



AUSTRALIAN LEARNING AND TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

JOURNALISM CAPSTONE UNITS

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

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www.journalismcapstoneunits.org



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

National and international media and communication conference papers:

- Cullen, T. (2017) *Agreed principles, models and skills for capstone units*. Research paper presented at the First World Summit of National Teaching Fellows, Radisson Blu Hotel, Birmingham, England, 19th February
- 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. (2016) *An overview of tertiary journalism capstone units and the need for agreed principles and standards*. Research paper presented at the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) conference, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Australia, 7th 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

Peer-reviewed publications:

- Cullen, T. (2017) Journalism capstone units based on agreed principles and standards. *Pacific Journalism Review*, (22)2, 172 -184
- Cullen, T. (2016) Designing capstone units that demonstrate student skills. *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*, 71(3), 360-370
- 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

