The B Factor Project: Understanding academic staff beliefs about graduate skills

Participant Information

About the project

Beliefs and attitudes about learning and teaching, particularly among academics who teach or assess undergraduate or postgraduate student coursework, play a major role in the success or otherwise of institutional strategies to develop graduate skills. Through a survey of academics in 16 Australian universities, the project aims to better understand staff beliefs and their impact on institutional efforts to integrate graduate skills across disciplines. Survey results will provide valuable insights to the higher education sector to review and, where needed, modify approaches to the integration of graduate skills within curricula.

The project is a collaborative effort involving four universities—CQUniversity Australia (lead institution), RMIT University, Murdoch University and the University of New South Wales—in partnership with 12 other Australian universities. The two-year project is funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (formerly the Carrick Institute). For more information, visit the project website at: http://bfactor.cqu.edu.au/

Your participation

We value your input; however, participation is entirely voluntary. By completing and submitting the survey, your consent to participate will be assumed. Your decision to complete the survey will not be recorded nor reported, and so your responses are confidential. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

If you decide to participate, simply open the invitation to participate and click on the survey link, or open the survey at the end of this Participant Information sheet.

How survey results are disseminated

Project results will be disseminated in line with the project team’s agreement with the Australian Learning and Teaching Council:

- One global report (comparative analysis using aggregated data) will be disseminated to the participating universities then published on the project website
- Individual university reports (aggregated data) will be distributed to participating universities. (Each university will disseminate the findings.)
- Four forums (one in each of four capital cities) for targeted staff from the participating universities
- One national symposium for the higher education sector, industry/government bodies and employers, and
- Scholarly journal articles and conference papers.

1 CQUniversity, Charles Darwin University, Curtin University, Griffith University, La Trobe University, Murdoch University, RMIT University, Southern Cross University, Swinburne University, University of New England, University of New South Wales, University of Queensland, University of South Australia, University of Southern Queensland, University of the Sunshine Coast and University of Wollongong.
The project team

**Project Leader**

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How survey information is managed

In accordance with ethics approval for the project, survey data will be analysed using computerised quantitative and qualitative systems and will be stored electronically and securely. Access to data will be restricted to the researchers and authorised support personnel who are required to maintain confidentiality. Survey responses cannot be tracked to individuals and so anonymity is protected. Documents will be stored confidentially and disposed of in line with the respective university’s policies on information management.

Only aggregated survey data will be reported and reports will be in a form that protects individual anonymity. CQUniversity Australia, UNSW, RMIT, Murdoch University and the Australian Learning and Teaching Council share joint ownership of project reports. Project information will not be used for commercial purposes.

Although some team members are senior managers within their respective universities, they have no direct reporting relationships with academic teaching staff and no access to information that could identify individual participants.

Do you have a question?

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the project, please contact the Project Manager, Anne Lawson, on 07 4930 6794 or by email on a.w.lawson@cqu.edu.au.

To open the survey, click here: [http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB2286VUVXBHX](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB2286VUVXBHX)

If you wish to express a concern about the project, contact the Director, Office of Research, CQUniversity Australia, by telephone on 07 4923 2607 or by email at: research-enquiries@cqu.edu.au. Information about research-related complaints is in CQU’s Code of Conduct for Research.

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