

Making Connections: Future-proofing the generalist Bachelor of Arts

Lead Institution



Australian National Teaching Fellow: Dr Deanne Gannaway

Final report 2020: Achievement statement

Between September 2016 and October 2018, a program of fellowship activities re-imagined a value proposition for the 3-year Bachelor of Arts (BA) program - the primary means by which Australian undergraduate students engage with HASS disciplines. Activities reaffirmed the place of HASS disciplines in the contemporary higher education context and included

- **Facilitating curriculum-based consultation meetings or workshops** at 18 universities directly, leading to curriculum changes in 13 Australian and two international BA programs;
- **Engaging with bodies** such as Australian Academy of the Humanities, Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Science, Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities and Australian Council of Deans of Science, leading to invitations to present and ongoing collaborations;
- **Hosting think tank sessions** that brought together students, senior executives, teachers and alumni across Australia to consider the value proposition of the BA;
- **Hosting an international BA conference** - the first ever to focus on BA curricula, teaching and outcomes; and
- **Developing a web-based repository** to host resources developed across the program.

These activities provided opportunities to consider BA curricula on a “whole-of-program” basis, rather than the traditional focus on disciplines and design at a unit of study level. The activities provide program participants with the chance to re-imagine the purpose and contribution of their BA curricula to addressing the challenges and changes facing future workplaces, where work shifts from labour to knowledge work and services. It enabled a re-visioning and re-articulation of the BA as a program that, while continuing to develop disciplinary knowledge, also develops vital **life and work skills, innovative and creative mindsets** and provides experiences that encourages **interdisciplinarity, individuation, independence** and **leadership**.

Materials and reports developed can be accessed from <http://www.HASSFutures.org>



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