

Concurrent Session I
Wednesday 2 September
10.15am – 11.05am



Session 4

Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due: Managing AQF Compliant Credit Assessment Processes Across Global Locations

Gerard Shanahan, Suzanne Parker

RMIT University

Mr Gerard Shanahan, Director, Planning and Resources, College of Business, RMIT University. In his current role at RMIT University in Melbourne Gerard is responsible for the planning, shared services and academic services functions in a College comprising 6 academic schools and enrolling 32,000 students across 5 countries. Gerard was previously Faculty Manager in the Faculty of Law at Monash University, and held a number of positions at Swinburne University of Technology including Faculty Manager in the Faculty of Business and Enterprise.

Ms Suzanne Parker, Senior Manager Academic Services, College of Business, RMIT University. Suzanne has worked in Higher Education since 1990 across 4 very different institutions: Swinburne University of Technology, Monash University, the University of Melbourne and RMIT, mainly within the discipline areas of Business and Law. Her current role encompasses responsibility for the delivery of high quality academic services across all programs, modes and locations for a very large and complex College of Business.

The task of managing credit assessment in today's university is increasingly impacted by a broad array of considerations, including educational quality, national and international regulatory frameworks, institutional policy and market expectations.

Within this complex environment the College of Business at RMIT delivers coursework programs across AQF levels 4 to 9 (Certificate IV to Masters) to 32,000 students in five countries. Students come to RMIT Business programs because of our strong commitment to lifelong learning and to developing and supporting educational pathways to higher learning. Many applicants come to study business at RMIT because of our capacity and willingness to recognise and capitalize on their prior learning and grant credit for prior educational programs.

Central to the approach of the College of Business to the application of credit is the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) definition of credit transfer, which states that it is 'a process that provides students with agreed and consistent credit outcomes for components of a qualification based on identified equivalence in content and learning outcomes between matched qualifications' (AQF, *Credit Transfer: An Explanation*, <http://www.aqf.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Credit-Transfer-Explanation.pdf>).

The College of Business offers its programs in a highly competitive, global environment across multiple educational jurisdictions with their own requirements, and to increasingly time sensitive applicants. The capacity of the College to assess credit transfer applications and respond promptly to applicants is a critical success factor. Within this environment the College has spent, and is spending considerable effort to streamline, regularize and assure credit assessment and credit transfer process, precedents, applications and systems.

In this presentation, the College of Business will share its approach to managing credit assessment, share its understanding of the task in the context of global university, and talk about the building blocks that assist it to succeed.