JOURNALISM CAPSTONE UNITS

Capstone units for journalism programmes to facilitate the demonstration of graduate capabilities

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This 18-month Department of Education and Training Fellowship, spanning from July 2015 through to January 2017, set out to provide, for the first time, a series of agreed principles, models and skills to guide journalism educators in the design and implementation of final-year journalism capstone units which effectively demonstrate and measure required graduate capabilities.

On 17 December 2016, the Fellowship’s research outcomes and recommendations, the agreed principles, models and skills, were accepted by the Executive of the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia (JERAA) for use in journalism programmes in Australian universities. The Fellowship’s findings have been circulated to all Australian universities that offer journalism programmes, and their respective capstone units are being (re)designed and implemented from 2017 onward.

ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

Face-to-face interviews with the heads of journalism programmes at 18 Australian universities:

• Swinburne University of Technology
• Monash University
• The University of Melbourne
• RMIT University
• University of Canberra
• University of South Australia
• The University of Sydney
• University of Wollongong
• The University of Queensland
• Curtin University
• Murdoch University
• The University of Newcastle
• University of Technology Sydney
• Charles Sturt University
• Queensland University of Technology
• The University of Adelaide
• La Trobe University
• Deakin University

Peer-reviewed publications:


• Cullen, T. (2015) A capstone unit for tertiary journalism programs that aims to facilitate the demonstration of graduate capabilities. Asia Pacific Media Educator, 25 (2), 297-304

National and international media and communication conference papers:


• Cullen, T. (2016) Journalism capstone units that demonstrate key research, communication and entrepreneurial skills for new media jobs and markets. Research paper presented at the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), Leicester University, England, 29th July

• Cullen, T. (2016) Journalism capstone units based on agreed principles and standards. Research paper presented at the World Journalism Education Congress (WJEC), Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand, 16th July


• Cullen, T. (2015) Capstone units and ways to demonstrate acquired knowledge and skills. Research paper presented at the Teaching and Learning conference, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup, Australia, 4th November

Research panels at national education conferences:

• Cullen, T. (2016) Why we haven’t finished with employability. Research paper delivered as a panel member at the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) conference, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Australia, 6th July

• Cullen, T. (2015) A capstone unit for journalism programs to facilitate the demonstration of graduate capabilities. Research paper delivered as a panel member at the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia (JERAA) conference, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, Australia, 2nd December