



The Teaching-Research Nexus

A guide for academics and policy-makers
in higher education

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Examples from Australian universities

Embedding the TRN into Academic Induction Programs

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Level: (ie, institution/faculty/department/school/program)

- This initiative crosses all levels as it aims to encourage graduates to engage in teaching and learning at various leadership levels at the university

Type of initiative:

- Professional Development

Brief description of the initiative:

The Learning and Teaching Unit (LTU) conduct a seven day induction program that is mandatory for all new academic staff who are at level B or C. As part of the *Foundations in University Learning and Teaching* (FULT) program, new academics to this university are encouraged to think about how the teaching-research nexus can manifest in their teaching. The LTU use the FULT program as a forum to promote their belief that increased student engagement is one of the important outcomes of teaching and research links. In addition to discussing the TRN and its benefits with the program cohort, the LTU invite students to come and speak to staff. The students are asked to describe a learning experience they have had during their degree in which they felt a high level of engagement. The FULT cohort will often hear students speak positively about hearing about a lecturer's research interests, or being involved in a small scale research activity during a tutorial or laboratory. Evaluation of the program undertaken by the LTU indicates that academics think differently about their teaching commitments after looking at the learning experience from a student engagement perspective. The program is also an opportunity for the LTU to encourage academics to consider researching their own teaching practice. After the FULT program is completed, the LTU get the cohort together occasionally to discuss new initiatives in teaching and learning at the university, so as to continue the community of discussion and practice around teaching and learning issues.

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