teaching Fellow and a Principal Fellow with the UK Higher Education Academy.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

Professor Gemma Carey

Griffith University

Professor Gemma Carey is recognised as an international pioneer for her approach to enhancing the teaching of music. She has been instrumental both nationally and internationally in transforming the teaching and assessment of music performance and pedagogy. She initiated and implemented the innovative and unique instrumental and vocal pedagogy program at Griffith University's Queensland Conservatorium. Griffith is now widely recognised for this program.

As program director of the conservatorium's largest and most complex program, the Bachelor of Music, Professor Carey has led a renovation of curriculum and teaching activities in jazz and classical learning, which has been recognised as best practice and replicated by conservatoires internationally. One of her significant innovations is the 'My Life as a Musician' career development course. Pedagogy within the conservatoire is an under researched area with only a handful of researchers world-wide, and Professor Carey is considered the leader of this domain.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

Associate Professor Trevor Cullen

Edith Cowan University

Associate Professor Trevor Cullen has been a passionate and committed journalism educator for more than 20 years. He has worked as a journalist in Africa, England and Italy and taught journalism in four countries. As head of Edith Cowan University's journalism department, he has developed a program that is relevant, vibrant, and engaging. The program is responsive to the changing needs of the industry and has played a significant role in the renewal of journalism in the Australian higher education curriculum. This included the development of a capstone unit for journalism graduates to facilitate the demonstration of graduate capabilities.

A distinguished teacher in his field, Associate Professor Cullen has published over 25 peer reviewed book chapters, journal articles and conference papers on journalism education that have informed his teaching and that of many of his peers. He inspires and engages students through well supported industry placements that challenge and extend their capabilities. Many of his students have won national awards and his teaching excellence and outcomes have been recognised through national and local teaching awards.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

Dr Tony Joel

Deakin University

Dr Tony Joel motivates and inspires history students to develop their knowledge and understanding of how the past continues to shape the world in which we live, through a rich blend of authentic learning activities. He arranges imaginative and engaging learning opportunities that invite students to engage with the 'living past', through site visits, video and online learning environments.

Dr Joel draws on his discipline expertise, international field research and advanced interactive media strategies to build curricula and resources that foster enquiry-based learning. His inventive assessments encourage students to learn and apply transferable skills directly linked to the university's designated graduate learning outcomes.

Dr Joel has represented Deakin University in national projects and through leadership roles as Associate head of School for Teaching and Learning. As Course Director of the Bachelor of Arts, he has also made a significant positive impact on student learning experiences and outcomes, with broad reach beyond his discipline.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

LAW, ECONOMICS, BUSINESS AND RELATED STUDIES

Dr Peter Balan OAM

University of South Australia

Dr Peter Balan OAM has a long and consistent history of leading innovation in teaching entrepreneurship at the undergraduate and postgraduate level. With a background as an international marketing professional, Dr Balan demonstrates advanced capabilities in evaluation and reflective practice. He has developed significant national and international outreach activities, disseminating his teaching innovations through conferences and university workshops. His materials are used by more than 100 educators around the world in entrepreneurship and other disciplines.

Dr Balan uses Team-Based Learning to create a strong collaborative learning culture in the classroom, and builds on this teaching method by regularly instituting new learning activities and assessment modalities in his classes. Sustained throughout an outstanding academic career, his teaching is supported by his long-term engagement with industry, government and the community. He was recently recognised with the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) 'for service to tertiary education, and to the community of South Australia'.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

LAW, ECONOMICS, BUSINESS AND RELATED STUDIES

Professor Mark Brimble

Griffith University

Professor Mark Brimble is recognised for his evidence-informed approach to educational innovation, particularly in work-integrated learning and graduate skills. He has led the design, development and scholarly evaluation of innovative undergraduate and postgraduate programs in commerce and financial planning. He holds key national leadership roles in the finance profession and is making significant contributions in establishing a national and international academic financial planning community.

Professor Brimble is an active academic leader and mentor, who has been instrumental in helping colleagues evaluate their teaching practices and adopt innovative practices and digital technologies in support of student learning. His educational and leadership contributions have been recognised nationally within higher education institutions, peak industry and professional bodies.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

LAW, ECONOMICS, BUSINESS AND RELATED STUDIES

Professor Gayle Kerr

Queensland University of Technology

Professor Gayle Kerr teaches strategy and creativity in advertising. She believes students and teachers can co-construct knowledge, and uses the advertising practice of engagement as a pedagogical model to ignite students' insight. Her teaching is connected to the realities of the advertising industry, and through her collaboration with industry her students are often ahead of their peers in their employment prospects.

Professor Kerr founded the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Advertising in 2007, as a network of academic support and a platform to improve student learning outcomes nationally. Through Professor Kerr's leadership positions in the American Academy of Advertising, she benchmarks world's best practice in advertising education and advocates for its adoption in Australia. Her contributions have been published in leading journals and she has been recognised with a Vice-Chancellor's Award for Leadership and a prestigious AAA Billy I. Ross Award for Education.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

NEVILLE BONNER AWARD FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Associate Professor Heidi Norman

University of Technology, Sydney

Associate Professor Heidi Norman is a senior academic in the communication program, within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Technology, Sydney. She is a researcher and teacher of political theory, social change and environmental justice with a focus on Australian Aboriginal social, cultural, political and economic history. Associate Professor Norman has made significant contributions to Indigenous education, through the development of teaching resources and successful embedding of a theoretically informed approach to teaching Aboriginal studies.

As a passionate and enthusiastic teacher of Aboriginal content and perspectives, Associate Professor Norman seeks to advance Indigenous knowledge, create opportunities for social change and empower all students to be critically informed agents for change. Her approach to classroom practice is innovative and engages students through simulations, stakeholder role-play and community based projects. She has promoted exemplary models for academics from a range of disciplines to draw on Aboriginal issues, enhancing the student classroom experience.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND RELATED STUDIES

Associate Professor Paul Francis

The Australian National University

For over 20 years Associate Professor Paul Francis has pioneered a series of educational innovations in physics education which have dramatically increased the ability of students to apply their scientific knowledge to real-world problems. Using peer interaction and peer learning as a way for students to support each other, he scaffolds the linear learning trajectory of physics for diverse cohorts of students. Associate Professor Francis is internationally recognised as standing at the pinnacle of physics education. He believes that many of the world's most pressing problems can only be solved by breakthroughs in science, which will require a new generation of extremely capable scientists.

More recently, he has developed a series of highly successful Massive Open Online Courses including the Australian National University's edX Massive Open Online Course in astrophysics. This course has reached over 250,000 students in 178 countries, many from the developing world.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND RELATED STUDIES

Associate Professor Birgit Loch

Swinburne University of Technology

Over the last 12 years, Associate Professor Birgit Loch has pioneered new forms of student engagement in undergraduate mathematics. She is a prolific author, and a national and international speaker on the innovative use of digital technology to improve learning and teaching in STEM education. Through her leadership and mentoring roles she inspires her colleagues to make a difference to their teaching by incorporating tablet technology.

Development of Associate Professor Loch's innovative methods have been assisted by funding from a number of universities, as well as the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. The quality of her work has been recognised through university and national awards. Her leadership on the production of MathsCasts and PhysCasts instructional videos was recognised by the Swinburne Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award in 2014.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

Associate Professor Catherine Attard

Western Sydney University

For over 10 years Associate Professor Catherine Attard has transformed teaching and learning in primary mathematics at Western Sydney University. She has had an outstanding influence on pre-service teachers' learning and the ongoing professional development of teachers in primary mathematics. Associate Professor Attard has shown leadership in promoting pedagogical innovation and mentoring peers across the university and the wider teaching profession.

By combining great dedication for teaching engaging mathematics with her own experiences as a primary classroom teacher, Associate Professor Attard motivates and inspires pre-service and qualified mathematics teachers. She creates transformative learning experiences that challenge her students to move beyond their preconceptions on teaching. This includes students understanding the transformational role that teachers can play if they, as learners, are prepared to transform themselves as well.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

Dr Jaclyn Broadbent

Deakin University

Dr Jaclyn Broadbent is recognised nationally and internationally in psychology and health behaviour education, and for her sustained and innovative leadership in delivering engaging, accessible and authentic curricula to students in very large first year classes. She has championed student feedback and motivational strategies that foster student engagement. Dr Broadbent's expertise has been recognised beyond Deakin University, with her approaches adopted by tertiary institutions across Australia.

Instead of focusing on one or two aspects of a program, such as better assessment strategies or the use of simulations, Dr Broadbent's approach looks at every aspect of her practice. This includes the desired learning outcomes, the learning styles and needs of students, the content, the delivery mechanisms, the administration and the development of the teaching staff. This comprehensive approach allows her to identify strategies to improve student learning outcomes that are truly multidimensional. Dr Broadbent shares her practice widely so that the benefits she creates for her students and staff become available to others.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

Dr Lorraine Hammond

Edith Cowan University

Dr Lorraine Hammond is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Education at Edith Cowan University who has inspired a generation of educators. Her approach to teaching is underpinned by her belief that to prepare exemplary teachers, she must be a model of excellence herself. She engages students with lectures and tutorials that are intellectually demanding, memorable and designed to create a community of learners.

Dr Hammond's advice is highly sought after by schools and she uses these opportunities to provide demonstration lessons, advice and professional learning. She involves her students in these authentic learning activities which enrich their learning experiences. She is also recognised as an international expert in the area of learning difficulties by state and federal governments and the media. Graduates who have studied under Professor Hammond report feeling confident and ready for the workplace, and recognised as highly effective teachers by their peers and the wider education community.



2016 Award for Teaching Excellence

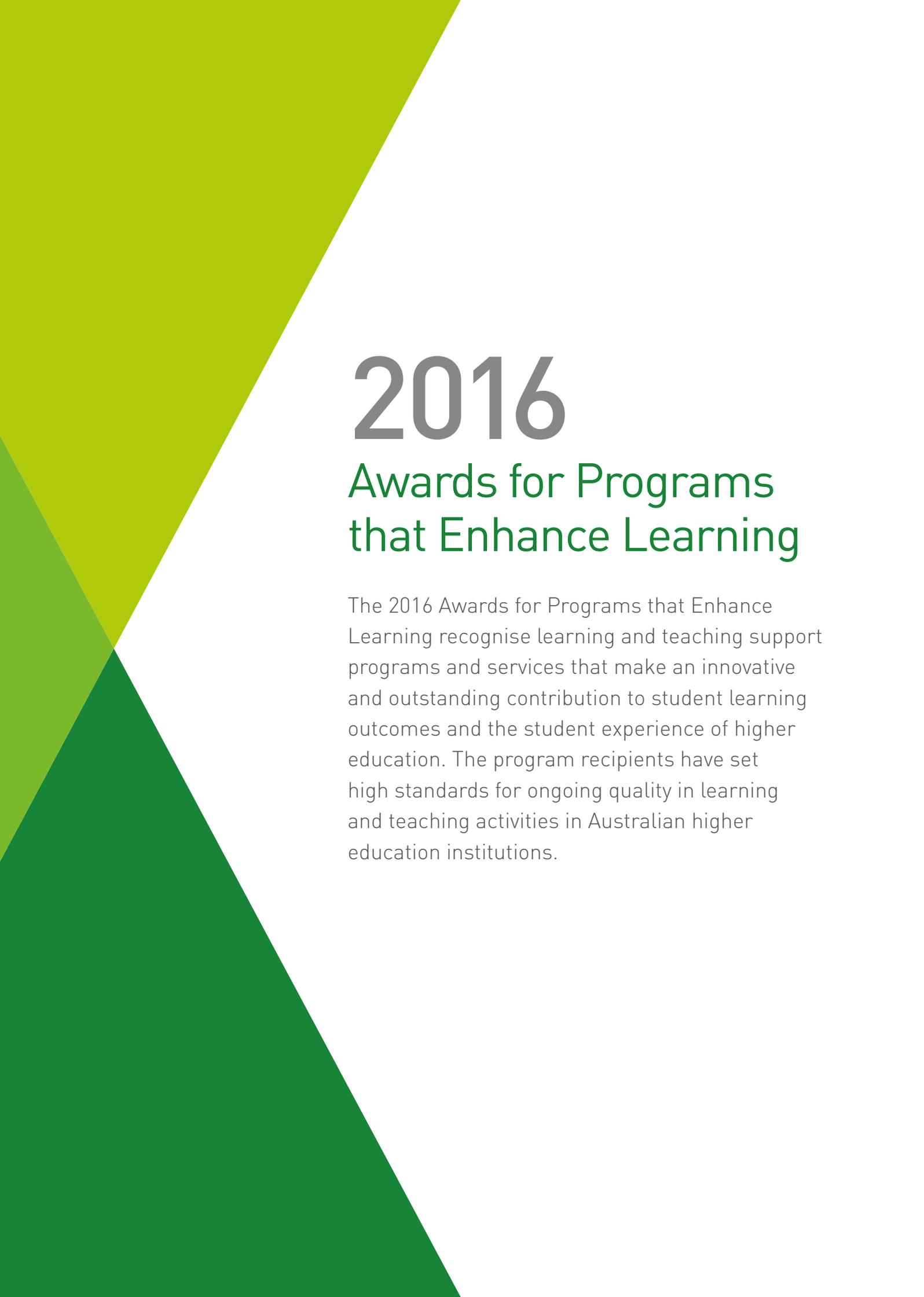
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

Professor Michael Platow

The Australian National University

A lecturer in social psychology, Professor Platow applies his discipline to construct and test approaches to learning that motivate and inspire students to learn. His curricular innovations ensure students learn simultaneously about theory, research design and methodology. By their third year, a typical undergraduate student in Professor Platow's course has mastered the principles of social-psychological experimental design, measurement, hypothesis testing and interpretation of findings. Many are embarking on research projects, a level usually the domain of honours or postgraduate students.

Professor Platow engages in evaluation practices that bring about improvements in teaching and learning and have led to improved student outcomes more broadly in other courses. He has also contributed to research on higher education, co-authored a Victorian Certificate of Education psychology textbook, and pursued benchmarking research in collaboration with other Australian universities.

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2016

Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning

The 2016 Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning recognise learning and teaching support programs and services that make an innovative and outstanding contribution to student learning outcomes and the student experience of higher education. The program recipients have set high standards for ongoing quality in learning and teaching activities in Australian higher education institutions.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

WIDENING PARTICIPATION

Dementia Education Program

University of Tasmania

Dr Alison Canty

Professor Frances McInerney

Professor James Vickers

Professor Andrew Robinson

Professor Justin Walls

Dr Carolyn King

Dr Andrea Carr

Dr Lynette Goldberg

The Dementia Education Program was developed in response to international calls to build capacity for dementia care. The components are the 'Understanding Dementia' Massive Open Online Course and the Bachelor of Dementia Care (BDemCare). The program has been successful in reaching out to those for whom higher education would never have been an option, many of whom are balancing work or families and have had limited post-compulsory education.

The 'Understanding Dementia' Massive Open Online Course has now reached 70,000 enrollees in 147 countries, with world-record breaking completion rates of up to 45 per cent. In under four years the BDemCare has become the fourth largest course at the University of Tasmania. Along with attracting significant numbers of non-traditional students, the success of the program's targeted approach for students with low threshold capabilities has been recognised globally. The Dementia Education Program has achieved outstanding student feedback, market attention, demonstrable change in practice and awards, and has been the focus of scholarly publications.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

WIDENING PARTICIPATION

Live, Learn, Lead Program

Federation University Australia

Mr Colin Marshall
Mr Andrew Renfree
Mrs Melanie Coffey

Live, Learn, Lead is a residential support program for students, particularly those with multiple attributes of disadvantage. The program is comprehensive and immersive. Students are supported to transition into university life through a broad orientation followed by a range of personal and community development opportunities. These are coupled with academic and learning support through to the completion of their studies.

This highly innovative, distinctive and unique program, has been successfully sustained for 10 years, including evaluation and enhancements. Program staff collaborate with both local and international communities to facilitate significant initiatives that widen participation and success for regional and rural higher education students. Program initiatives align with various stages of the student lifecycle, which directly contributes to 'closing the gap' for regional students.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

WIDENING PARTICIPATION

The Connecting4Success Program

University of Southern Queensland

Associate Professor Helen Farley
Ms Sharron Dove
Mr Stephen Seymour
Mr Christopher Lee
Mr John Macdonald

Ms Catherine Abraham
Ms Anita Ryle
Dr Susan Hopkins
Dr Jenni Ostini
Ms Joanne Doyle

Ms Jacinta Cox
Ms Louise Patching
Ms Tracey Eastment
Mr Jared Wright
Mr Kyle Murphy

Since June 2011, the University of Southern Queensland's Connecting4Success Program has introduced digital technologies into prisons across Australia to improve access to higher education for prisoners. The program consists of four cascading projects that have supported incarcerated students to develop digital literacies, thereby preparing them for the workforce or further study upon release from custody. The projects provide interactive course materials and activities on digital technologies that don't require internet access, which is prohibited in most Australian prisons.

The latest project specifically addresses Indigenous over-representation in prisons by providing culturally appropriate courses. Five programs of study have been made available: the Indigenous Higher Education Pathways Program, the Tertiary Preparation Program, and three diploma programs in Arts, Science and Business Administration. Connecting4Success has attracted 699 enrolments, supporting the university's strong social justice agenda. It has also developed career planning resources to assist prisoners in reimagining their lives post-release.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Noongar Dandjoo

Curtin University

Ms Sally Goldrick
Dr Michelle Johnston
Mr Adrian Beattie
Mr Brad Pearce

Noongar Dandjoo is an innovative, work-integrated learning program that recreates a 'real world' television production experience in the university television studio. The collaborative program employs participatory production techniques that require participants to work with the Perth Aboriginal community rather than creating a program about them.

Students learn through interdisciplinary, on-campus, work-integrated experiences and the program produces industry-ready television professionals, in line with government and industry expectations for university graduates. The program equips students to engage with diverse cultures and facilitates first-hand experience with contemporary Aboriginal communities.

The Noongar people are the traditional custodians of the land in the south-west of Western Australia, and Dandjoo is their word for gathering.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Physiotherapy National Simulation Program

Curtin University

Professor Anthony Wright
Dr Penny Moss

The Physiotherapy National Clinical Simulation Program has transformed the face of Australian physiotherapy education through unprecedented nation-wide collaboration in simulation-based learning. This Curtin University led collaboration, between academic, clinical educators and industry leaders has been internationally acclaimed for generating a nationwide cooperative educational environment, with student focused-learning at its core. Full-time, immersive, five-day simulation modules are adapted to suit students' stages of learning and reflect their particular social and healthcare context. Students assess and treat simulated patients, played by professional actors, in highly realistic clinical settings to enhance learning engagement.

The simulation program provides an assurance of consistent nationwide clinical experiences that cannot be guaranteed by real-world placements. Students and educators have acknowledged the value of this program with students demonstrating greater confidence in their work-integrated placements and showing significantly improved professional skills.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Pro Bono Centre

The University of Queensland

Ms Monica Taylor

Mrs Jennifer Gibbons

Associate Professor Tamara Walsh

Dr Francesca Bartlett

Associate Professor Peter Billings

Professor Heather Douglas

Since 2009, the University of Queensland's Pro Bono Centre has involved law students in pro bono legal work in partnership with the legal profession. Law students assist community legal centres, law firms, barristers and community agencies on a pro bono basis. Students gain vital practical legal skills while learning the importance of their role as future lawyers to give back to their communities through pro bono legal service.

The Centre's initiatives include the Clinical Legal Education Program, which places students in Community Legal Centres to directly assist clients with their legal problems under the supervision of an experienced lawyer; the Manning St Project, where students participate in law reform and policy research; the Pro Bono Roster, which coordinates many diverse student pro bono activities; and the High Schools Program which harnesses the passion of law students to deliver legal information sessions to secondary school students. The Centre has attracted international attention for its work in enriching the law student experience.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

INNOVATION AND FLEXIBILITY IN CURRICULA, LEARNING AND TEACHING

QUT Sessional Success Program

Queensland University of Technology

Mrs Michelle Fox
Professor Jillian Hamilton

Queensland University of Technology's Academic Development team, Michelle Fox and Professor Jillian Hamilton, designed and deliver the Sessional Success Program to enable and inspire the University's 2500 front-line sessional teachers. The program incorporates the findings of key research on how students succeed. This underpins the program's ability to build sessionals' capacity to create engaging learning experiences for students and to communicate effectively with students.

The Sessional Success Program supports sessional teachers to assess student learning, and to reflect and evaluate their teaching outcomes. The program builds their leadership skills by enabling them to become a mentor and advisor to other less experienced sessionals. The Sessional Success Program is a powerful holistic approach, which has generated a remarkable increase in sessional teachers' engagement and passion, which in turn profoundly influences students' learning experience, engagement and success.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

INNOVATION AND FLEXIBILITY IN CURRICULA, LEARNING AND TEACHING

Research and Critical Analysis Program

University of Wollongong

Associate Professor Judy Mullan
Professor Peter McLennan
Dr Kathryn Weston

Dr Warren Rich
Ms Shelley Crowther
Dr Pippa Burns

The Research and Critical Analysis program at the University of Wollongong is designed to encourage, prepare and support student engagement in medical research throughout the four Phases of the university's medical course. The program has been sustained through the development of research collaboration partnerships with hospital and primary care clinicians interested in research capacity building. During Phases One and Two, students are assisted to build research skills and refine critical analysis techniques. By Phase Three all students experience contextually relevant medical research, selecting and researching a topic of their choice, while on regional or rural clinical placement at one of eleven research hubs across New South Wales.

Students are supported and mentored by the Research and Critical Analysis team, fellow academics and practitioners who provide clinical experience for the students. Students demonstrate their enhanced capacity to undertake their own research and more than 400 projects have been completed successfully. Notably, 21 students have published findings in peer-reviewed journals and 21 have presented findings at national or international conferences.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION

UQ Three Minute Thesis

The University of Queensland

Professor Stephan Riek
Ms Kate Swanson
Ms Selina Weller

Ms Amanda Lee
Ms Belinda Bern
Ms Claire Backhouse

For research higher degree students, communication skills are vital to their ability to describe their research to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition was established to provide a framework to encourage, support, and reward the development of communication skills by research higher degree students. The 3MT® was conceptualised by University of Queensland Emeritus Professor Alan Lawson. He believed that research higher degree students should be able to clearly describe the aims, results, and outcomes or impact of their research in a way that was accessible to the general public.

First held at the University of Queensland in 2008 with 160 research higher degree students competing, 3MT® competitions are now held in over 300 universities across 42 countries worldwide. In addition to improved communication skills, 3MT® participants also benefit from the opportunity to showcase their research to other researchers, industry, and media throughout the network, which can open doors to new collaborations and job opportunities.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

STUDENT EXPERIENCES AND SERVICES SUPPORTING LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

JCU Learning Centre

James Cook University

Dr Andrea Lynch

Ms Colleen Kaesehagen

Ms Jessica Watt

Ms Kellie Johns

Ms Kylie Bartlett

Mr Brijesh Kumar

Mr Lyle Cleeland

Ms Louise Myers

Ms Maddie Bornschlegl

Ms Rachel Barber

Ms Marnie Campbell

James Cook University's Learning Centre has embraced innovative and creative approaches to supporting the development and success of their students. The team utilises virtual and physical spaces to deliver a set of high impact activities to support students' participation and success in higher education. Since 2012 the team has transformed academic skill development to support student success in higher education by developing them as independent, self-directed learners.

The program is centred on a systematic, integrated learning advisor network that utilises the curriculum to address the growing demand placed on higher education teaching by increased participation and internationalisation. The team has developed a comprehensive, systematic and innovative suite of whole-of-institution programs and services, which provide students with access to support from well-trained peers, expert learning advisers and virtual learning materials. The team has demonstrated that scalable, sustainable learning skill development is possible.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

STUDENT EXPERIENCES AND SERVICES SUPPORTING LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

QUT STIMulate

Queensland University of Technology

Mr Ian Lightbody
Dr Therese Wilson
Dr Christine Devine
Dr Hayley Moody
Dr Richard Medland

Ms Eleanor Dyson
Dr James Brady
Ms Sharmila Gamlath
Mr Christoph Niesel
Dr Yulin Liu

Mr Jeff McPherson
Mr Dulip Herath
Mr Laurence Fairbairn
Peer Learning Facilitators

STIMulate is an innovative support-for-learning program, engaging thousands of students annually to boost their success in maths, science and information technology. Offered across all Queensland University of Technology campuses and disciplines, it caters for diverse student abilities and ambitions. The program provides students with integrated access to peer drop-in sessions, academic assistance, discipline specialists and online resources.

STIMulate's success is demonstrated by enhanced student learning in target areas and career-enhancing outcomes for participating students. STIMulate's whole-of-Institution approach is premised on systemic and sustainable collaboration among students, staff, faculties, divisions and university-wide service providers. The program team work in partnership with the wider academic community to share knowledge on student academic needs, embed support within courses and provide valuable feedback on student learning that is used to enhance curriculum development and teaching.



2016 Award for Programs that Enhance Learning

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNATIONALISATION

The Flinders University Introductory Academic Program

Flinders University

Associate Professor Salah Kutieleh

Dr Sandra Egege

Ms Elaine Kane

Dr Michael Sawas

The Flinders Introductory Academic Program (IAP) is an internationally recognised transition program for international students. The teaching approach used in the program encourages collegiality, institutional bonding and a global perspective within its diverse cultural cohort while simultaneously fostering quality academic scholarship. The program covers five areas: research and critical thinking skills, computing, academic writing, english expression and cross cultural awareness and communication.

Through a five week program, students are supported by a dedicated team who accommodate the students' cultural, academic and physical diversity. The academic success, levels of engagement and cultural competence of the students are testament to the program's effectiveness, in facilitating a seamless transition and demonstrating a global perspective. Since 2007, the IAP has continued to evolve and adapt, drawing on staff expertise and student feedback. The program distinguishes itself by supporting academic, cultural and social interactions.

