Carrick Showcase: Enhancing Doctoral Students’ Graduate Attribute and Career Development

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Providing doctoral students with structured opportunities that enhance their graduate attribute and career development during their candidature is a relatively recent activity in countries where coursework has not traditionally been part of research higher degree programs (Borthwick & Wissler, 2003; Cryer, 1998; Gilbert, et al., 2004). This showcase, sponsored by the Carrick Institute, will outline two innovative programs that are designed to enhance doctoral students’ graduate attribute and career development. The UWA Postgraduate Teaching Internship Scheme and the Research Student Virtual Portfolio (RSVP™) won Carrick Awards for Programs that Enhance Student Learning in the Postgraduate Education category.

The UWA Postgraduate Teaching Internship Scheme is a year long program designed to prepare doctoral students (24 interns annually) to teach in higher education and compliments their research training. Interns participate in a comprehensive professional development program (paid) that introduces them to teaching and learning while concurrently engaging in a planned program of teaching experiences. RSVP™ is an educational, career development package designed to develop research students’ graduate attributes (Manathunga et al., 2007). Through this package, students have access to systematic career development tools that go beyond a focus on the PhD project itself. It provides a flexible, time-effective process for students and advisors to implement plans for a research student’s acquisition of key interdisciplinary graduate attributes highly sought after by employers. In this showcase, the programs will be described and illustrated with feedback presented from multiple sources that are evidence of their success.

References available on request.