



Dr Ann Luzeckyj

Ann.luzeckyj@flinders.edu.au

<http://www.flinders.edu.au/people/ann.luzeckyj>

Professor Heather Smigiel

heather.smigiel@flinders.edu.au

<http://www.flinders.edu.au/people/heather.smigiel>

Program run by the Centre for University Teaching (Flinders University) for Research Higher Degree students who are sessional teachers



The Flinders University Academic Internship Program (FUAIP) which is facilitated by the Centre for University Teaching addresses the BLASST key principles Quality Learning and Teaching and Support for Sessional Staff.



The Academic Internship program is designed for PhD students who are also teaching/tutoring to develop and prepare them as future academics.



- a 2-day intensive followed by 8 X 3 hour workshops;
- invited experts deliver short workshops on topics considered relevant (by the facilitators) and/or requested by interns;
- participants are required to be actively involved in sessions as they are encouraged to ask questions; in pairs they deliver an innovative teaching activity and participate in paired peer reviews of their sessional teaching activities



- cross faculty activities (interns are paired with someone from a different faculty for the peer review and then with someone from another faculty for the innovative teaching activity);
- payment for participation (time)



- continued positive feedback from faculty who select interns and from participants who recommend participation to colleagues and friends;
- employment of graduates in contract and continuing positions;
- cross-faculty communication and developed understandings



funding - students given \$1,000 on graduation; nice food provided at workshops; the 2-day intensive is run off-campus at a specially chosen location so that participants feel welcome, valued and special; time of CUT staff and external speakers; enthusiasm of guest speakers



Feedback indicates that the program is very teaching focussed & does not provide sufficient research support.



- program evaluations are extremely positive;
- 2 bottles of wine and a standing ovation given to presenters at 2 separate award ceremonies;
- 2007 – 2011 cohorts 113 students: 40 Phd completions and 60 participants now working in a teaching or research role



Participant comment: “This internship is the best thing about my PhD. Best. Thing. I was really depressed before I started the internship, and never came to uni as I felt like such an outsider. I hated being so alone, feeling like noone understood what I was doing. Now I come all the time, even in the holidays! I feel at home here now. I feel like Flinders University, and academic life, could find a place for me (or I'll make one!) Ann is brilliant! Her smiling face, great networks, and engaged teaching made me feel really relaxed and have fun. Really I don't think I'd still be doing my phd without this course. Working with the other students has been brilliant. I can't say enough good things about this course. Really brilliant for phd students who are often working long hours alone to get together for these activities. Brilliant. Just brilliant.”