



The Teaching-Research Nexus

A guide for academics and policy-makers
in higher education

www.trnexus.edu.au

Examples from Australian universities

Incorporating Research into Masters Subjects

Associate Professor Philomena Murray
The University of Melbourne

Broad discipline area:

Arts and Humanities

- Political Science

Year level:

- Postgraduate coursework

TRN strategy:

- Draw on personal research as you design and teach courses
- Design learning activities around contemporary research issues
- Infuse teaching with the values of researchers

Teaching and learning context:

- Reflective learning
- Curriculum design

Brief description of the initiative:

The academic uses papers from a recent conference to engage her students in contemporary research issues. This also allows her to present complementary and often starkly different perceptions. Conference papers are included in the reading pack for the *Europe and Asia: Competing Hegemons?* course, taken in the Masters in International Politics program, with typical enrolment numbers of 15. The Associate Professor asks a colleague to give the students a presentation in which he takes an Asian perspective on Europe, and she also presents during the same class using a European perspective on Asia. She finds this experience to be a valuable way of letting the students share in some of the recent research that is taking place, and also gives them the opportunity to comment on the presentations and materials. This course was awarded a Jean Monnet Union grant for a teaching module in July 2006 (12,000 Euro).

This is an initiative that may be useful to academics of other disciplines.

For further details:

Philomena Murray
The University of Melbourne
pbmurray@unimelb.edu.au

