The Research EDGE

The Graduate Research Centre. Supporting your research.

DOT POINT NEWS

- Fee-relief and Completion scholarships
  Completing students, don’t miss this opportunity! Applications close 15 March. More information and how to apply

- Runner up in the 2012 3MT® presents again!
  Emily Reeve (PhD candidate), School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, presented on her thesis topic ‘deprescribing’ at the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy forum held in conjunction with the Pharmacy Australia Congress (Melbourne, October 2012). See page 2 for more 3MT® news.

- PORTIA’s new address
  Students and staff, please bookmark!

- Emergency details
  Please make sure you update your emergency contact details under the ‘my Personal Details’ tab in the student portal

- Your feedback
  The Graduate Research Centre invites feedback about The Research EDGE

From the Dean of Graduate Studies

Welcome to another year of research – and The Research Edge – at UniSA! Yes, it is always hard to recommence, leaving the excesses of the festive season behind and getting back on the treadmill (a deliberate double entendre, with fat reduction and paper writing requiring similar stamina). But I’ve watched the researchers trickle back, staff and students alike, and it’s great to see the majority actually impatient to get on with it – presumably because they are enjoying the opportunities for discovery and collegiality that most research provides. So I would like to open this year with a word of congratulations for those research students who are indeed enjoying the research, and a word of encouragement for those who may not yet have found the magic formula: keep at it!

Best wishes for the new year.

Prof Phil Weinstein

Waseda University fellowship – Owen Lindsay

I am presently on a year-long fellowship at Waseda University in Tokyo, undertaking research towards a PhD in the School of Communication, International Studies and Languages. My thesis topic is ‘Representations of North Korea in Japan: security, identity, discourse’, and with recent events in both Pyongyang and Tokyo it’s been an extremely interesting and valuable time to be studying in Japan.

My fellowship is a Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange grant provided by the Japan Foundation, a semi-governmental organisation that promotes Japanese studies and culture internationally. The application process was quite straightforward, requiring a written outline of the project and support from the host university in Japan. If your humanities/social sciences project is related to Japan (comparative studies are also fine), I would urge you to apply for the opportunity.

The chance to spend time studying in Japan has expanded and strengthened my research project enormously. Through access to materials in the wonderful library here, interaction with students and faculty, and the input of my Waseda supervisor, Prof Gracia Liu-Farrer, my writing and reading is constantly enriched. A brief but hopefully illuminating example: when writing a chapter on Japan-North Korea relations, I came across a reference to a site in Kyoto that houses the pickled noses of Koreans killed by the invading armies of Toyotomi Hideyoshi at the end of the sixteenth century. A quick trip down to the library later and I had not one but three books written about the ‘ear mound’. For a project concerned with Japanese thought and culture, this kind of access to materials has proved invaluable.

Thanks also need to go my UniSA supervisors, Dr David Chapman and Prof Lis Porter, who strongly supported me throughout my application for the fellowship (and continue to provide excellent support), and have put up with periods of silence from Nihon.

Below left: Owen and some ‘friends’. Below right: Statue of Waseda University founder, Ōkuma Shigenobu
Life after the research degree

What happens once you have completed your research degree? Does your life change? In 2013, The Research EDGE will feature past students and their current activities.

To start with, PhD graduate Dr Wei Zhang has received the 2012 Australian Water Association (AWA) South Australian Branch Postgraduate Research Award. Dr Zhang completed his PhD research under supervisor Prof Linda Zou at the SA Water Centre for Water Management and Reuse. Read more

Three Minute Thesis Competition

Once again the 3MT® is in the news, this time featuring People’s Choice winner Najmeh Hassanli. Najmeh believes her research about regional development being sustained through cultural exchange can benefit rural communities in Iran, and extend further to rural Indigenous groups within Australia. Read more

Scholarship opportunities

International Travel Grants (UniSA)

This grant gives research degree students the opportunity to gain an international perspective and improve their thesis through undertaking research, data collection or work with institutional or industry partners in overseas locations. Applications close 15 February. More information and how to apply

Churchill Fellowships

Churchill Fellowships enable Australian citizens from all walks of life to travel overseas to undertake an analysis, study or investigation of a project or an issue that cannot be readily undertaken in Australia. Currently the average fellowship value is $25,000.

You can design your own research project, travel the world and further your knowledge in your chosen field, before returning to make a real contribution to Australian society. Applications close 20 February. More information and how to apply

Excellence in Research for Australia

Results of the second Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) assessment exercise (released in December 2012) confirm the University of South Australia’s strong progress towards our research goals for the next decade, and reflect our ongoing commitment to excellence and our mission to make a practical difference to the social, economic and cultural prosperity of our community.

ERA 2012 rated more than 86 per cent of the University’s assessed research as world standard or above, which represents considerable improvement on our impressive 2010 result and a significant achievement for an institution that turned 21 in 2012.

Read the highlights
Frequently asked questions
More about ERA (Australian Government)

OSHC Allianz Global Assistance

If you are an international student, it is a requirement of your student visa that you have adequate health cover while you are studying in Australia. More information (frequently asked questions)

On-campus service

OSHC Allianz Global Assistance (the University’s preferred provider) offers on-campus consultations at Campus Central, City West campus, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am–4 pm.

Web tips for students

Frustrated by not being able to find what you need in the UniSA web? The solution is simple! Use the student portal (QR code pictured).

Once in the portal, click on the ‘my Research’ tab. In the right-hand side of the next screen you should see two blocks/boxes which have links tailored to your stage of candidature (commencing, continuing or completing).

You can bookmark links you find useful in your web browser or the ‘my Links’ section of the portal, your handy one-stop shop to all your information needs.

Make sure you visit the Research Education Support Activities website for workshops and resources.

Upcoming events – keep your diary free!

Research Education Support Activities

February

On-campus and online support for your studies.

Commencing students:
Social sciences, humanities and business
Sciences, health sciences, engineering and technology
English for research writing

Continuing to completing students:
Social sciences, humanities and business
Sciences, health sciences, engineering and technology
English for research writing

Induction Program for new students

Mon 15 April

These sessions are compulsory for all students commencing a Masters or Doctoral Degree by Research. External students can view the online resources. More information