



Cultural Change to Improve the Student Experience

Natalie Downing and Ruth Pring

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment


University of Newcastle

Today's presentation

- Brief background
- Staff survey findings
- Culture change initiatives
- Student and staff communications
- Next steps

Background

- Regional University – research intensive, 36,000 students across 6 key locations, 5 faculties
- Increasing competition
- Strategic funding

 Australian Government

Home | Course Search | University Search | Postgraduate Research

You are here: Home / University Search / University Search Results / University Comparison

University Comparison




Select up to 3 universities to compare

☒ The University of Sydney ☒ University of New South Wales ☒ University of Newcastle ☐ University of Technology, Sydney

[Clear selected](#) [Compare selected](#)

Comparison Results

University Profile

	The University of Sydney	University of New South Wales	University of Newcastle
University logo			
Year established	1850	1949	1965
Main campus	Camperdown/Darlington Campus	Kensington	Callaghan
Main campus address	Parramatta Rd Camperdown NSW 2006	High St Sydney NSW 2052	University Dr Callaghan NSW 2308

Subject Area Level

Student Survey Results and Subject Area Statistics

Change subject area

	The University of Sydney	University of New South Wales	University of Newcastle
Student Survey Results (2011)			
Overall satisfaction rate	84.2%	74.7%	88.9%
Good Teaching Scale	42.1%	45.5%	74.1%
Generic Skills Scale	89.5%	88.3%	96.3%
Graduate Outcomes (Average of 2009 to 2011)			
Graduates in full time employment	68.4%	87.0%	94.2%
Graduates in full time study	13.9%	9.8%	4.4%
Median graduate salary	\$56,500	\$56,300	\$60,700

University of Newcastle
Australia



The University of Newcastle is known for many things - innovative teaching, cutting edge research, excellent facilities and a great lifestyle. The University's three primary campuses are located on the beautiful coastline of Australia's New South Wales. The University also operates from Sydney and Singapore, and offers a comprehensive range of programs online. With more than 35,500 students, including 8,000 international students, and as a top 10 research university, its culture is dynamic and vibrant. Once they graduate, Newcastle's alumni are attracting some of the highest starting salaries in Australia. Its 105,000 strong alumni network spans the globe ensuring that wherever graduates find themselves they'll always have a connection to their university.

Research	★★★★★
Employability	★★★★★
Teaching	★★★★★
Infrastructure	★★★★★
Internationalization	★★★★★
Innovation	★★★★★
Engagement	★★★★★
Life Sciences & Bio Medicine	★★★★★

RMIT
Australia



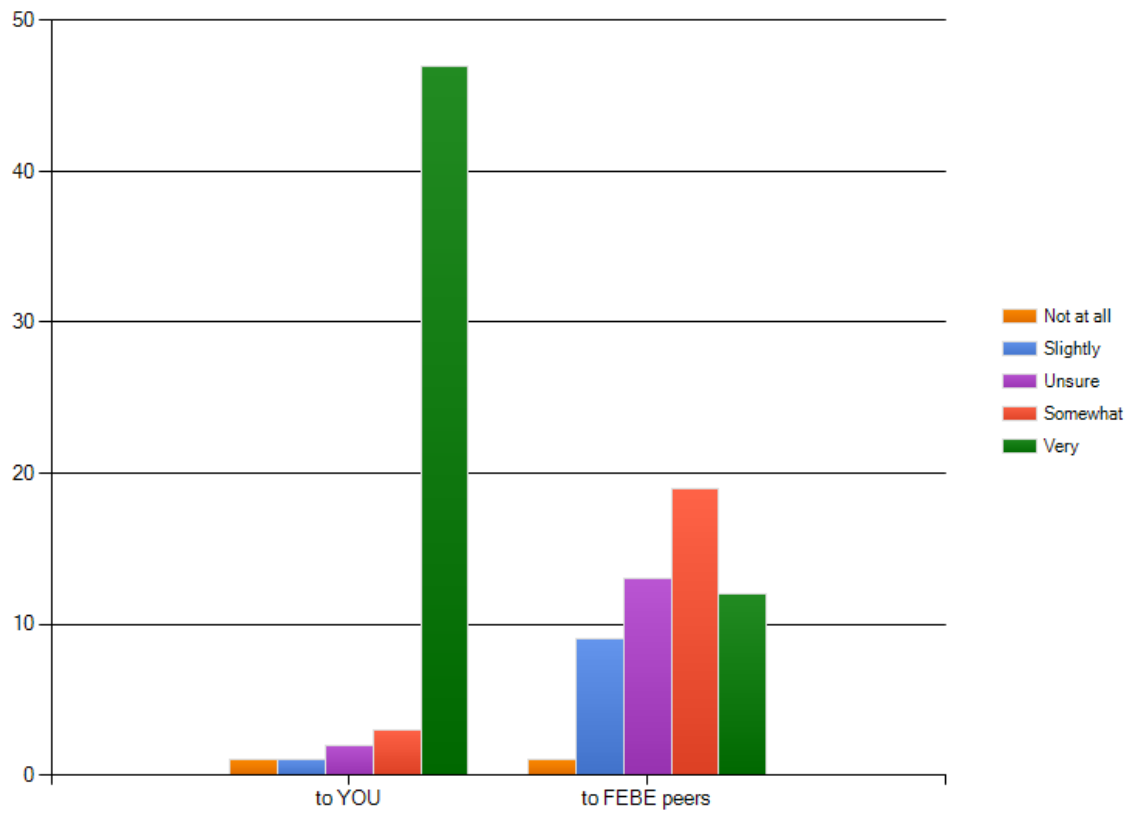
RMIT is a global university of technology and design and Australia's largest tertiary institution. The University enjoys an international reputation for excellence in practical education and outcome-oriented research. RMIT is a leader in technology, design, global business, communication, global communities, health solutions and urban sustainable futures. We are ranked in the top 100 universities in the world for engineering and technology in the 2010 QS World University Rankings.

Research	★★★★★
Employability	★★★★★
Teaching	★★★★★
Facilities	★★★★★

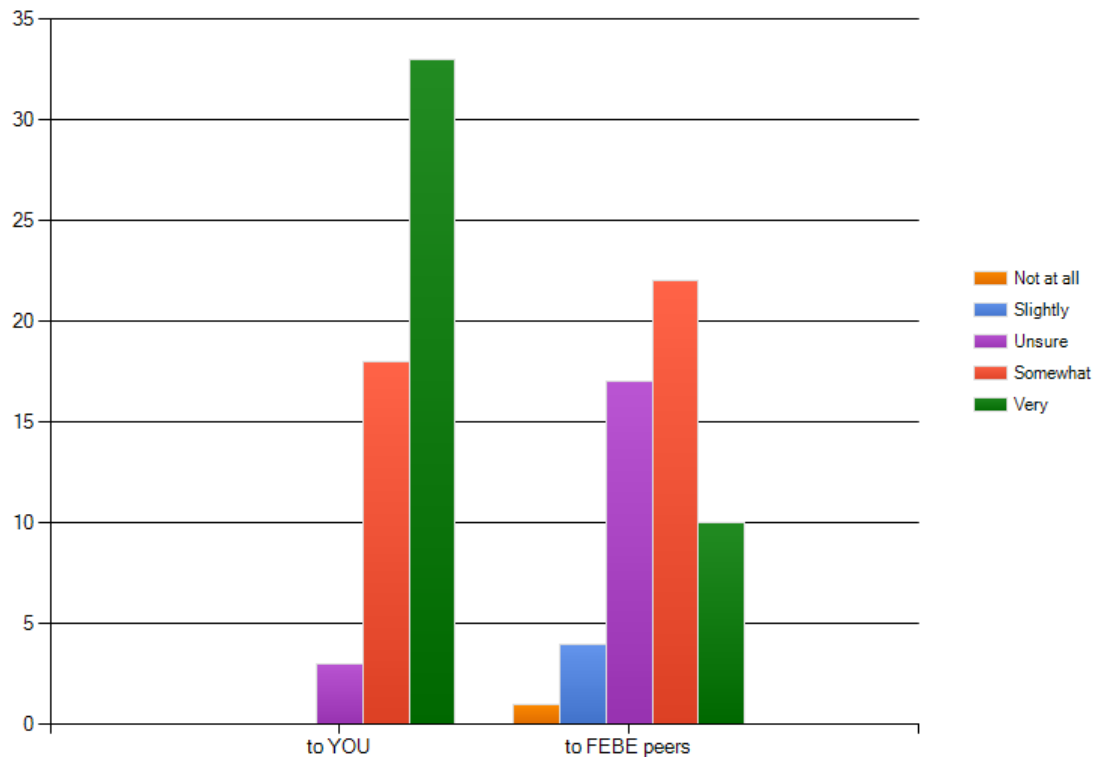
Staff views on student experience and engagement

- In 2011, paper-based FEEB staff survey on student experience and engagement. 140 responses
- 2012 electronic FEEB staff survey. 65 responses representing 20% of staff
- Responses in the two surveys were very similar
- Some acknowledgement of the improvements/changes made over the year

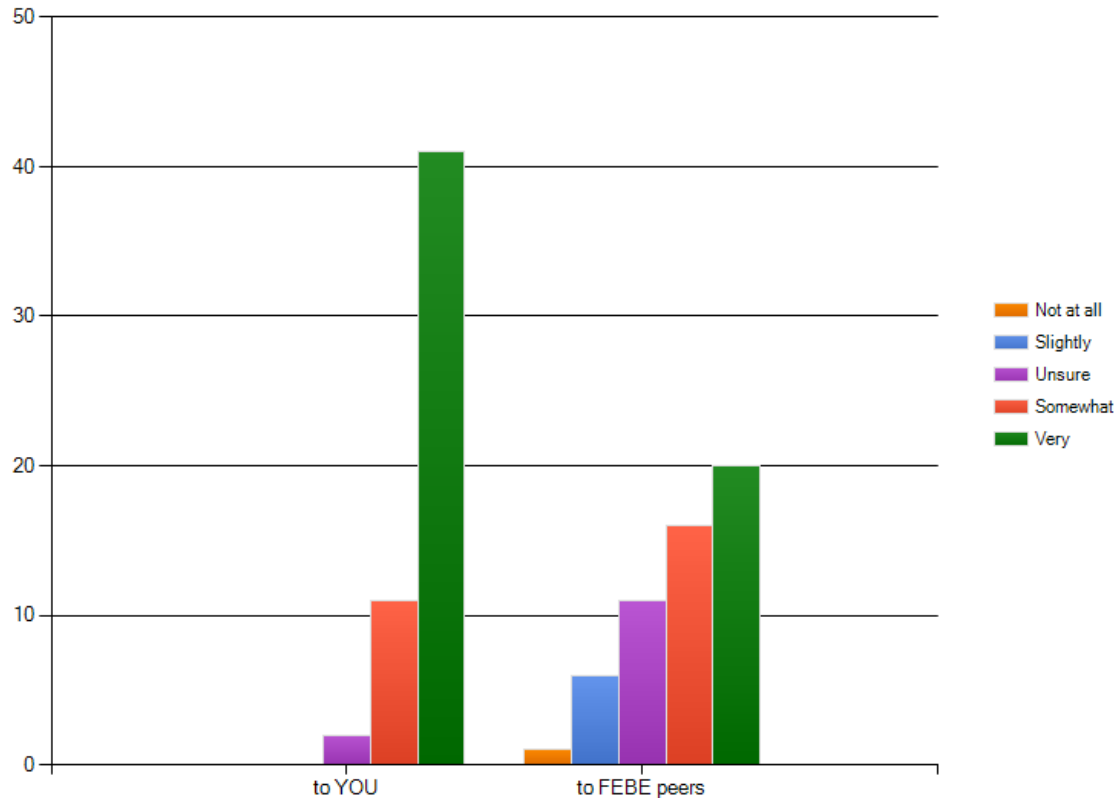
Importance of enthusiastic, passionate and approachable lecturers



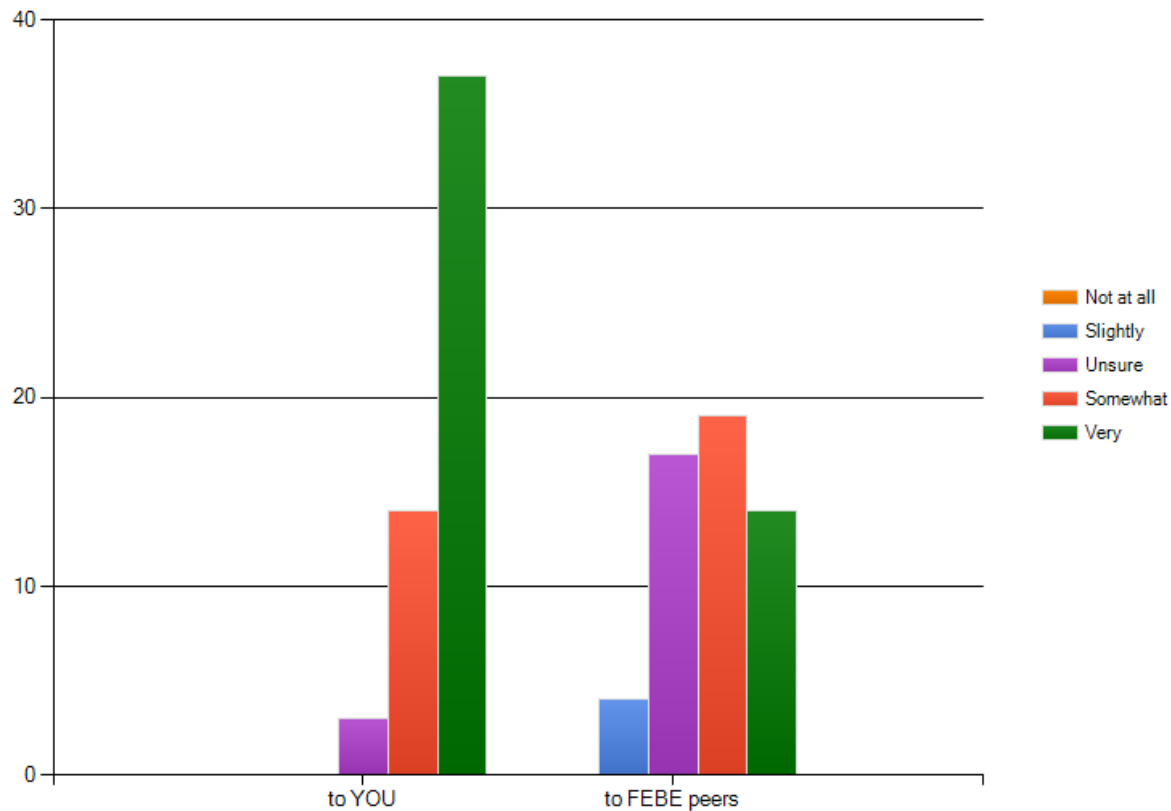
Importance of efficient, timely and accurate communications with students



Importance of high quality teaching and learning facilities



Importance of enthusiastic, passionate and approachable professional staff

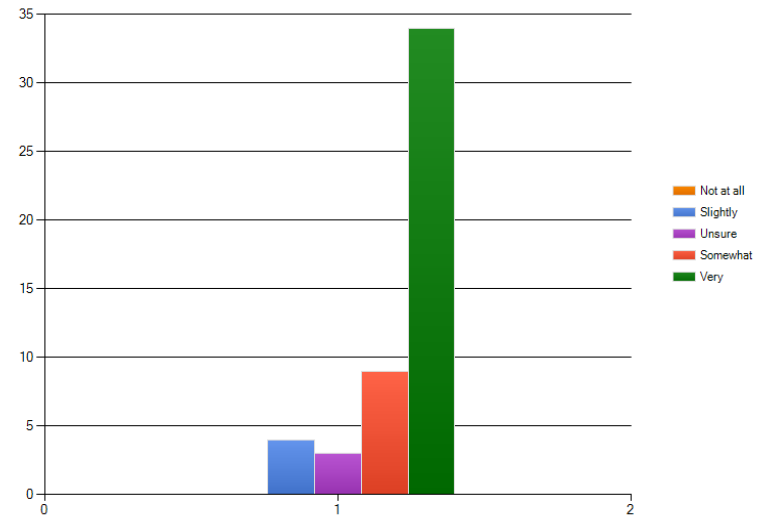


How important do you think positive feedback is in terms of the faculty's reputation?

“Students all have friends, relatives, younger siblings. A positive experience will help to bring undergraduates back for post graduate study”

“The Faculty has a good reputation built upon the standard of its graduates within the profession and less so on how easy the degrees were for students or how good their feedback on the degrees are”

“Depends on how widely known it is ... myuniversity is key”

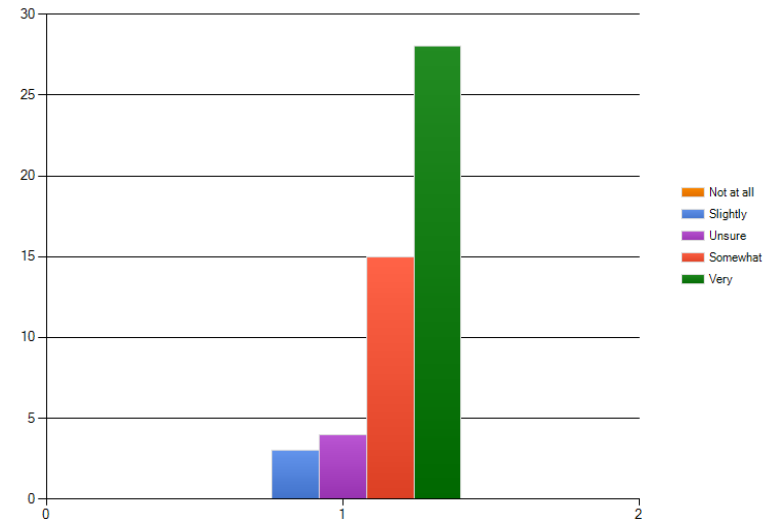


How concerned are you about poor feedback from the Faculty's students?

“Students will only present feedback when they have something to complain about”

“Nothing seems to get done when teaching scores are poor year in year out. Poor lecturers are often rewarded by having their teach allocated to others”

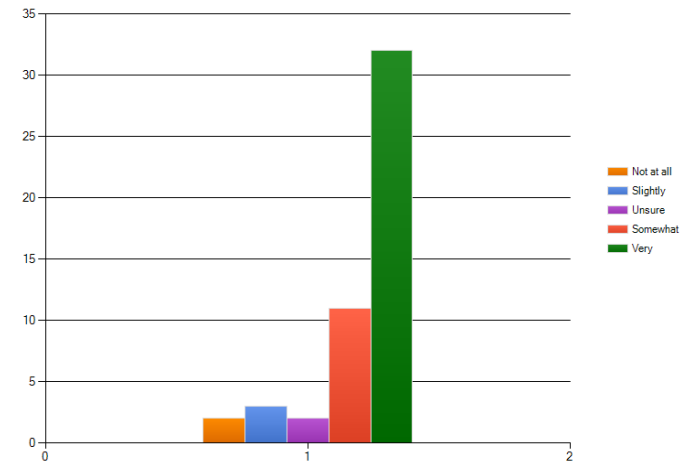
“I just don't know how representative it is”



How motivated are you to improve the learning experience in the Faculty?

“Very motivated. However, I do not feel that my voice counts in that process”

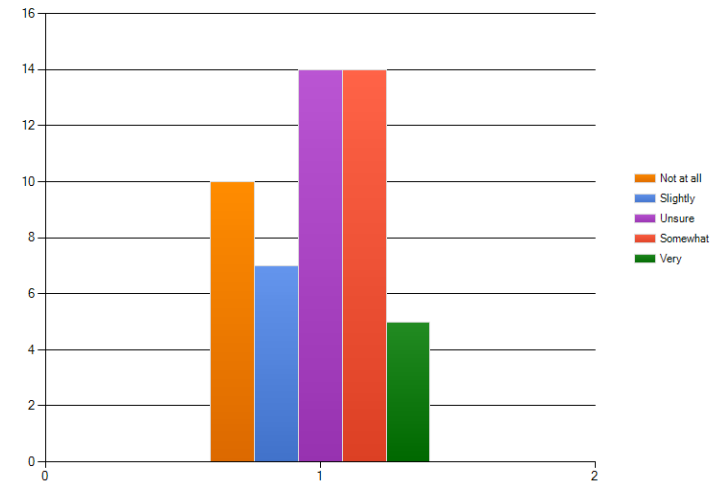
“While I am motivated to do this, the incentives are minimal”



How much do you think that communication has improved within the Faculty in the last 18 months?

“Communication (what there is of it) is all top down. There is very limited opportunity to be heard from the bottom up. This has resulted in a loss of collegiality”

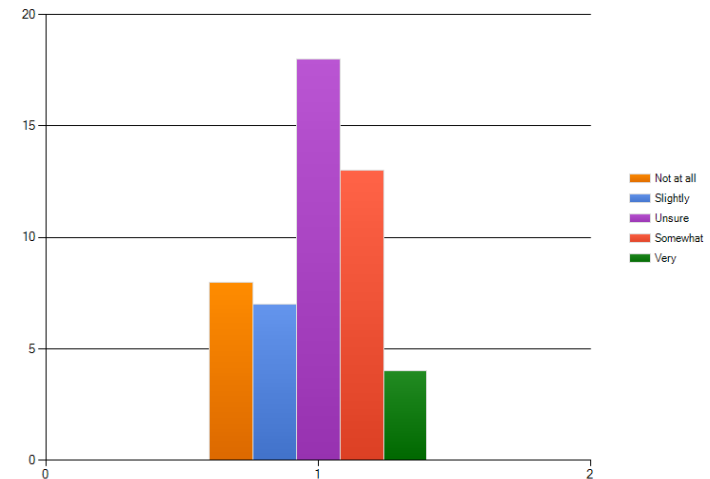
“Possibly mainly because I know more people now and try to talk to them regularly. PVC newsletter is a start”



How much do you think the Faculty's approach to engaging and supporting students has improved in the last 18 months?

“Good effort has been made. In particular, the work of Bill McBride has contributed greatly to improved consistency between courses”

“Supporting students = supporting staff who teach the students”



What are the most significant challenges to improving the student experience in the Faculty?

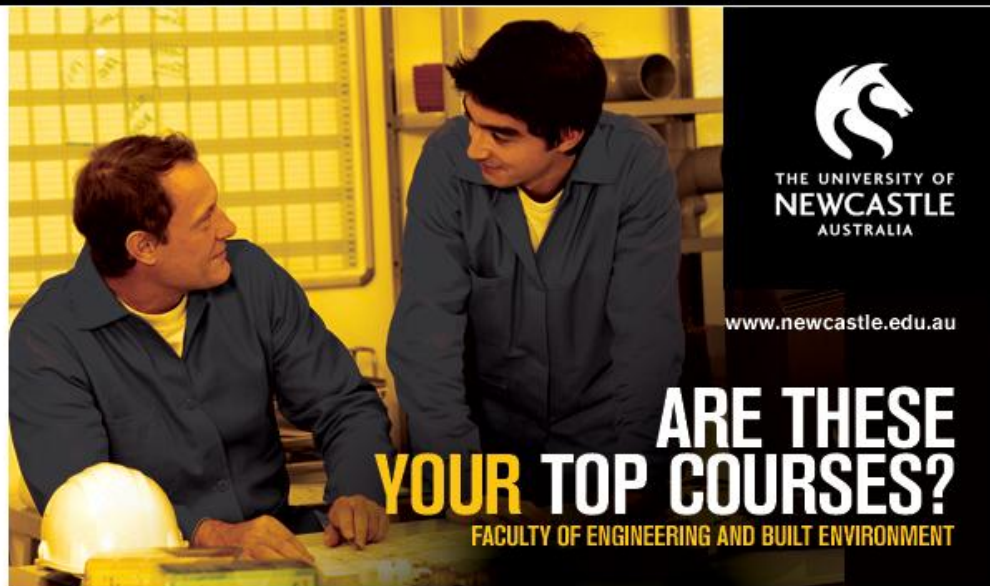
“Apathy and entrenched culture - "We've always done it this way!"

“We need to acknowledge that the face-to-face, full-time student experience most academics had is a thing of the past. Our students don't aspire to what we experienced. We need to live in their space and get to understand what they want (not what we think they want)”

Cultural change to improve the student experience

What are the most significant challenges to improving the student experience in the Faculty?

- **SEE Committee** with members from all disciplines
- **Blackboard course sites review**
- **Teaching Innovation Awards**
- **Professional development workshops**
 - Blackboard best sites
 - Accreditation
 - Marking Rubrics
- **Sharing Great Teaching Program**
 - Peer Review program
 - Welcome to My Lecture
 - Teaching Mentors



Thanks again for completing the SFC survey in Semester 1.
You rated these courses in the Faculty's top 25%.

ARBE1103	ANNI DOSEN	CIVL2240	MICHAEL NETHERTON	GENG1800	STEVE WELLER
ARBE2308	PATRICK TANG	COMP2230	LJILJANA BRANKOVIC	MECH3110	PHIL CLAUSEN
ARBE2308	TREVOR HILAIRE	COMP0050	REGINA BERETTA	MECH4400	PHIL CLAUSEN
ARBE2309	MARCUS JEFFRIES	ELEC1300	BRETT NINNESS	MECH0830	ED SZCZERBICKI
ARBE2500	WYN JONES	ELEC2320	FERNANDO MARTINEZ	SENG3400	FRANS HENSKENS
ARBE3307	MARCUS JEFFRIES	ELEC3250	BOB BETZ	SURV3030	BRIAN MOTT
CHEE2001	BEHDAD MOGHADERI	ELEC3720	CHRIS KELLETT	SURV4850B	KARL BRETREGER
CHEE4071B	ERIC KENNEDY	ELEC4100	TERRY SUMMERS, COLIN COATES		

Which are your top courses this semester?
Go to your inbox NOW and fill out this semester's SFC.

How did other courses rate?
See the full [SFC results for first semester](#).

What are we doing about courses at the other end of the spectrum?
Any course that you rated below 3.5 out of 5 is being reviewed and improvements made.

Student Communications

- Announcements
- Contact Info
- Academic Integrity
- Discussion Board
- Graduate Profiles
- Student Guide
- OH&S
- Industrial Experience
- Discipline Sites
- Student Reps
- SOS Mentors
- I NEED HELP!!!
- Your Feedback
- Join Engineers Australia
- Teacher View



Announcements

Student Success in Hunter Valley Electric Vehicle Contest

Posted on: Wednesday, 5 September 2012

A team of students from the University of Newcastle's Electrical Engineering program have found success in the recent Hunter Valley Electric Vehicle Contest.

The team, Consisting of third year students Andreas Antoniadis and Francisco Gordin, raced their Electric car in the Demonstrator Division, trouncing the competition to take out best performing vehicle of the event.

"It was a great experience for us" Antoniadis said. "Lots of work and long, long hours, but it's definitely been worth it".

The pair were extremely successful on the day - in addition to their win in the Demonstrator Division they were the second fastest team of the day.

Any students wishing to participate next year should contact [Colin Coates](#).

To read more about the team's success, visit the Faculty [News and Events](#) page.



Want to find out more about Young Engineers Newcastle?

Posted on: Wednesday, 5 September 2012

You are welcome to attend the

YEN Committee Meeting to be held
Tuesday 11th September, 2012
University of Newcastle, Room EF122
Time: 6pm

RSVP to Jemima.jackson@gmail.com

Glitz! Glamour! Fabulous LAS VEGAS Formal Dinner, brought to you by Young Engineers Newcastle


Posted on: Thursday, 30 August 2012



Blackboard sites created
for School and discipline
level communications

Blackboard Learn

https://blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_tab_group_id=_3_1&url=%2Fwebapps%2Fblackboard%2Fexecute%2Flauncher%3Ftype%3DCourse%26id%3D_1332042_1%26url%3D



Demo User

My Places

Home

Help

Logout

Blackboard Home

For Students

SOE & SOEECS PORTAL AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (ORG.101819)

Join Engineers Australia

Take Test: become a member of Engineers Australia

SOE & SOEECS PORTAL AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (ORG.101819)

Content

Tools

Announcements

Contact Info

Academic Integrity

Discussion Board

Graduate Profiles

Student Guide

OH&S

Industrial Experience

Discipline Sites

Student Reps

SOS Mentors

I NEED HELP!!!

Your Feedback

Join Engineers Australia

Teacher View

Take Test: Become a Member of Engineers Australia

Description

Membership of Engineers Australia is FREE to students in all Bachelor of Engineering degrees.

Engineers Australia can provide you with practical assistance with your career and help guide you into the profession. As a member of Engineers Australia, one of the leading engineering associations in the world, you will:

- Have access to a wide range of member benefits to assist you professionally, personally and financially
- Be able to participate in the dynamic Young Engineers Australia groups both on and off campus
- Be able to attend a range of conferences, seminars, meetings and social functions
- Receive a copy of the monthly electronic publications *Student News* and *Engineers Australia* which will keep you up-to-date with what's happening in the profession

The University of Newcastle strongly encourages Engineering students to join Engineering Australia. If you give your consent below, the University will submit a membership application to Engineers Australia on your behalf.

There are also four questions regarding your Privacy Options. Your response to these will determine how Engineers Australia handles your personal information.

The University of Newcastle will inform Engineers Australia of your expected study completion date, based on the duration of your program and your current pattern of enrolment (full-time or part-time). It is important that you advise Engineers Australia of your new expected study completion date if it changes. Once the expected study completion date that Engineers Australia have recorded from your initial application passes, your membership will automatically be changed to that of a fee-paying Student member. If you need to update your expected study completion, email memberservices@engineersaustralia.org.au

Instructions

Multiple Attempts

This Test allows multiple attempts.

Force Completion

Once started, this Test must be completed in one sitting.

Question Completion Status:

Question 1

0 points

Save Answer

I agree to my personal details, contact details and details of my program of enrolment being used to apply for/administer membership of Engineers Australia.

I agree, if admitted to membership, to be bound by the provisions of the Royal Charter and By-Laws of Engineers Australia and the ethical standards set out in Engineers Australia's Code of Ethics. I certify that the statements made by me in this application are correct. I understand that I have an obligation to inform Engineers Australia of any matter that may affect my fitness for membership. I agree to only use the post-nominals of membership appropriate to the occupational category and grade of my membership, and only whilst I remain a financial member.

Agree

Disagree



University of Newcastle, C...

Timeline ▾

Now ▾

Highlights ▾



University of Newcastle, Construction Management

Community Page about The University of Newcastle, Australia



The Discipline of Construction Management at the University of Newcastle is the biggest program of its type in the Southern Hemisphere. We teach over 800 students how to successfully manage, cost, quantify, and assess complex construction projects.

About



Photos

163

Likes



Events

Highlights ▾



Status



Photo / Video



Event, Milestone +

What's on your mind?



University of Newcastle, Construction Management shared a link.

Monday

Miss out on the career planning seminar by Hansen Yuncken COO Chris Bulmer? You can now watch his full presentation on the Faculty's YouTube Channel.

The presentation was a great explanation of the choices that Chris chose to make in his l...[See More](#)

Recent Posts by Others

[See All](#)**Helen Giggins**

📍 Sobering footage of what could have been. Makes a...
August 29 at 12:48pm

**Helen Giggins**

📍 Applications have opened for the first round of the ...
👍 1 · August 21 at 11:19am

[More Posts ▾](#)

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Engineers Without Borders Australia
Local Business

2 discipline level
Facebook pages



UoNFEBE's channel

Subscribe

7 subscribers

6,064 video views

Featured

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Videos

Search Channel



Share More info

Construction Management Career Planning Seminar - Chris Bulmer
by UoNFEBE 4 days ago

64 views

Featured Playlists

Our students

Find out what it's like to be a student in some of o...



Research

What type of research is the Faculty of Engineerin...



Three Minute Thesis Heats 2012

Find out what some of our best and brightest are r...



About UoNFEBE's channel

Welcome to the University of Newcastle's Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment YouTube channel.

Here you'll find videos of our students and staff presenting their work and talking about their experiences at the University of Newcastle.

- Faculty of Engineering and Built Eni...
- University of Newcastle

by UoNFEBE

Latest Activity Aug 30, 2012

Date Joined Dec 12, 2011

Location Newcastle, NSW, Australia

Country Australia

Featured Channels



The University of Newcastle
126 subscribers



nubots
36 subscribers



UoNMechanics
21 subscribers



fsaenewcastle
3 subscribers

ARCHITECTURE
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
CIVIL ENGINEERING
COMPUTER ENGINEERING
COMPUTER SCIENCE
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
MECHATRONICS ENGINEERING
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
SURVEYING
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Faculty YouTube Channel



Computer Science and Software Engineering - UoN

211 likes · 25 talking about this

Like



Education

This page will bring the latest information about what is happening in the Discipline of Computer Science and Software Engineering. That will include news and other relevant information, jobs, seminars, etc.



211

Photos

Likes

About

Highlights



Computer Science and Software Engineering - UoN

22 hours ago

The brochure about the three new Computer Science majors is now available.

COMPUTER SCIENCE



WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

Computer Science spans a wide range of areas including algorithmic problem solving, artificial intelligence, robotics, computer graphics, bioinformatics, distributed computing and security. Computer scientists perform challenging programming tasks and supervise other programmers, devising new ways to use computers and developing effective solutions for computing problems. Our Computer Science graduates are among the best in Australia and are actively recruited by industry.

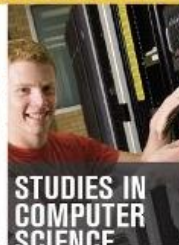
STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE ONE OF 3 MAJORS:



APPLIED
COMPUTING



COMPUTER
SYSTEMS &
ROBOTICS



STUDIES IN
COMPUTER
SCIENCE

Like · Comment · Share

Shaon Shaonty, Callan Brook, Dan Hickmott and 4 others like this.



Computer Science and Software Engineering - UoN

10 September

Also on

<http://newcastle.edu.au/school/electrica...>



Computer Science and Software Engineering - UoN shared

a link.

23 hours ago

Link to the presentation "Hidden career enablers and other hardcore experiences of a previous Faculty of Engineering computer student", by Gavin Lewis. CSSE / FEBE / UoN, September 4th, 2012.



CSSE Lecture: Career Enablers

www.youtube.com

Gavin Lewis presents a CSSE guest lecture on career enablers and the hardcore experiences he has faced.

Like · Comment · Share

Josh Wilson, Taylor Johnson and Michael Roberts like this.



Josh Wilson Love that this was filmed and shared. Makes it more accessible. All the guest lectures should be done like this.

19 hours ago



Computer Science and Software Engineering - UoN shared

a link.

Tuesday

Information about Computer Science Honours Scholarships for 2012

Staff Communications

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

PVC'S UPDATE



In this issue...

- [Sharing Great Teaching](#)
- [2012 Biomarker Discovery Conference](#)
- [Orientation to RHD Degree Supervision](#)
- [FEBE in the News](#)
- [Future Fellowships Awarded](#)
- [NSW Science and Engineering Awards Nominations Still Open](#)
- [Student Experience and Engagement Survey](#)
- [Open Day Success](#)

Sharing Great Teaching

I am pleased to announce the launch of FEBE's suite of Sharing Great Teaching programs. Initiated by the Student Experience and Engagement team, the programs provide a framework for improving teaching and learning by sharing and engaging with good teaching practices across the Faculty. This information is also available on the Sharing Great Teaching web page.

Teaching Mentors

The staff on our [Mentors](#) list have been identified as among the best teaching staff in the Faculty. They are available to provide informal feedback on any aspect of teaching or course delivery (classroom teaching, curriculum design, Blackboard sites, marking schemes, course materials, etc). You may also approach them to participate with you in a Peer Review of Teaching.

Welcome to My Lecture

One of the simplest ways to improve your own teaching is to attend your colleagues' lectures, labs or tutorials and observe their approach.

Useful links

- [Who's who in the Faculty](#)
- [Faculty Executive, Program Convenors, Assistant Deans, Heads of Discipline, Executive Officers](#)
- [FEBE Program Officers and AAR](#)
- [New Confirmation Committee Evaluation Form](#)
- [Latest WorkCover Newsletter](#)

Diary dates


Sep 13	University Council voting ends
Sep 14	Centre for Geotechnical Engineering workshop
Sep 16	NSW Science and Engineering Awards nominations close
Sep 5&11	CTL Workshop: VC's Awards for Teaching Excellence for Sessional Staff/Program Awards
Sep 18	CTL Workshop: Developing & maintaining a great teaching portfolio
Sep 25	CTL Workshop: Making tutorials more effective
Dec 3-6	Biomarker Discovery Conference

Staff Communications

newcastle.edu.au


< >

My Feed Groups Messages

 **Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment**
Public Group Joined More

Share an update ▾ with Faculty of Engineering and Built Environ...


Share something with this group...

 **Natalie Downing** ▸ **Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment**
Here's an article from the Times Higher Education in the UK which you may find interesting: <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/...>

Times Higher Education - Royal Society wants datasets to be on a par with papers in REF
<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=42...>

Accessible information could spark 'second open science revolution', report says. Paul Jump writes High-quality and publicly accessible datasets should be given as much credit as standard publications in the research excellence framework, the Royal Society has argued.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [More](#) · June 21 at 10:24am from Desktop

 **Ruth Pring** ▸ **Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment**
FEBE 2012 Teaching Innovation Award

In 2012 the Faculty is offering Teaching Innovation Awards to recognise new and innovative approaches to teaching. Nominations are now invited from staff and students.

Nominations are invited for innovations demonstrated in the following time frame: Trimester 2 2011, Trimester 3 2011, Semester 2 2011, Trimester 1 2012 and Semester 1 2012.

Nominations for the award close on June 22.


To nominate one (or more) of your colleagues, please complete the brief online fo available at : <https://www.surveymonkey.com/...>

For full guidelines for the award go to <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/Resources/Faculties/...>

FEBE Teaching Innovation Award - Peer Nomination Form Survey
www.surveymonkey.com


FEBE Teaching Innovation Award - Peer Nomination Form BackgroundThe Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment is committed to innovation in teaching and learning. To reflect this commitment we are offering annual awards to recognise innovative teaching in the Faculty. Purpose of the AwardsTo recognise the efforts of Faculty members in developing new and innovative approaches to teaching e.g.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [More](#) · May 30 at 12:58pm from Desktop

 **Ruth Pring:** Nominations close tomorrow! We've had a great response from the students (30 nominations) but it would be great to see some more nominations from staff!

June 21 at 10:24am from Desktop · [Reply](#) · [Like](#) · [More](#)

Write a reply...

 **Ruth Pring** ▸ **Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment**
Jun FEBE Best Practice Blackboard Showcase - Presenters: Tristan Perez, Willy Sher and Steve Weller
Tuesday, June 19, 2012 3:30 PM Time

Yammer – enterprise social networking

Next steps

Continuing to improve the student experience

- Extend staff communications strategy
- Consultative planning process responding to



- Work closely with our Centre for Teaching and Learning on professional development
- Targeted student communications and resources around key learning experiences (Industrial Experience and Final Year Projects)

THANK YOU

Questions?



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AUSTRALIA

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