

NMIT Higher Education

Applied Educational Research for Quality Improvement Plan 2013-2016

Overview

Activities detailed in this plan are designed to support Higher Education at NMIT to deliver high quality undergraduate and postgraduate programs that prepare creative graduates well equipped for the challenges of the 21st century workplace. The plan is structured so that applied educational research and evaluation activities align with the Higher Education Plan 2013-2016.

Strategies and outcomes

Applied educational research and evaluation activities for Higher Education at NMIT will adopt an evidence-based approach to decision making, drawing on research and best-practice. Within this approach, innovation and entrepreneurship will also be encouraged with a focus on providing a high quality student experience that distinguishes NMIT Higher Education courses from those of other providers.

The successful implementation of this plan will be measured by:

- Outcomes at the subject, course and Faculty level resulting from projects or initiatives undertaken as part of this plan
- Impact on the student experience in areas such as student satisfaction, retention and progression
- External benchmarking against measures such as the AUSSE and the AGS

The Higher Education Plan 2013 – 2016 has several strategic themes which include Applied Research and Partnerships. It is under this strategic theme that Applied educational research for quality improvement falls, although the activities in this plan also relate to other strategic themes in the Higher Education Plan.

In the following sections the strategies outlined in the Higher Education Plan relevant to applied educational research and evaluation are listed together with relevant projects. These projects are in turn mapped to the objectives and associated strategies from the Higher Education Plan.

Proposed Projects

Project Group 1. Data Driven Decision Making

Project Description	Key Areas and Strategies	Timelines	Participants
<p>Analysis of institutional data – SEQ, AUSSE, AGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a systematic method for interrogating results from internal and external benchmarking and mapping the results to different reporting functions Higher Education is required to undertake; Document how this data can be used across the Higher Education portfolio for quality improvement and to inform decision making; Develop resources and deliver training where appropriate to support staff in using data for decision making; Develop a resource to assist staff to complete relevant documentation for Section 3.2 of the TEQSA accreditation and reaccreditation form. 	<p>Innovative Curriculum & Academic Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 Expand innovative curriculum design Objective 2 Advance academic standards and academic integrity 	<p>Start S1 2013 Finish S2 2013</p>	<p>C Armatas</p>
<p>Authentic assessment practices and assessing the effectiveness of assessment paradigms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide staff with professional development and support to develop procedures for assessing the reliability and validity of assessment practices and using this information to improve assessment 	<p>Learning and Learner Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 Optimise learner success 	<p>Start S2 2013 Finish S2 2013</p>	<p>C Armatas For all HE teaching staff</p>

Project Group 2. Enhancing the student experience at NMIT

Project Description	Key Areas and Strategies	Timelines	Participants
<p>Defining the NMIT Higher Education Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather data across all departments and year levels regarding the student experience at NMIT using the University Experience Survey (UES) Use the results to develop a plan to support students' across their entire time at NMIT to enhance the whole of course experience 	<p>Learning and Learner Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 Optimise learner success 	<p>Administer UES survey S1 2013</p> <p>Analyse and report on findings S2 2013</p> <p>Pilot approach S1 2014</p>	<p>C Armatas</p> <p>Higher Education</p> <p>Student Support Department</p>
<p>Maximising student support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the results from the Student Services survey on student support services to develop a plan for raising awareness of students and staff regarding the available support services Piloting programs aimed at increasing the number of students who access these services and documenting the outcomes. 	<p>Learning and Learner Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 Optimise learner success Objective 2 Enhance and assure learning engagement and success 	<p>Design Pilot Program S2 2013</p> <p>Implement and Evaluate S1 2014</p>	<p>C Armatas</p> <p>Higher Education</p> <p>Student Support Department</p>

Project Group 3. eLearning and Curriculum Design

Project Description	Key Areas and Strategies	Timelines	Participants
Evaluation of the Moodle implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an evaluation of the implementation of Moodle against the project deliverables • Provide recommendations for future work in this area 	Applied Educational Research and Quality Improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 2 Extend innovative pedagogies 	S2 2013	C Armatas C Bracks & Team

Project Group 4. Promoting educational research and evaluation practices

Project Description	Key Areas and Strategies	Timelines	Participants
Promoting educational research and partnership development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess current activity in these areas to identify possible mentors • Develop a plan for promoting educational research and partnership development and how to translate these into grant applications • Participate in the NMIT HE Applied Research and Development Group and the HE Partnerships and Applied Research Committee. 	Applied Educational Research and Quality Improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 3 Promote scholarly teaching 	Conduct assessment and develop plan S2 2013 Implement and evaluate S1 2014	C Armatas

Project Group 5. Academic Literacies

Project Description	Key Areas and Strategies	Timelines	Participants
<p>Curriculum design to support academic literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify models for embedded and ancillary academic literacy support and determine how and when each is best used Provide professional development to staff on models for providing academic literacy support to students Develop and evaluate a targeted approach to department-based academic literacies development 	<p>Learning and Learner Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 Optimise learner success <p>Academic capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 Build academic capacity and expertise <p>Applied Educational Research and Quality Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 Enhance quality teaching 	<p>Develop models by end of S1 2014</p> <p>Run professional development in S2 2014</p> <p>Roll out department-based approaches S1 2015</p>	<p>C Armatas</p> <p>HE Staff</p>