

Post-Conference Workshop: Engaging with industry to improve graduate employability

Sydney | Wednesday 3 August 2016

More than 30 per cent of university graduates fail to secure full-time employment four months out. It is not enough to blame tough economic times. Employers say that graduates do not arrive with the hard and soft skills they need. Overall, employers say that they would hire more graduates if applicants were better prepared. Employers also say that degrees are too silo-d and thereby fail to set graduates up to accommodate change and digital evolution of careers.

A national program of research funded by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching sought-out the voices of employers, through surveys and in-depth interviews. This data reveals what university employability strategies work in the eyes of employers. It also reveals how employers think universities should change to better prepare graduates.

By attending this workshop, delegates will gain an in-depth understanding of what employers expect from graduates and how they think universities should change their approaches to supporting employability. The key take-aways are practice with tools and resources, which are also loaded on USBs for each delegate to use over and over again, as well as to share with colleagues.

- Apply industry perspectives to improving employability
- Boost graduate employment outcomes
- Develop more industry-relevant curricula
- Create authentic assessment
- Align the university in whole-of-institution employability solutions
- Engage employers in university units
- Extend networks within and beyond the university

Workshop Trainer:

Dr Shelley Kinash

Director, Learning and Teaching

Bond University

PROGRAMME

8:30 Registration and Welcome Tea/Coffee

9:00 Session 1: What the research tells us

- Discrepancy in perspectives
- Employers dissatisfied
- Postgraduates pessimistic

10:30 Morning Break

11:00 Session 2: Industry relevant employability strategies

- Work experience
- Extra and co-curricular
- Networking

12:30 Networking Lunch

13:30 Session 3: Embedding employability in curriculum

- Develop industry relevance
- Create authentic assessment
- Engage employees

15:00 Afternoon Tea

15:30 Session 4: Strategic planning and goal-setting

- Boost graduate employability outcomes
- Align the university
- External networks

17:00 End of Workshop