

## Graduate Certificate in Commercialisation for Research Students

### School of Graduate Studies

#### **1 Background**

The Commercialisation Training Scheme (CTS) gives the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) the opportunity to offer excellent support training in research commercialisation to Research Higher Degree (RHD) students.

As part of Backing Australia's Ability – Building our Future through Science and Innovation, the Australian Government announced the creation of around 250 awards each year for higher degree by research students to study full-time for the equivalent of one semester to obtain a graduate qualification in fields such as commercialisation of research and management of intellectual property. The awards will be delivered through a new programme called the Commercialisation Training Scheme (CTS). CTS funds will be allocated to eligible higher education providers in the form of performance-based block grants. The CTS will result in a Graduate Certificate qualification, will take no longer than six months full-time or equivalent part-time study to complete and be in addition to a student's HDR course load. Information on the objectives, eligibility for CTS Grants, student eligibility, training and course requirements of the CTS is provided.

The Commercialisation Training Scheme is a new Commonwealth initiative, that has only recently been given DEST approval. The new Growing Esteem agenda embeds commercialisation within the core work of the University. Commercialisation is acknowledged as an important component of knowledge transfer, a strand of the "triple helix" in the University's new strategic direction. However, until this new scheme emerged, commercialisation training for RHD students has been boutique, expensive, and difficult to accomplish during PhD candidature.

Conditional approval is sought for the proposed program, so that it can be advertised.

#### **2 Course/Program Objectives**

According to DEST Guidelines, the GCCRS will be only available for currently enrolled RHD students. It will add value to the RHD student experience, enhance his/her career prospects, and (in some cases) be customised to meet individual needs. The GCCRS will provide learning in three knowledge areas: Commercialisation Know-how, Technical Commercialisation Skills and Organisational Behaviour Skills. The certificate will be made up of 4 x 12.5 subjects. Two of these subjects so far are established and ready to teach: Leadership and Professional Development Program and Technology Entrepreneurship.

Students will gain an understanding of the commercialisation processes and activities commonly employed to bring research based ideas, inventions and innovations to market. They will gain a comprehensive understanding of relevant technical commercialisation subject areas, such as intellectual property management. They will also gain a comprehensive understanding of interpersonal and communication skills relevant to research commercialisation including leadership, teamwork, and presentation skills.

#### **3 Entry Requirements**

- 1 The Selection Committee will evaluate the applicant's ability to pursue successfully the course using the following criteria:
  - (a) Confirmed PhD candidature.
  - (b) Signed support of supervisor.

- (c) Application for certificate outlining how the certificate will add value to the applicant's current PhD work and outlining the particular aspects of the applicant's PhD program that are relevant to commercialisation.
- 2 The Selection Committee may conduct interviews and call for referee reports to elucidate any of the matters referred to above.

#### **4 Course/Program Structure**

Students will complete 4 x 12.5 subjects that will run in intensive formats. The certificate will not take more than six months full-time study or equivalent part-time study to complete.

The GCCRS will provide learning in three knowledge areas: Commercialisation Know-how, Technical Commercialisation Skills and Organisational Behaviour Skills, as required by the Commonwealth. The knowledge areas are described below.

- (a) With regard to Commercialisation Know-how, students must gain an understanding of commercialisation processes and activities commonly employed to bring research based ideas, inventions and innovations to market.
- (b) With regard to Technical Commercialisation Skills, students must gain a comprehensive understanding of relevant technical commercialisation subject areas. Intellectual Property Management is a mandatory area of learning. Other technical commercialisation subject areas covered may be determined by HEPs taking into account individual student needs but, wherever possible, should include Financial Management, Project Management and Market Research.
- (c) With regard to Organisational Behaviour Skills, students must gain a comprehensive understanding of subject areas that cover interpersonal and communication skills relevant to research commercialisation activities including Leadership, Teamwork and Presentation skills.

The GCCRS will also provide significant elements of practical, experience-based learning where students are given the opportunity to participate in team learning exercises centred on research commercialisation scenarios.

Once fully implemented, at least two dedicated subjects will be offered each year and at least 2 other subjects within the elective list will be available for GCCRS student enrolments (although these may be concurrently available to students in other courses).

Students will select a course from each knowledge area, then may select his/her fourth course in any of the three areas.

In 2007, the School plans to run two subjects, the first from category (c) and the second from category (b). Both will be offered in intensive mode:

Leadership for Research Students (c)	Semester 1 and Semester 2
Technology Entrepreneurship (b)	Semester 1 (May)

*The School seeks in-principle agreement for this course, subject to the other two required subjects being developed, proposed, and approved.*

#### **5 Availability of Course**

The course will be offered only part-time in 2007. It will be available to CSP students.