

WELCOME to this edition of ANU Agent News!

The newsletter is available exclusively to ANU agents at:

http://info.anu.edu.au/studyat/International_Office/getting_in/agents/index.asp

New issues will be available regularly and will contain information that is directly relevant to you and your work in representing the ANU. So please visit the site as often as possible for the most up to date news about Australia's National University.

FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DESK



The Australian Government is currently taking a close look at the nation's research and education policies through a review of the innovation system and a review of the tertiary education system. Currently both reviews are in full swing and ANU is making its contribution.

Earlier this year I gave a speech to the Australia New Zealand School of Government in which I argued that it is time to put in place enlightened policies that will reinvigorate and advance the Australian higher education sector in a way that is coherent, intelligent and supportive. If policies meet these criteria, inevitably, they will reveal that universities perform differently. Recognising differences and enabling each university to play to its strengths will result in a better range of quality options for students, and a more powerful research effort for Australia.

ANU occupies a unique place in the nation's research and education landscape. We were founded to advance the cause of learning and research for the nation, to enable Australia to take its place alongside the countries of the civilized world. That is a role we take seriously, and one we will seek to cement in the new policy framework.

Part of the unique role that ANU has is international. This year we have begun to see the International Alliance of Research Universities blossom. Global research programs are well underway, with ANU playing a leading role in the Security theme. Students from ANU will shortly be taking advantage of the first Global Summer Program, with the option to take courses in the Northern Summer at the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Tokyo, Yale or the National University of Singapore. In turn, ANU will be welcoming students from Alliance universities to Canberra for courses ranging from Artificial Intelligence, International Environment Policy through to Great Power Politics in Asia.

Exciting and interesting times lay ahead for ANU as we play a major role in national reforms while growing our international engagement.

Text and Photo: ANU Reporter, the magazine of The Australian National University

REMINDER ABOUT... COMMUNICATING WITH THE UNIVERSITY

We recognise that it is tempting, when busy, to contact a particular ANU staff member to help you with an urgent application-related issue or matter of follow-up. While we do very much like to hear from all our agent representatives, it is nevertheless important that proper protocols are followed in relation to applications processing and communication.

To ensure applications are handled as efficiently as possible, we require agents communicate directly with the ANU Admissions Office's dynamic enquiry management router (admiss.app@anu.edu.au) as the point of contact for *new* or *existing* applications. Agents are welcome to copy in an international student recruitment staff member, though, and if the situation is urgent and requires our involvement, together we can liaise with the appropriate areas to ensure an expedient and efficient outcome. *Separate* emails must *not* be sent to different University staff on the same application-related issue, as this causes confusion and delays in finalising application procedures.

RESEARCH STUDENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

A new 'value-add' for our valued research students

The Research Student Development Centre was established in March 2008 to assist the growing number of local and international research students at ANU. RSDC's programs enhance the unique experience the ANU offers international students, giving them an advantage that improves their employability and career readiness.

The RSDC aims to meet the professional development needs of PhD and MPhil students, by providing training in a range of skills to help them through their candidature, and to better equip them for life beyond the degree.

The Centre acts as an umbrella over the range of skills workshops and events offered by a variety of areas across campus. These include, for example, sessions on negotiating with supervisors, developing conference presentation skills, and using Word and other programs to complete a thesis. Broader skill development opportunities are available in areas such as grant applications, commercialisation and media liaison.

Teaching training, delivered in-house, is a cornerstone of RSDC. The popular semester-long Graduate Teaching Program is joined by several new offerings which contribute to the JANUS 'super' teaching program.

It is intended that research students who complete JANUS will gain credit towards a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education, providing them with a competitive edge in the higher education job market. Those students whose target destination is the private, public or not-for-profit sector will have developed sought after transferable presentation, group facilitation and leadership skills.

Each semester, the Pinnacle Program offers a small group of research students the opportunity to work alongside an academic staff member in running a course. Participation in this Program will give some research students experience in course design, assessment, and lecture delivery.

Further information is available at:

<http://researchstudents.anu.edu.au>



From left-to-right: Dr Margareta Olsson (Development Officer), Dr Trevor Vickers (Head), Ms Cheyne Morris (Administrator/Project Officer)

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Leading the way in bringing the US learning community model to Australia

'It is important to recognise that a university is more than a collection of research projects, degrees, students, teachers and researchers. Taking a holistic view of the ANU as a community – its role within the national capital and the nation, its campus, its traditions – education at the ANU could be reinvented to provide something unlike anything else available in Australia.' (ANU Quality Review, 2004: 96).

A learning community is a group of people who share common interests and who are actively engaged in learning together from each other.

During the course of a degree, students may spend a lot of time sitting in a classroom listening to lectures. The learning community approach recognises that students can learn a lot from each other, for example by collaborating on projects that link classroom theory with practice, and that partner students and staff on projects of mutual interest.

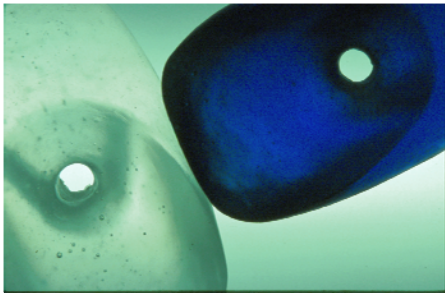
Learning community activities complement academic programs by exploring interdisciplinary themes and by engaging students with the wider community.

Current learning community projects at ANU include students and staff studying or interested in the following areas:

- Arts – the visual arts, music, performing arts, design and communications;
- Rhetoric – law, philosophy, politics, research, debating, critical analysis, and academic writing;
- Leadership – commerce, economics, management and leadership or a related discipline;
- Sustainability – environmental science, geography, sustainability sociology, management, political science and engineering;
- International – Asian Studies, languages and linguistics, international relations, international students.

Successful learning communities require effective coordination, resources and enthusiasm, and Bruce Hall has been outstanding as a driver in the success of this recent and fast growing learning initiative on campus.

SPOTLIGHT ON... LINGUISTICS



A lot of talk about linguistics

Linguistics is the scientific study of one of the most important and interesting forms of human communication – languages. A linguist is not simply someone who speaks more than one language; a true linguist seeks to understand the nature of language in all its forms. Linguists analyse languages, the way they are structured, the fundamental meanings of words, as well as how a language changes over the years and how it reflects the culture of its speakers.

Applied linguistics is a more specified field of the science, and investigates how understanding a language can be used in a variety of fields, including language acquisition, language in education, forensic speaker identification, speech

pathology, advertising and, of course, translation.

Academics and students at The Australian National University are currently working on a number of exciting projects in linguistics and applied linguistics, including a long-running program analysing Australian Indigenous languages, a project developing a machine-usable grammar dictionary of Indonesian, and a well-funded project utilising Forensic Speaker Recognition research, entitled 'Catching Criminals by their Voice'. Linguistic research is increasingly also being applied by health-care professionals, particularly in the areas of early childhood development, speech therapy, and psychology.

Linguistics and Applied Linguistics are available at ANU, both at undergraduate and graduate levels, and draw upon the University's unparalleled research and teaching expertise.

Undergraduate students interested in linguistics can major in both Linguistics and Applied Linguistics as part of the **Bachelor of Arts** degree. Units may also be taken as part of the **Bachelor of Languages** and **Bachelor of Asian and Pacific Studies**.

At the graduate level, the University offers a 1-year **Graduate Diploma in Arts (Specialisation: Linguistics)** and **Graduate Diploma in Applied Linguistics**. There are also the **Master of Applied Linguistics** and **Master of Linguistics** as well as a **Doctor of Philosophy** and a **Master of Philosophy** in both disciplines.

Graduates from linguistic and applied linguistic disciplines are finding employment in a diverse range of fields, from teaching languages, early childhood development, and language testing, to forensic investigation and translating and interpreting. Additionally, graduates interested in public sector employment are discovering exciting roles in key governmental departments dealing with immigration, international affairs, education and language planning and policy, which require an in-depth understanding of the important role that languages play within culture and society. Of course, then there are those linguists who just can't get enough of ANU's excellent research opportunities and resources and build successful academic careers in these ever-growing, always fascinating disciplines.

Further information is available at:

<http://linguistics.anu.edu.au>

STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE

Trips away, social BBQs, snow-shoeing at Thredbo... What more could students want?

At ANU, we make sure plenty of activities and events are organised for our international students throughout the year.

On 26 July 2008, ANU congratulated its graduating international students with a swinging Valedictory Celebration. Lovely speeches from two graduating students, tasty snacks and drinks and scores of happy faces.

International students at ANU get the chance to experience Canberra and its surrounds through a comprehensive program of activities. Recently, students and staff participated in a leisurely bike-ride around Lake Burley Griffin, followed by a sunny BBQ lunch in the park. Excursions further afield included a snow-shoeing expedition up Mount Kosciuszko, a chance to experience some breath-taking scenery, whilst getting some good exercise at the same time!



RE-DESIGNED DEGREES IN ASIAN AND PACIFIC STUDIES



Asian and Pacific Studies: bridging seas of misunderstanding in our region

Former British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, once described modern humanity as being akin to 'islands shouting at each other over seas of misunderstanding.' For many years, the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific has worked tirelessly to help bridge these seas and has developed a reputation as Australia's premiere repository of teaching and research on the important issues facing our region.

Asian Studies graduates find exciting careers in regional development and aid, policing and peacekeeping, international business, intelligence and security, tourism, culture and the arts, as well as foreign affairs and international relations. Some of the more unusual career opportunities that have emerged for ANU Asian Studies graduates include interpreter for a Korean basketball team, movie location

scout in Southeast Asia and of course, for one of our most famous alumni, Prime Minister of Australia.

For a number of years, the College has offered a unique suite of programs to both undergraduate and graduate students interested in developing their linguistic skills as well as an in-depth knowledge of the many factors that shape the past, present and future of our region.

Traditionally, the Bachelor of Asian Studies was a three-year coursework program, consisting of a language and non-language major, and an optional fourth year, during which the student would study in the country of their specialisation. While this program has yielded very positive results, recent plans to transform and modernise the undergraduate programs are now culminating.

The first phase of the planned transformation was the introduction of an undergraduate Pacific Studies program, the first of its kind at any Australian university. Upon commencing her role as Pacific Studies Convenor, Dr Katerina Teaiwa referred to a 2003 Australian Senate report, which made 'a passionate call for more education in Australia about Pacific cultures, lest Australia suffer a "dramatic loss" of influence in the region.'

The Pacific Studies program has been designed to address the shortage of knowledge surrounding some of Asia and Australia's most important regional neighbours.

With the Pacific Studies curriculum under way, the Bachelor of Asian Studies will now become the **Bachelor of Asian and Pacific Studies** and some important changes will be made to the curriculum and structure of the degree. Students will choose to major in one of the following languages: *Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Urdu, Sanskrit, Thai and Vietnamese*. The language major will be complemented with a contextual major, which will provide students with a broad and in-depth knowledge of their chosen area. The contextual majors available are: *Chinese Studies, Indonesian Studies, Japanese Studies, Northeast Asian Studies, Pacific Studies, Security Studies, South Asian Studies and Southeast Asian Studies*.

The ANU College of Asia and the Pacific has always operated on the premise that in order to develop true mastery of a language and the ability to confidently negotiate a culture, a period of in-country experience is crucial.

Under the new curriculum, students are given greater opportunities to fulfil some of their course requirements through specially designed intensive in-country study abroad programs in the areas of their interest.

Furthermore, upon completion of their Bachelor of Asian and Pacific Studies, qualifying students may also be invited to augment their studies with the **Graduate Diploma in Asia-Pacific Studies**, a one-year study abroad program which further develops the student's understanding and fluency in a regional language and context of the region. This option may also be available to students enrolled in the **Bachelor of Security Analysis (Asia-Pacific)**.

Whether a student is interested in dissecting Sun Tzu's 'Art of War' or are more concerned with the latest developments in J-Pop, ANU's Bachelor of Asian and Pacific Studies is sure to help them open windows to a wider world, and doors to many opportunities.

COMMISSION PAYMENTS

In order to process agent commission payments in a more timely and efficient manner, a new email address has been established and will be monitored by International Student Recruitment staff.

Please send commission invoices and other supporting documentation to: Commission.Payments@anu.edu.au.

Please note, the University processes commission payments twice per year – after **31 March** and **31 August** – and invoices received for the respective intakes before these dates will be held over until such time as payment can be made.

NEW! MASTER OF DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

Training the leaders of tomorrow

Today, the demands for diplomatic solutions to the world's problems are greater than ever. Modern diplomacy involves foreign ministries and participants from other government departments and non-government organisations – all of whom need finely tuned analytical and negotiating skills.

From 2009, the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy at ANU is offering a graduate program in Diplomatic Studies. The Master of Diplomatic Studies (MDS) is offered to students who have graduated from a well-recognised university, with a Master degree related to International Affairs, Strategic Studies, International Law, Public Policy, Asia-Pacific Studies, Middle Eastern & Central Asian Studies, International Economics, International Environment and Business. An excellent, 'distinction' level achievement is also required for entry.

The degree is aimed at those students interested, or currently working, in international sections of government ministries, international government organisations (such as the UN, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund) as well non-government organisations (such as the Red Cross).

Applications for January 2009 start will be accepted from 2 July and close on 30 September 2008.

Further information is available at:

<http://apcd.anu.edu.au> or by contacting executiveofficer.APCD@anu.edu.au

MEET THE ANU ADMISSIONS TEAM

Just what makes ANU such a great place to work for its Admissions staff members?

Fourteen staff members strong, the ANU Admissions Office works year-round to facilitate the commencement of studies for some of the world's finest and brightest students. It's no easy task, with ANU's popularity soaring to new heights in recent years and receiving a corresponding number of undergraduate, graduate coursework and research applications.

Despite the hectic pace, the staff still have time to reflect on what makes working in an administrative environment like Admissions so enjoyable. One of the staff, Rick, says he loves the 'family atmosphere' of the office. 'We get great support from our colleagues, and we also have such great management – a real plus!' For Colette, it's the variety of her work that she loves the most. 'Working in Admissions is great because of the pace of the environment – and the diversity in the tasks we perform.' While Lorri likes the work/life balance and feels that it's the key benefit that ANU student administration provides. 'ANU is a place that I can balance my dual responsibilities as an employee and a mother – two of the most important jobs!'

The Admissions staff manager, Sarah Hawkins, says 'There's certainly never a dull moment! I don't know what's more challenging – keeping up with the work, or keeping up with the staff. They're hard workers but there's always time for a laugh too. The nature of the work is really fulfilling as well; what could be better than telling someone they are going to get to fulfil their academic dreams here at ANU?'



REMINDER ABOUT... THE APPLICATION FEES POLICY

The University expects that application fees are paid in full and at the time of application lodgement, but there is provision for the fees to be waived in certain situations.

Fees may be waived when:

- **ANU Staff:** A delegated ANU staff member may waive the fee at an exhibition or scheduled student interview *for paper-based applications where he or she believes the candidate to be serious about enrolling at the University and the also highly likely to be made an offer;*
- **Apply Online:** An appointed ANU Agent submits an application on behalf of the candidate via ANU Apply Online;
- **Alumni:** ANU graduates (alumni) need not pay the application fee when they apply to the University. This applies to both paper-based and online applications.

ANU does *not* permit 'blanket-waivers' and agents are advised to factor this into their own marketing campaigns.

IMMERSED IN ICT

Playing computer games has led one ANU student to a PhD and a bright future in ICT

Torben Schou has turned an off-the-shelf Nintendo Wii controller into an inexpensive virtual reality (VR) pointer system, and in the process won the ACT Tertiary Student Project iAward for 2008.

A Canberra native, Torben wanted to explore how computer game technology could enrich VR as part of his Bachelor of Software Engineering with a major in computer animation at The Australian National University (ANU).

He used the Source engine from the game Half-Life 2 to create a detailed VR version of the ANU campus.

He then redesigned the logic supporting the Nintendo Wii wand – designed for use within the limited range of movement on a television screen – so that it would interface with a fully 180 degree environment.

The project in the Wedge VR theatre at the ANU College of Engineering and Computer Studies was a success.

'People found that the high-quality graphics and the physics system [which influenced how users interacted with the space] were some of the most engrossing elements,' Torben says.

The young researcher says his work demonstrates that it's possible to create cheap VR technology, which could have great potential for training scenarios or interactive entertainment.

As for his potential, Torben is in the early days of a PhD at ANU which he says will deepen his interest in interactive technology, perhaps even exploring how creative technologies can respond to human interests and emotions.

Whatever way this research unfurls, Torben says he wants to keep working on projects that will provide scope for his creative side.

'I used to be keen to get into special effects work on movies, but these days I'm leaning more towards the computer game industry. I'd love a job in either of those fields, or perhaps even a hybrid of the two, given how they're slowly merging.'



NEW! SOCIAL RESEARCH DEGREES

Social research degrees meeting worldwide demand

The Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute (ADSRI) has introduced two Social Research coursework degrees this year that have proved popular with graduate students.

The **Master of Social Research** and the **Graduate Certificate in Social Research** are designed to meet the growing worldwide demand for expertise in high-level social research. The skills learnt equip graduates for many varied roles in government, non-government and private organisations in both developed and developing countries.

Students can specialise in demography, social development and policy or social research methods in the one-year Master of Social Research. Graduates with a high level of performance in this degree also have a strong foundation for PhD studies.

The Graduate Certificate in Social Research is a one-semester degree. Students choose subjects according to their needs and interests.

Subjects offered include social science of the internet (which is available online), social research design and practice, social policy, development policy, population policy, qualitative research design and analysis, survey design and analysis, statistics, forecasting and projections, population analysis, longitudinal analysis, reproductive health, low fertility, education, labour force, gender, migration, health and population ageing.

ADSRI can design short courses around the needs of particular groups, from Australia or overseas, and also offers individual subjects to people interested in enhancing their work performance and skill base without completing a degree program.

Further information is available at:

<http://adsri.anu.edu.au/study>

STUDENT PROFILE: GREGORY XU (SINGAPORE)



What made study at ANU the perfect choice for Gregory Xu?

When asked why he came to ANU to undertake his Master degree, Gregory quoted many reasons. 'The ANU Law School is internationally renowned for its government and commercial law expertise. ANU international student fees are some of the most affordable, and its extensive selection of courses also meant that I could tailor my degree to achieve my intended career and educational outcomes.'

Gregory, who is currently working as a Legal Executive for a top-tier commercial law firm in Singapore, says that the fact that he was studying at ANU was well received by his employer during his interview. He also feels that this qualification will open doors for him, should he decide to apply for work internationally.

'Studying at ANU is offering many benefits,' Gregory says. 'ANU's excellent international rankings mean that my qualifications will be recognised throughout the world. In addition, ANU also acknowledges that graduate students have many personal commitments. Accordingly, although most classes in the Master program are conducted face-to-face, there are some courses that can be online or in a combination of face-to-face and online delivery. The

careful design of assessment tasks ensures that the academic rigour is not lost.'

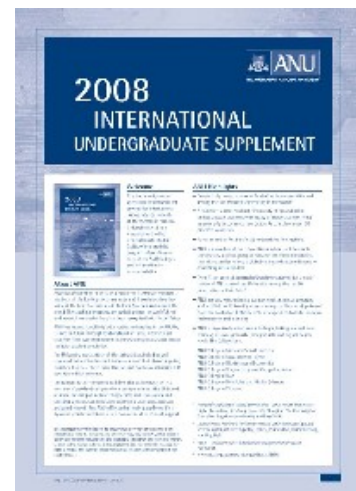
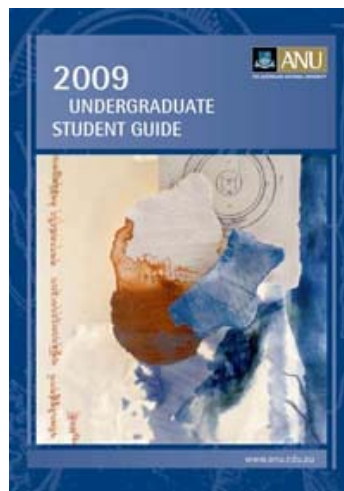
WHICH GUIDE IS THE 'INTERNATIONAL' GUIDE...?

Several agents have asked over the past couple of months whether ANU has discontinued producing an International Undergraduate Prospectus, and are wondering which guide is now relevant for international students. The answer is... BOTH!

In order to streamline and standardise the recruitment and admissions information given to all prospective students, ANU now produces just one **Undergraduate Student Guide**, but has also produced a small and targeted **International Undergraduate Supplement**, which includes international-specific information such as the hard-copy application form, fees, admission and English language requirements.

It's very important that these two guides are used together when counselling international applicants.

And don't be confused by the 2009 and 2008 years – we're just catching up and will shortly produce the 2009 version of the international supplement!



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