Welcome
As we conclude another successful round of offshore graduation ceremonies, it seems a perfect time to reflect on the progress we have made over the year, and the continued teamwork that goes into making these events such a huge success, for students and staff alike. I hope that this new Transnational Education newsletter will provide a useful way to highlight these and other events, to share information and to keep each other informed about new developments and initiatives related to our offshore programs and partners. I wish you all the best for the rest of the year and look forward to our ongoing collaborations.

Dr Madeleine Reeve
Pro Vice-Chancellor
International and Development Portfolio

RMIT University and international programs
More than 65,000 students study at RMIT. Of these students, over 10,000 study in programs delivered through our partners outside of Australia, in countries such as Singapore, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. RMIT University has formed close partnerships with universities and educational providers in these countries. Currently almost 60 award programs are delivered through these international partnerships, with some programs including a period of study in Australia. RMIT has built a worldwide reputation for excellence in professional and vocational education and research, and a vibrant alumni community now stretches across more than 100 countries.

News on offshore graduations
In addition to RMIT’s Melbourne graduation ceremony in December each year, graduations are conducted in a range of locations, including China, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. The offshore graduations held in August and September this year included over 1,800 students in Singapore, 668 students in Hong Kong and 149 students in Malaysia. This is an overall increase from 2007, reflecting the growing success of RMIT’s offshore partnership programs. Congratulations to all the partners and RMIT staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to bring about these successful events, and to all the students who have attained such high educational achievements. RMIT wishes all these students every success as they build their careers.

Partnership manager model
In mid 2008 RMIT launched a new model for the management of our offshore partnership programs—the partnership management model. This is an exciting new initiative that will provide improved efficiencies in the management of our offshore award programs. Central to the model is the appointment of partnership managers who undertake a broad project management role that includes monitoring key program-related activities, coordinating contractual matters and acting as a primary contact point for non-academic communications.

As well as the partnership managers, key academic and administrative roles have been defined as part of this model. These include:

- Heads of schools, who will continue to have overall responsibility for each academic program.
- Academic program managers, with responsibility for all academic matters related to individual programs and their delivery.
- Delivery project managers, with key administrative responsibilities, including acting as the primary liaison point at RMIT on academic and student administration matters for specific programs.
- Quality assurance consultants, with responsibility for advising on program quality assurance requirements and undertaking quality assurance reviews when required.

It is anticipated that this new system will lead to a range of benefits, including greater clarity in communications between partners and RMIT staff. Communication on university level matters will continue to be via the Pro Vice-Chancellor International and Development.

Launch of new RMIT brand
In September RMIT launched a fresh new visual identity to be adopted across the University. The new branding will enhance the University’s reputation and visibility through clear and consistent presentation of the RMIT brand to internal and external audiences alike. It is a dynamic new look that acknowledges RMIT’s long history and at the same time projects a sense of our vision for the future. We look forward to sharing and implementing this new brand direction with our partners over the coming months.
Global Business Development

RMIT’s Global Business Development is a central university services unit that provides expertise and support in identifying and managing education and training opportunities and building partnerships both locally and internationally. The unit is the gateway for industry alliances through its business portal. The group incorporates a team of highly trained and specialised professionals dedicated to the management of educational programs delivered internationally.

Working closely with RMIT’s schools, academic colleges and key central service areas, the group is strategically positioned to provide offshore partners with a central point of communication at RMIT for the management of programs. This helps to support offshore partner relationships and the achievement of quality educational outcomes in the award programs RMIT offers around the world. The group also works to identify potential partners that complement RMIT’s strategic vision and educational goals, and provides services encompassing market analysis and opportunity assessment, project development, contract negotiation and compliance, and performance monitoring.

TRIM file for all signed documents

The University has adopted a secure, streamlined electronic document system for all contracts and management documents. Transnational partners will notice documents with code numbers such as CON/2007/XXX. This allows for fast-tracking and quick access to documents and will enable us to respond more quickly to any of your queries.

Student information guides and procedure manuals

Over the past year RMIT has been working in consultation with our offshore partners to develop a set of comprehensive manuals that outline all relevant RMIT policies and procedures, and provide useful administrative information for students and staff. The manuals comprise a Student Information Guide and a Student and Procedures Administration Manual, tailored to each partner’s needs but retaining a uniform and recognisable style and layout for ease of use. Both documents will be edited annually to reflect any changes to RMIT policy and procedures.

When new RMIT policies are developed or existing policies are modified, changes will be communicated and negotiated through the annual updates to these manuals, to ensure a smooth transition from the old to the new. Impending changes will also be communicated individually to our partners as they arise, such as the recent streamlining of transcript provision for offshore students and changes to student appeals processes.

We are excited to be working as a team to create these useful resources that will act to simplify and strengthen our ongoing relationships.

What’s on RMIT’s website?

GBD
www.rmit.edu.au/gbd
Information for International Students
www.rmit.edu.au/international
Scholarships website
www.rmit.edu.au/international/scholarships
RMIT University Alumni information
www.alumni.rmit.edu.au
RMIT offshore partners
www.rmit.edu.au/international/offshore-programs

Newsletter Feedback

We are keen to receive your feedback on the information provided in Transnational Education News. Please send any comments or queries to:

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For contact details of RMIT staff holding key roles as part of the partnership management model please visit
www.rmit.edu.au/gbd/tne/pmcontacts