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News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

Stirling plans to waive PhD dissertation (THES, 17 Aug) – “PhD students will be able to obtain doctorates without completing the traditional 80,000-word dissertation in what is claimed to be a pioneering initiative by Stirling University. Stirling said this week that it would offer PhD students the chance to submit a series of linked peer-reviewed journal articles instead of the standard thesis.” [more](#)

Goodbye blue skies? (THES, 10 Aug) – “Concerns that academics may not win research grants unless they can demonstrate the future commercial benefits of their work have intensified.” [more](#)

Scholar slates 'dodgy' criteria (THES, 10 Aug) – “A leading Cambridge scholar has published a stinging attack on the "audit society", which he says is destroying originality and honesty in research.” [more](#)

A change of direction in Sweden's higher education policy (Courrier International.com 07 Aug) – “Anders Flodström, director of the Swedish University Authority, has proposed to cut the number of Swedish colleges and universities from 14 to five.” [more](#)

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Bishop calls for total overhaul of governing bodies (Campus Review, 21 Aug: 1, 5) – “Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop has flagged a paradigm shift for university councils, rejecting claims that the new governance protocols will be more prescriptive than corporation laws”.

VCs vent fury over Chubb comments (Campus Review, 21 Aug, 3, 6) – “Vice-chancellors have hit back at comments by ANU chief Professor Ian Chubb regarding the 'disproportionate' allocation of research money to

universities outside the Group of Eight”.

Pay HECS debts to tackle skills crisis: ATN (Campus Review, 21 Aug, 5) – “The Australian Technology Network proposes paying the HECS debts of graduates who go on to work in areas where skill shortages are most crippling”.

Subsidising internationals in the national interest (Campus Review, 21 Aug, 9) – “London think-tank is calling for taxpayers to subsidise all international students who study in the UK arguing it is in the national interest to do so”.

Media Release: Grants to support RQF implementation (DEST, 21 Aug) – “The Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, today announced the allocation of over \$23 million in grants for Australian universities to assist them with the implementation of the Research Quality Framework (RQF).” [more](#)

Media Release: Higher Education Endowment Fund – Further \$1 billion Investment (DEST, 21 Aug) – “The Australian Government has today announced a further \$1 billion investment in the centrepiece of this year’s Budget, the Higher Education Endowment Fund. This brings to \$6 billion the initial investment in this unprecedented, perpetual growth fund for our universities.” [more](#)

New Publications

AUQA, AUQA News, August – This issue reports on the activities and publications of AUQA and on AUQF 2007. To access this newsletter, navigate to <http://www.auqa.edu.au/aboutauqa/news/index.shtml>

OECD, 10 August 2007, Assessing Higher Education Learning Outcomes: Summary of a First Meeting of Experts – “For some aspects of higher education outputs and outcomes, such as the type and number of degrees awarded, the research outputs produced or the labour-market returns to higher education studies, numerous indicators exist at both national and international levels. However, for other aspects, and most notably for the learning outcomes of higher education, available data are much more limited.”
To access the report navigate to http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,3373,en_2649_37455_1_1_1_1_37455,00.html

OECD, 10 August 2007, Assessing Higher Education Learning Outcomes: Summary of the Second Meeting of Experts – “The main purpose of the second meeting of experts was to consider existing approaches to the assessment of higher education learning outcomes and to explore the design of a study to assess the feasibility of pursuing such work in an international comparative context.”
To access the report navigate to http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,3373,en_2649_37455_1_1_1_1_37455,00.html

CHERI, 16 August 2007, Research Report: The Changing Academic Profession in the UK: Setting the Scene – “This research report provides an initial analysis of issues being investigated in a current international study, the Changing Academic Profession, supported by Universities UK and other national higher education bodies. The research is examining the nature and extent of the changes experienced by the academic profession in recent years, the reasons for these changes and their consequences.”
To access this publication, navigate to <http://bookshop.universitiesuk.ac.uk/show/show.aspx?id=268>

New Conference Listings

FOR A FULL LISTING OF UP AND COMING EVENTS FOLLOW THIS [LINK](#)

Asia-Pacific Quality Network 2008, Conference and Annual General Meeting, Future of Quality Assurance in Asia Pacific, Cooperation Amidst Diversity, Tokyo, 19-22 February 2008 – Deadline of Call for Contributions is 28 September, 2007. The sub-themes of this conference are:

* Mutual recognition and standards;

- * Quality assurance of QA agencies; and
- * Respect of diversity and network activity.

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.the-convention.co.jp/apqn2008/aboutconference/index.html>

Universities Australia International Education Conference – *Looking forward: the future of international education and our place in the landscape*, Brisbane, 25-26 October 2007 – “The conference will consider the future of international education and the changing role of and expectations for staff in universities.”

To find out more, navigate to

http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/content.asp?page=/policies_programs/staff_dev/index.htm

FREE TRIAL SERVICE

HE Info is a weekly electronic information service produced by the [Centre for Higher Education Management & Policy](#) at the [University of New England](#), Armidale, Australia. The purpose is to provide regular updates on the News, Publications, Events and other items of interest relating to Higher Education Policy particularly in, but not restricted to Australia. We do not claim to present all items of relevance but we do hope to achieve a good coverage of the main issues.

The service is currently in its developmental phase, so if you have any comments relating to content or if you would like to be added to, or removed from, the mailing list for the new issue alert please email chemp@une.edu.au

All information presented in each issue has been accessed from a variety of sources. Every effort has been made to acknowledge these where appropriate.

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