# The IRU Vice-Chancellors’ Fellow

The Innovative Research Universities (IRU) have a distinctive commitment to broadening participation in higher education, providing a life-long education base for our graduates.

Since July 2016, the IRU Vice Chancellors' Fellow has lead the Innovative Research Universities to address creatively student and graduate success through the research, design and implementation at scale, of strategic projects targeting employability and learning analytics. In appointing a second Fellow new areas of activity to improve student and graduate success will be identified.

The IRU Vice Chancellors' Fellowship entails:

* identifying existing good practice across the seven universities and elsewhere,
* challenging thinking among IRU members about future options for learning and teaching and the implications of these for student and graduate success,
* planning the sharing and scaling-up of that best practice among members as a starting point for further innovation, and
* leading the implementation of scalable outcomes focused projects supporting student and graduate success.

The IRU Vice-Chancellors’ Fellowship will continue to generate truly original and inventive models that set the IRU apart for its boldness in fulfilling the inclusiveness mission of IRU universities. Similarly, the work investigates and assesses relevant activities from other sectors and explore how these might be applied to improve student and graduate success.

The Fellow will continue to foster close ties with the University Innovation Alliance (UIA), a consortium of 11 US public Universities. The IRU has been granted ‘observer’ status with the UIA.

#### Concept

Stage One

The IRU Vice Chancellors' Fellow should assess performance, capability and opportunities within the IRU network in defined priority areas, to identify:

* key elements to supporting student transition success and long term employability;
* evidence which each institution currently applies to assess student outcomes, assessing gaps in data collection and measurement across the IRU network;
* current areas of strength and innovation in priority areas within the IRU network;
* key focus areas for sharing practice based on the assessment of current gaps and areas of strengths; and
* the actions required to share and scale up application of the identified practices.

Stage Two

Concurrently with Stage One, the IRU Fellow should explore creative opportunities beyond the work currently undertaken within the IRU network:

* investigate and document innovative approaches to student and graduate success being deployed overseas in comparable institutions;
* challenge thinking within IRU members about future options for learning and teaching and the implications of these for student and graduate success.

Stage Three

Based on the outcomes of Stage One and Two the Fellow is to:

* develop a plan to introduce and scale up across the IRU network the practices identified during Stage One and Two;
* lead the implementation; and
* develop criteria to evaluate project outcomes and continuous improvement across the network.

In doing so the Fellow must:

* foster deep collaboration across the IRU network
* ensure approaches are relevant for the breadth of students;
* enhance the IRU’s leading role in education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and
* enhance the IRU’s leading role in education delivered from regional Australia

#### Who we are looking for

The Fellowship is open to senior academic staff seeking the opportunity to establish themselves as a leader in their field.

Undertaking a two year appointment, you will have a passion for improving access to higher education. You will have an adaptable skill-set that will help you to deliver creative solutions to big problems. You should enjoy collaboration, excel in using evidence to support innovation for students from all backgrounds, and have exceptional negotiation and leadership skills.

Your understanding of the needs of future graduates in the Australian education sector, combined with your energy and passion for educational access, will help you to make a real difference by creating a new culture as the IRU Vice-Chancellors’ Fellow.

You will work closely with IRU Vice-Chancellors and Deputy Vice-Chancellors during the Fellowship, significantly developing your policy research and program delivery skills as a basis for future senior roles.

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