Report to DDoGS meeting Perth
7-8 May 2011
ALTC-DDoS Pathways Project
ALTC Coursework Masters Project

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The Australian National University
ALTC-DDoGS Project details

• Funding $10,000 from ALTC for one year
• Project Leader: Margaret Kiley
• Project Manager: Christine Kertesz
• Project Analyst: Jim Cumming
• Reference Committee: Helene Marsh (JCU), Paul Calder (Flinders), Max King (Monash), Madeline Banda (AUT)
Aim

• To answer the following questions:
  – What are the various pathways that potential candidates take to, through, out of, and from their doctoral program?
  – What is the exit point and qualification if they want to leave a PhD program without completing?
ALTC I have done a coursework masters project...

- Funding $200,000 from ALTC for 2 years
- Project Leader: Margaret Kiley
- Project Manager: Christine Kertesz
- Project Analyst: Jim Cumming
- Reference Committee: Nigel Palmer (Unimelb), John Willison (Adelaide), Angela Brew (Macquarie)
- Evaluator: Rachael Pitt (La Trobe)
Aims to…

• Gain a better understanding of the research education components of coursework masters programs

• Identify what sorts of coursework masters programs provide an effective, supportable entry to a research program in Australia
DDoGS Project Activities

• Overseas models of entry to doctorates
• Survey of Australian universities re entry requirements
• Sample of Australian universities
  – Interview the Dean of Graduate Studies
  – Collect data from each sample university’s web site regarding re relevant information
Sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masters Project</th>
<th>Additional for DDoGS Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go8</td>
<td>UNSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRU</td>
<td>JCU</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATN</td>
<td>QUT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>ECU</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monash</td>
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<td>Flinders</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UniSA</td>
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<td>Wollongong</td>
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# Overseas universities

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<th>University Name 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Universiti Putra Malaysia</td>
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<td>NZ</td>
<td>Otago</td>
<td>Victoria at Wellington</td>
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</tbody>
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Findings

• masters degree (e.g. in proposed discipline or by research)
• research experience (e.g. publications emanating from research)
• academic achievement (e.g. honours, awards)
• research proposal (e.g. statement of intentions/interests/goals)
• language proficiency (e.g. English)
Note

• A number of universities beyond Australia:
  – identify only disciplinary specific PhD entry requirements (or in addition to general entry requirements); and
  – refer to ‘graduate studies entry requirements’ (e.g. that embrace Masters and Professional Doctorate as well as PhD by research programs)
Australian university survey

• Twenty (51%) seek evidence of:
  – academic achievement / ability / writing (e.g. honours, higher degree, advanced knowledge)
  – research performance / readiness / potential (e.g. research training, professional / work experience)
Other

- Eleven (55%) provide exit credit towards other qualifications but this does not appear to be standard practice in seven (35%).
- Six (30%) have special consideration for non-traditional candidates and further five (25%) provide targeted equity support. Seven (35%) have no formal strategies.
Other (cont)

• Twelve (60%) have courses, workshops and online facilities, with three (15%) mandating completion of a research methods program concurrently with the degree. Four (20%) have no specific training

• Thirteen (65%) have online support for part-time candidates. Four (20%) have no formal support
Interviews: Only two completed but...

- Already clear that there is increasing variation e.g. Neumann & Tan study indicates
  - Australian median age on graduation is 37
  - At one Go8 median was 33 with 14.7% graduates in Hum/ Soc Sci and 49.4% in Sci
  - At an IRU age was 40 with 47.4% in Hum/ Soc Sci and only 23.9% in Sci.
Stay tuned for…

• Results of further interviews and integration with *I’ve done a coursework masters, now I’d like to do a doctorate: Can I?*
• Offers of being involved?
• Provision of any other data?
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Disclaimer

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