

Poster
1:50pm - 2:10pm

Conference Room 1

DUAL AWARDS
PARTNERSHIP AT GRS: A
FRAMEWORK FOR GLOBAL
COLLABORATION IN
RESEARCH EDUCATION

ASH BOULTON

The Dual Awards Partnership program at the Graduate Research School (GRS) fosters international collaboration and academic excellence in higher degree research education. This presentation provides an overview of the initiative, detailing its concept, framework, strategic objectives, and alignment with Western Sydney University’s Sustaining Success 2021-2026 strategy.

The presentation highlights the program’s structure, benefits, and implementation strategies, emphasising the Graduate Research School’s role in facilitating cross-border research mobility, promoting intercultural exchange, and enhancing academic outcomes. Key challenges and opportunities, effective practices for program management, quality assurance, and sustainability will be discussed. The presentation concludes with statistics on Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), streamlined processes, and the program’s impact on global research and excellence in research education.

KEY MESSAGE

Dual Awards Partnership at GRS demonstrates a strategic approach to international collaboration, facilitating academic exchange and fostering global networks. By leveraging synergies between institutions, this innovative framework enhances educational opportunities for students and advances research initiatives, ultimately contributing to the internationalization and excellence of higher education.

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FROM COLLABORATION
TO CO-INQUIRY:
CRITICAL REFLECTIONS
ON STUDENT-STAFF
PARTNERSHIP IN A
LIBRARY PROJECT

OLIVIA INWOOD

The Western Sydney University Library is a hub of activity, leading the Academic Literacy Strategy to enhance students’ academic skills and integrity. A key component is the Academic Integrity Module (AIM), mandatory for all new students. In mid-2023, the Rethinking Academic Integrity Module (R-AIM) Project began, engaging the Student Partner team to renew the module. This paper reflects on the commitment to the Co-Inquiry Model in the Student-Staff Partnership, examining challenges faced and practical tensions in maintaining this focus, using qualitative data from a recorded conversation at the project’s end.

KEY MESSAGE

It is difficult to maintain the Co-Inquiry Model of Student-Staff Partnership throughout the entire duration of a project.

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HIVE MENTALITY:
COLLABORATION,
COOPERATION AND
COORDINATION AT OGS

PRASHANA FERNANDO
RENAI WARNER

While we often hear the term ‘Governance’, its meaning and the role of the Secretariat team within the Office of Governance Services (OGS) might not be as well known. The OGS operates much like a beehive, where intensive, behind-the-scenes work leads to significant benefits for the wider ecosystem. This presentation provides an insider view of OGS, highlighting its culture of collaboration, cooperation, and coordination.

Understanding governance involves recognising our collective impact on Western’s ecosystem and the various business processes we manage, including governance and committee support, elections, student progressions, student misconduct, Senate appeals, government system access, business names register maintenance, and reporting. By revealing the inner workings of the OGS hive and its connections with other teams, we aim to raise awareness of the diverse services supported by OGS and demonstrate the importance of collaboration in achieving excellence and Western’s goals.

KEY MESSAGE

- 1. Governance work affects every aspect of the University, creating visible impacts in unexpected areas.
- 2. The Office of Governance Services (OGS) aims to clarify its diverse and rigorous role.
- 3. The OGS team fosters a culture of collaboration, cooperation, and coordination, achieving excellence across the Western ecosystem.

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THE EXPERIENCE OF
BEING A HDR
ADMINISTRATOR WITHIN
A SCHOOL – FOSTERING
PARTNERSHIP AND
CO-CREATION

MELINDA JEWELL

For the past 16 years as a HDR administrator in the School of Humanities Arts, partnership and co-creation have been central to my role. Working closely with HDR candidates and academic supervisors, I help navigate complex administrative processes. This paper reflects on Sandra Stow’s Thesis Whisperer article, highlighting the critical role of research administrators.

Co-creation involves collaborating with academics and HDR candidates to develop valuable activities, exemplified by the annual postgraduate conference. I will discuss the co-creation model developed over the years.

This role fosters a complex and rewarding environment, benefiting HDR candidates and empowering professional staff like myself to contribute meaningfully to students’ journeys.

KEY MESSAGE

The role of a HDR administrator is important for Higher Degree Research candidates. HDR administrators play a pivotal role in helping HDR candidates to succeed. The role of HDR administrator in Schools and Institutes allows for opportunities for co-creation. The partnership and co-creation is important for staff and candidate wellbeing.

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UNLEASHING STUDENT
POTENTIAL THROUGH
COLLABORATIVE
EFFORTS IN REGIONAL
AND RURAL CLASSROOMS

BRONWYN WILLIAMS

Enhancing higher education accessibility in regional and rural areas is crucial. In Kempsey, students face significant barriers that hinder their educational pursuits. The Country Universities Centre (CUC) at Macleay Valley and Australian National University (ANU) identified the need to increase aspirations towards higher education by engaging students early and presenting viable career paths.

Western Sydney University’s First Foot Forward (FFF) Primary Program, in collaboration with CUC Macleay Valley and ANU, delivered a two-day facilitator development training program. This initiative equipped educators with resources and skills to engage primary school students, using interactive workshops and co-developing sessions on design and science.

Qualitative feedback from educators highlighted the program’s value in managing challenges and sharing experiences. The FFF team will return in June to facilitate the workshops at partner primary schools and continue educator training.

KEY MESSAGE

This initiative improves higher education accessibility in regional areas, supporting Western’s mission of equitable education, community empowerment, and partnerships, benefiting students and communities.