Survey – calling UniSA researchers

The 2011 Transparent Costing survey takes place over a 14-day period from Monday 4 July until Sunday 17 July, inclusive of weekends. The survey asks all ‘Teaching and Research’ and ‘Research Only’ staff to allocate how they spend their time across six categories:

- Australian Competitive Grant (ACG) research
- Other Research
- Research Training
- Teaching
- Other
- Leave.

The survey is intended to determine the time spent on ACG research at UniSA. Achieving a high response rate in the survey will allow UniSA to receive funding through the Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE) block grant. The SRE, which supports the indirect costs of ACG research, will grow to $300 million annually by 2013. Invitations to participate in the survey will be sent out on Friday 1 July. It is vital that all staff who are invited to participate complete the survey. Further information is available at: www.unisa.edu.au/res/transparentcosting/default.asp or by emailing: TransparentCostingSurvey@unisa.edu.au. More information on the SRE: www创新发展.gov.au/ResearchBlockGrant/Pages/SustainableResearchExcellence.aspx

A-star publication attracts A-star student

A good, solid publication in an A-star journal has proved to be a recruitment conduit for a new international PhD student at UniSA.

When Marina Louter (pictured), from Groeningen in the Netherlands was browsing the A-star journal Current Biology, a paper on vibrational signalling in frogs caught her eye.

She had been thinking about a PhD in amphibian ecology, so she contacted the paper’s author, UniSA Senior Lecturer Dr Greg Johnston, who then asked if she’d be interested in a multidisciplinary project in urban ecology. Marina had a research Master’s from the University of Groeningen, and the results had been published in what is arguably the world’s top journal, Science. If the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) previous ranking system had ranked students, Marina would be an A-star. UniSA offered her an International President’s Scholarship and she moved to Adelaide in May to do a PhD.

Animal ethics application update

Important changes for UniSA researchers making applications to use animals in research and teaching

New name for the AEC
The AEC is now called the SA Pathology/AHS Animal Ethics Committee. Only the name has changed: membership, functions and meeting dates remain the same.

AEC new web address
The Hanson Institute now hosts the AEC website and the information formerly on the IMVS website is now at: www.hansoninstitute.sa.gov.au/research/sa-pathology-animalethics-committee.php

Our UniSA Animal experimentation webpage also hosts this information and is being updated with these changes.

Common application form
Researchers will have followed the work conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to have a common application form. This is now live and means that one application completed online is accepted by all institutions in South Australia and you may apply to all of them with one ‘send’ click. The exception is the University of Adelaide who retain their existing online form, but SA Pathology/AHS have agreed to accept this. Please consider using the common form. Over the next few months we shall phase out the old paper-based form and replace it with this online version.

Work will now commence on a common minor amendment form, a common breeding colony application, and a common adverse event report form.

Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) are large scale partnerships involving researchers from universities, industry and government agencies. Collectively CRCs contribute over $8.5M of annual research income to UniSA and involve researchers from all of the University divisions and institutes. Applications to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) closed on 1 July for Round 14 selection for funding to commence in 2012. UniSA is a partner in a total of five CRC applications in the current selection round, the results of which will be announced in December this year.

Visit the DIISR website for more information about the CRC Program: https://www.crc.gov.au/Information/default.aspx

For a list of UniSA’s CRCs and other national research centres visit: www.unisa.edu.au/research/concentrations/concentrational.asp

Grants Corner – questions answered

You’ve just won an Australian Research Council (ARC) grant and received the notification from Research and Innovation Services that you now have a cost centre and budget to conduct your research.

Understandably, you may want a computer or laptop for the PhD student or post-doc you intend to employ on the grant.

Can you charge this expenditure to your ARC project cost centre?

In short, the answer is MAYBE! The longer answer is: check your application and the Funding Rules and Funding Agreements for the relevant scheme and round (year). The ARC Funding Rules for specific schemes are linked from: www.arc.gov.au/applicants/fundingrules.htm and for Funding Agreements from: www.arc.gov.au/applicants/fundingagreements.htm

For all of the ARC’s major schemes, the Funding Rules includes a section on budget items that the ARC will not fund. This includes costs not directly related to research such as visas, insurance, mobile phones and, by extension, general-purpose computers. The Funding Rules and Funding Agreements also list basic facilities that must be provided and funded by the host organisation, including provision of computers (eg laptops and basic computing facilities). Therefore the usual answer is a resounding: NO! You will need to follow local procedures in your school or division to obtain these items.

However, the ARC might fund computers if these are integral to the research project – for example:

- a laptop to be used primarily on field trips to record or analyse data
- a scientific workstation to run a specialised set of applications exclusively for the project.

In such cases, it is expected that you would have requested funding for the equipment in the grant application. Therefore, IF and ONLY IF your application explicitly requested funding for a computer in the budget and the Letter of Offer or Funding Agreement from the ARC does not explicitly exclude it then purchasing a computer is not only OK, it’s compulsory!

What happens if I’ve already bought a computer on my grant?

Your divisional accountant will likely pick up the fact that you have made this spend and help you take steps to bring your grant back in line with the Funding Rules.

You must do this prior to any progress or final report being sent to the ARC as the University must certify that all monies have been spent on allowable expenditure within the conditions of the funding agreement.

If you think you may have spent money on non-allowable items by mistake, talk to your divisional accountant without delay. Further help can be obtained from Research and Innovation Services: www.unisa.edu.au/res/Grants/services.asp
ITEK news

Platform nanotechnology secures commercial agreement with European industry partner

ITEK has facilitated industry-engagement for platform nanotechnology developed at the Ian Wark Research Institute. A material transfer and project agreement has been secured with a leading European industry partner. A/Prof Dusan Losic and his team developed an innovative nanofabrication technology for the formation of nanoporous metal or metalloid oxide materials. The proprietary technology promises applications including:

- chromatography
- lab-on-a-chip technologies
- carbon nanotubes
- biosensors.

Intellectual property: A PCT patent has been filed.

Commercial Strategy: Licensing opportunity per application. A material transfer and project agreement has been executed for the chromatography application with a leading European partner who is recognised as producing some of the world’s best high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and Osmometry instrumentation.

‘This industry partnership emphasises the synergistic relationship between the IWRI and ITEK working together to commercialise research outcomes,’ says Graham Smith, ITEK CEO.

For further information, please contact Masako Amemiya, Commercial Associate, phone: (08) 8302 5317.

Institute medal winners

Michael Miller Medal

The Institute for Telecommunications Research (ITR) is pleased to announce Dr Khoa Nguyen as the winner of the Michael Miller Medal for 2010. The title of Dr Nguyen’s thesis is Adaptive transmission for block-fading channels. His thesis explored and provided a greater understanding of the optimal performance of wireless communication systems. The thesis developed practical adaptive transmission schemes, which promise to greatly improve the reliability of wireless communications with low-latency requirements and stringent constraints on power and bandwidth resources. Dr Nguyen is now employed by ITR and continues his research in the area of anytime-information and coding theory, which serves as the foundation of communication technology for wireless automation and control systems.

Created by UniSA in 2005, the Mike Miller Medal recognises the best PhD research graduate from the Institute for Telecommunications Research (ITR) each year. Research creativity, originality, significance and utility are key criteria for the awards. The medal’s namesake is Emeritus Professor Michael Miller, the founding Director of the ITR.

Norton Jackson Material Science and Engineering Medal

The inaugural winner of the Norton Jackson Medal is Dr Karyn Jarvis. Karyn completed her PhD with the Ian Wark Research Institute (The Wark™) in 2010. Her thesis is titled Optimising the interfacial properties of porous silicon for effective control of molecular and biomolecular interactions. Porous silicon is a nanostructured biocompatible material. Modification and characterisation of porous silicon surface chemistry was performed to develop it into a drug delivery system. Oxidation and functionalisation successfully modified porous silicon surface chemistry which tailored its interactions with probe molecules and proteins, providing control over binding mechanisms, loading and release behaviour. Karyn currently holds a Graduate Position as a Research Associate at the Mawson Institute.

This medal, reflecting Norton Jackson’s passion and achievements, recognises the achievements of graduates of The Wark™, and will be awarded annually to the PhD graduate or graduand who has demonstrated the most potential or real application of research in industry.

Visit the institute websites:

ITR: www.itr.unisa.edu.au/TheWark™

Norton Jackson Medal winners

Dr Khoa Nguyen (left) and Emeritus Professor Mike Miller
Illumination – research degree information evening

5–8 pm, Monday 1 August
Hawke Building, North Terrace
City West campus

Prospective research degree students are invited to Illumination 2011. This informative evening will share practical information and interactive sessions on research degrees and research areas of expertise across the University. Illumination is an opportunity to discover:

• Where a research degree could take you
• Research degrees across a variety of areas of expertise
• Scholarships on offer to support study
• The research degree experiences of our world-class researchers and students.

For the full evening’s program and to register to attend, please visit: unisa.edu.au/illumination

Experience the discovery. Discover the experience.

Administrator and supervisor websites

Two new and updated websites to support research degree administrators and supervisors

Research degree administrators and research degree supervisors will be able to access information quickly in two new staff-only websites tailored to their needs.

The administrators website provides a one-stop shop of quick links to forms for research degree students; information on scholarships (including establishing a new research degree scholarships); and information on organising for visiting research students to UniSA.

The supervisors website provides information and links on:

• supervisor responsibilities
• managing the student-supervisor relationship
• the register of postgraduate research degree supervisors
• management and committees
• the PORTIA system
• professional development and resources
• support services.

Please refer to these websites for all your needs and contact Andrea Rankin, email: andrea.rankin@unisa.edu.au if you notice any omissions. You can also contact the Graduate Research Centre if you have queries: www.unisa.edu.au/researchstudents/contact.asp

Research degree students: www.unisa.edu.au/researchstudents/default.asp

What’s new in research degrees?

UniSA Fee-relief and Completion Scholarships

These scholarships are for completing higher degree by research (HDR) students. Check the website for your eligibility to apply.

Fee-relief scholarship: www.unisa.edu.au/researchstudents/scholarships/feerelief.asp

Completion scholarship: www.unisa.edu.au/researchstudents/scholarships/compscholarships.asp

Round 2 applications close on 13 August.

Fulbright Scholarships

Are you a high-achieving postgraduate student? The Australian-American Fulbright Commission promotes and supports educational and cultural exchange between Australia and America. Valued at up to $445,000, the Fulbright Awards are open to Australian citizens to undertake research or study (8–12 months) in the United States. Don’t miss out on this great opportunity! Applications for the 2012 scholarships close 31 August. More information: www.unisa.edu.au/researchstudents/scholarships/highachiever.asp

NVivo licence renewal

Licences issued for NVivo qualitative research data analysis expire on 12 June each year. If you wish to continue using NVivo after this date, you will need to apply for a new licence by completing the NVivo Software Licence Application Form available at: www.unisa.edu.au/ists/staff/Purchasing/Software/Licencing/NVivo_SLA.asp

EAS HDR Research Education Forum

2011 Higher Degree by Research Education Forum will be held on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 August at Magill campus. More information: www.unisa.edu.au/hawkeinstitute/events/default.asp

Library

Discover HDR eproposals and UniSA theses using the new Library catalogue: http://unisa.aquabrowser.com/

You can now use the Library catalogue to view HDR eproposals online. Type your keyword(s) into the search box along with the phrase hdr eproposals (eg ethics hdr eproposals – quotations are not needed). Use this collection to view examples of completed proposals as well as discover who is researching what within the University.

You can also find theses by doing a keyword search (eg gender, psychology, management, sustainability) and then narrowing it by

Attention: students & supervisors

Format: Thesis. To find UniSA theses narrow your search further by selecting a relevant school under Author. If you do not find relevant results you may need to broaden your search.

Find out more about searching the new Library catalogue by viewing the online video (available on the catalogue homepage). Learn more about finding HDR eproposals and theses by viewing the online workshop Finding theses: http://resource.unisa.edu.au/course/view.php?id=409

Find out about other online training: Library homepage > Research menu > Workshops > Online training
### Key Dates—July 2011

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**Glossary**

- **ARC**: Australian Research Council
- **BICC**: Business Innovation and Commercialisation Committee
- **EAS**: Education, arts and social sciences
- **HREC**: Human Research Ethics Committee
- **RDC**: Research Degrees Committee
- **REQUIEM**: Research Quality, Innovation and Engagement Metrics Working Group
- **RIACC**: Research Integrity, Accountability and Compliance Committee
- **RPC**: Research Policy Committee

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Research and Innovation Services (RIS) provides support for the management of research. The Graduate Research Centre (GRC) provides support for research degree students and staff.

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