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. The Fellowship is to lead the IRU Universities to address creatively student and graduate success in the context of radical changes to the nature of future work. This will entail:

- identifying existing good practice across the six 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 implementation and scaling up of those areas of practice across member universities.

The IRU Vice-Chancellors’ Fellow will lead the program of work that researches, designs and implements at scale leading-edge approaches to student and graduate success. This work should 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 should investigate and assess relevant activities from other sectors and explore how these might be applied to improve student and graduate success.

The Fellow will establish 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 - 2016

The IRU Fellow should assess performance, capability and opportunities within the IRU network, identifying:

- key elements to achieving student learning outcomes from pre-enrolment to graduation leading to readiness for employment over coming decades;
- 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 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 – 2016

Concurrently with Stage One, the IRU Fellow should explore creative opportunities beyond the work currently undertaken within the IRU network. This should include, but not be limited to, the work of the UIA as well as exploring what can be learned and applied from other sectors:

- investigate and document innovative approaches to student and graduate success being deployed overseas in comparable institutions;
- identify future expectations of graduates including for graduates to be entrepreneurial and innovative;
• assess and benchmark the IRU network against the work being done by the UIA group—identifying areas for immediate action to bring the IRU network’s student and graduate success measures into alignment with the outcomes from the UIA group; and

• challenge thinking within IRU members about future options for learning and teaching and the implications of these for student and graduate success.

**Stage Three – 2017 onwards**

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 assess project outcomes and continuous improvement across the network.

In doing so the Fellow must:

• 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 an initial 3 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.