Alumni: Engaging with the future of research

Stephan Riek, PhD
Professor & Deputy Dean,
UQ Graduate School
UQ GRADUATE SCHOOL

- Founded 1909
- 50,000 Students
- Member of Group of 8
- 4000 PhD students
- 40% International
- 12,000 PhD Alumni

QS World University Rankings 2015/2016: 46th
Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015/2016: 60th
Academic Ranking of World Universities 2015: 77th
Performance ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities 2014: 56th
CAREER DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

- Transferrable Skills
- Research Skills
- Professional Skills

- Your Research Degree
- Knowledge Transfer and Strategy
- Academic Development
- Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship
TIERED APPROACH

EXPERIENCES
Practical implementation of other CDF training. Includes work experience and networking opportunities, conferences, travel awards, the Three Minute Thesis competition and more.

BOUTIQUE WORKSHOPS
Attended by 20 to 30 students. Topics covered include: getting published, project management, writing an academic CV, presenting your research, milestone attainment and more.

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS
Attended by 50 or more students. Topics covered include: career strategy, IP, commercialisation, writing, research integrity, networking, branding, communication and more.
Alumni engagement

• Career Planning
  – Mandatory orientation (quarterly) – panel of PhD alumni working outside academia
  – Career Development Planner – cases studies of our ‘top 20 PhD alumni’
NETWORKING BREAKFASTS
"The whole thing was brilliant. Having a chance to sit down and have a good, long conversation with three different industry partners was excellent.

"The mentors were excellent. They were really open and encouraging and gave great advice.

"Because of the breakfast I am now in contact with an executive director of a big company who is going to put me in touch with the division director in my area of expertise."

"I also got value out of the confidence boost - I can network! Thanks so much to the graduate school for the opportunity."
Shadowing/Mentoring

Students are partnered with a mentor for ~1 day a week where they observe the tasks involved in the mentor’s day to day work and are able to develop their networks.
Internships and Placements

**PLACEMENT MODELS**

**Shadowing**
*Unpaid*
Students are partnered with a mentor for 1 day/week where they observe the tasks involved in the mentor’s day to day work and are able to develop their networks.

**Work Experience**
*Unpaid*
Students are partnered with a supervisor and work on a project within the organisation for a maximum of 30 days.

**Sponsor a PhD**
Fund a new PhD student for their degree or top-up their research funds. Work with UQ on the requirements of this program (i.e. including placement in your organisation).

**Scholarship with Placement**
Provide a top up scholarship to a student to assist their research and place them in your organisation for up to 3 months. Students are assigned a mentor who will assess them on their transferrable skills.
DSITI PhD Industry experience program:
• 20-30 day placement
• Unpaid (stipend continues)
• Cognate or non-cognate placements

"The PhD Employment Experience Program was an exciting opportunity for me to challenge myself and test the skills I acquired during my PhD”
Zoran Boskovic - QBI

3M student internship scholarships:
• Longer term placement
• Paid scholarship (stipend continues)
• Usually Cognate

‘I am now better connected to people in industry and I also have a better idea about how I can apply my academic research skills to industrial research.’
Wanida Phetsang - IMB
Boeing – Sponsored PhDs

Fund a new PhD student for their degree or top-up their research funds. Work with UQ on the requirements of this program (i.e. including placement in your organisation).

UQ and Boeing Supervisors work closely with the student on research with commercial impact.

Students are able to undertake research that delivers on real business needs.

“This Boeing - UQ Research Alliance PhD Scholarship program is squarely aimed at ensuring we have the best innovation and talent to support our growth and productivity as we enter the next 100 years for The Boeing Company,”

Mr Michael Edwards, General Manager of Boeing Research and Technology Australia
Engaging Alumni

• ‘Top 20’ PhD Graduates – ‘Up and Coming’
• Actively recruit ambassadors – recent standout graduates
• Social media – LinkedIn
  – Build networks
  – Showcase potential career paths
  – Mentoring
Final thoughts

• PhD Alumni are very eager to engage
• Their time and experience is valuable
• Very willing to provide advice and mentoring
• All you have to do is ask…