



From the President's Desk

by Dave Marr

A Permanent Address

This is exciting! AAIR finally has a permanent address; well at least of a kind. In the past we've used the Honorary Secretary's address as the organisation's, and we thank those people for assuming that responsibility. But as it is an elected position, it is possible that the Secretary could change every two years, in which case we'd have to change our address in all the places in which we have business accounts e.g. ANZ bank, MYOB, Survey Monkey etc, if and when the Secretary changes.

National Postal Services (Natpost) offer a service to host a virtual suite or box in the Melbourne CBD. As AAIR is incorporated in Victoria, it seemed only appropriate that our address reside in Melbourne. Our new address is:

Suite 204
585 Little Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000.

Natpost provide a range of services to support any correspondence we receive and we'll utilise those as required. At \$12

per month it is a cost effective way to manage any physical mail deliveries which in this electronic age are not many but definitely more than none. So please make note of that address as we'll be using it into the foreseeable future.

Fellowship Winner

I'd like to announce that the winner of this year's Zimmer Travel Fellowship is Naomi Doncaster from Southern Cross University. The prize of \$2,500 will support Naomi's travel to attend the Higher Education Institutional Research (HEIR) conference at Liverpool John Moores University, UK in September 2016. As Naomi pointed out in her application, "Exposure to such a diversity of higher education environments offers a great opportunity for learning and for sharing practices and experiences. Discussion of the role of metrics and data in supporting institutional research and institutional decision making in different settings would be highly relevant to my professional development". We wish Naomi all the best for her trip and look forward with interest to her report which will be

published in a Newsletter toward the end of the year.

Unfortunately we again did not receive an application for the Raj Sharma Fellowship which was disappointing. Perhaps next year!



Naomi Doncaster, winner of the 2016 Zimmer Travel Fellowship – brolly ready for her trip to the UK!

AAIR Documentation

One new initiative we're trialling is the production of a 'Proceedings document' of the AAIR Forum in Wellington. Previously, those conference papers that were deemed suitable were included in the Journal of Institutional Research. As the JIR is no longer being published, we think it is appropriate that we produce a separate annual publication of all the papers that were received. We are in the final stages of editing that document and we will shortly be advising you of its publication on our website.

Similarly, we feel that it is time that we come into line with many organisations and publish an Annual Report as of 30 June. This will incorporate the President's Report and Treasurer's Report that have formed the basis for the AGM at the November conference. It will however include much more than that being reflective of the business of the organisation over the full year. It will also stand as a permanent record of the organisation's activities for each financial year, and one which can be submitted to the Victorian Consumer Affairs.

The Wellington Wrap

While we're talking of the Wellington Forum, I am happy to advise that Leishman Associates have completed their final report of the 2015 AAIR Forum. This will be provided to the Sydney Local Organising Committee (LOC), as well as to the Executive Committee, to assist them with this year's event. For the eighth year being run by Leishmans, the Forum made a handsome surplus of ~\$24,000 in this case. In addition, \$10,230 was collected as membership payments. A BIG thanks therefore goes to Kathie Rabel and her team. Hard work you'd admit, but satisfying when the result is a very successful event, generally more than satisfied attendees and a surplus to boot. Of course such a surplus is only achievable with the great financial support we receive from our sponsors and exhibition partners. Without them the experience would not have been the same.

Great Professional Development Opportunity

Lastly, Louise Hargreaves, our trusty newsletter editor and consummate wordsmith, has indicated that she will step down from her role at the end of the year. We are therefore looking for a new newsletter editor to commence in January

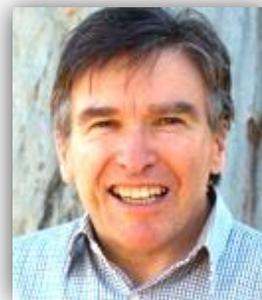
2017 for a 2 year period. See our advertisement later in this newsletter.

SIG Reminder

REMINDER – be quick! The SIG Forum is just around the corner so make sure you register asap so you don't miss out on one of our signature events. It's shaping up to be a beauty!

Keep in Touch

I'm always pleased to hear your views so feel free to drop me a line at president@aaair.org.au, or via our Secretary, Andrea, at secretary@aaair.org.au.



Dave Marr,
President

AAIR SIG FORUM 2016

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY, VICTORIA SQUARE, ADELAIDE
16 - 17 JUNE 2016



Data Warehousing Business Intelligence & Analytics Load Management Government Reporting Surveys

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

David Gunsberg - Griffith University



Director, INS Planning & Engagement, Information Services Division.

David is Director of Planning and Projects at Griffith University. He joined the University in 2013 and after 2 years as Director of IT Projects is now Director Planning and Engagement, responsible for the delivery of the IT Divisions portfolio of transformational projects under the leadership of Pro Vice Chancellor INS Linda O'Brien.

Abelardo Pardo - The University of Sydney

Dr. Abelardo Pardo is Associate Head of Teaching and Learning and Senior Lecturer at the School of Electrical and Information Engineering, The University of Sydney.

Stay tuned for more!

The AAIR SIG FORUM 2016

Join Us In the Festival State, Wine Capital of Australia, and City of Churches!
16-17 June, Adelaide, South Australia

Preliminary Program

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Higher Education@home

by Louise Hargreaves

Budget 2016-17

1. The Treasurer handed down the budget on Tuesday, 3 May, 2016. Budget documents and papers are available from budget.gov.au and the Parliamentary Library's tertiary education review [here](#). The ALP's Budget Reply Speech may be accessed [here](#).
2. [An education system that drives jobs and growth](#). The 2016-17 Budget is part of the Australian Government's plan to deliver on jobs and growth for Australia and provide greater access to education opportunities for all. The 2016-17 Budget reinforces the Department of Education and Training's key role in delivering an education system which provides opportunities for all Australians, no matter their background or where they live.
3. [Budget offers more questions than answers](#). There's one thing we can say for sure about higher education policy for the next 12 months: no matter which party wins the election, there will be more consultations and reviews. Last year, Labor announced a green paper-white paper approach to getting its policy detail right. Last night, in the 2016-17 Budget, the Liberals called for submissions on policy ideas, with a new 'Expert Advisory Panel' to help them sort out which policy directions to pursue.
4. [Higher education in policy paralysis after Budget 2016 – what now?](#) This year's budget set us back to 2014. In the 2014 budget, the government announced that [fees would be deregulated](#). While this was a toxic political move, it wasn't toxic enough to be dumped from the [2015 budget](#), which was another lost year for higher education. While, [this year](#), the government finally ruled out full fee deregulation, it is still contemplating uncapped fees for some courses in its higher education [consultation paper](#). It has also dropped all the worthwhile proposals from 2014, such as extending the demand-driven system to sub-baccalaureate programs.

Higher Education Reform

5. [Consultation on the future of higher education reform](#). Informed by the discussions of the last six months, the Government has released a paper, [Driving Innovation, Fairness and Excellence in Australian Higher Education](#), which sets out options for reform that support the Government's vision of a stronger, more sustainable system of higher education. The Government is seeking feedback on the individual elements of a new higher education reform package to be considered later in 2016. [Submissions are due by 25 July 2016](#).
6. [Universities can be reformed, but one piece at a time](#). Education Minister Simon Birmingham wants Australia's universities to offer more innovative and higher quality courses. But he needs them to do this with less public money per student. The two goals are not inherently contradictory, but politics make it hard to achieve both at once.
7. [No issue in increasing university fees by 25 per cent: economist](#). A simple 25 per cent increase in university fees would help the government sidestep a politically toxic backlash over fee deregulation while still delivering the budget cuts it needs, says leading educational economist Bruce Chapman. And while higher fees would expose the government to higher student loans debt, it could moderate that by lowering the income threshold at which graduates start repaying.
8. [A new direction needed for unis, says Glyn Davis](#). The vice-chancellor of Australia's most successful research university has warned that the demand-driven university system is unsustainable and called for a new direction rather than a quick fix.
9. [Flagship degrees code for deregulation: vice-chancellors](#). A government proposal to allow universities to charge full fees for up to 20 per cent of their courses is tarred with the legacy of the



Coalition's failed bid to deregulate all tuition fees, and would be difficult to sell to a cynical community, university leaders say. The proposal, contained in a [discussion paper](#) released last Tuesday during the federal budget, said institutions would be "given the freedom to set fees for a small cohort of their students enrolled in identified high-quality, innovative courses".

Policy, Regulation & Consultation Watch

10. On 30 April 2016, the Australian Government released the [National Strategy for International Education 2025](#). It sets out a 10-year plan for developing Australia's role as a global leader in education, training and research. It provides a framework of priorities for the Australian international education community to strengthen and grow the sector. The government also released: [The Australian International AIE Roadmap 2025](#), [The Australian Global Alumni Engagement Strategy](#) and a report prepared by Deloitte Access Economics, [The Value of International Education in Australia](#).
11. [Austrade sets target of 110 million MOOC students for Australia by 2025](#). The International Education Minister has launched a radical plan for Australia to use online technology to grab 10 per cent of the world market in education by 2025, amounting to an astonishing 110 million students. The Austrade strategy, launched on Saturday in a paper titled [Australian International Education 2025](#), is driven by embracing the major changes occurring in online education, where

courses are available at low cost to large numbers of students.

12. [Government moves to adopt Watt reforms.](#) The Turnbull Government has accepted all 28 recommendations of the Watt Review into research policy and funding, and has already made significant commitments to stimulate innovation and improve collaboration between Australian researchers and industry. The Watt Review report and the Turnbull Government's response are available [here](#).
13. The department has released a consultation paper, '[Sharper incentives for engagement: New research block grant arrangements for universities](#)' seeking the views of universities and other stakeholders on options to implement changes to Block Research Grants New Research Block Grant arrangements for universities were announced in December last year and form an important element of the Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA). Stakeholders have until [Monday 6 June to comment on the consultation paper](#). Note: at the time of publication, advice has been received that the Department is pushing back the final date for submissions until July. Watch the [Consultation site](#) for confirmation.
14. [TEQSA has published its third statistics report on registered higher education providers](#), giving a whole-of-sector overview of higher education in Australia focused on 2014. The Statistics Report is sourced from TEQSA's Provider Information Request and TEQSA's National Register, together with data from the Department of Education and Training's Higher Education Statistics Collection. The report is available for download from [TEQSA's publications page](#).
15. [New 'TEQSA Update' published.](#) The first sector update for 2016 includes information on the transition to the new Higher Education Standards Framework, TEQSA's involvement in the QACHE project, the transition of the provider information request, TEQSA's report on key financial metrics, and more. The update is available from the [News and Publications](#) page.
16. [Federal election 2016: higher education policies to watch out for.](#) In the lead up to the 2014 election, the then opposition leader [Tony Abbott pledged](#) that universities would be subject to "masterly inactivity" if the Coalition

won the election. He was almost right: universities and their students have now suffered three years of government not making a major change to how higher education is resourced. Higher education needs certainty for the future, with clarity for the coming decade about the balance of government and student investment.

17. [Labor would cap vocational training loans at \\$8000 a year.](#) Labor's move to [cap student study loans](#) under the vocational education loan scheme will not have a direct impact on the budget - bottom line because of the way those funds are accounted for. Despite this, higher education spokesman Kim Carr said the proposal, unveiled in early May by Treasury spokesman Chris Bowen, would provide protection for students and reduces the call on the budget, as taxpayers are bankrolling unscrupulous private colleges under current arrangements.
18. [Another promise broken – Office of Learning and Teaching to lose funding.](#) The Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) is a tiny engine with a huge pull. Its funding runs out on June 30. It funds inspiration in university classrooms across the nation. It helps good teachers be better and, more importantly, helps education have more impact on the students who arrive at universities.
19. [Does HECS need help?](#) The Australian Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) isn't broken, but the prospect of Australian universities being allowed to deregulate fees puts the HECS system in jeopardy, two leading experts have warned.
20. [Successful HEPP faces death by a thousand cuts.](#) The federal government's flagship equity program has never been allowed to become what it was meant to be. When the latest round of cuts hit, the Higher Education Participation Program will have been turned back into the small, well-meaning but ineffective equity program it replaced.
21. [Higher Education Loan Program Supplementary analysis Report \(2\)](#) (see April edition of the AAIR Newsletter for [Report 1](#)). The report discusses the size

and costs of HELP and provides an estimate of the impact of the program on the underlying cash balance. The analysis in this paper is based on the Government's announced policies as at the 2015-16 MYEFO.

22. [The Auditor-General's ANAO Report: Administration of Higher Education Loan Program Debt and Repayments.](#) The audit objective was to assess the effectiveness of the administration of the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debts and repayments.

Sector News and Views

23. A research report, [The Graduate Effect: Higher Education Spillovers to the Australian Workforce](#) commissioned by universities from Canberra-based consultancy Cadence Economics, said that university graduates account for nearly 90 per cent of Australia's job growth since 2008.
24. [Universities are essential to economic transition.](#) Address to the FUTUREPROOF 2016 conference, 16 May 2016, Professor Barney Glover, Chair, Universities Australia and Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University.
25. [Students swap holidays for \\$3000 career bootcamps.](#) The competitive graduate job market is driving some students to swap holidays for a \$3000 a career development program just to get a chance to be interviewed by a future employer. Austern International is running "career bootcamps" in Sydney and Melbourne where students solve a challenge faced by a potential employer with the winning team getting a job interview.
26. [Property: student accommodation shortfall looms.](#) Australia's resurgent international education sector could be stymied with a shortfall of almost half a million purpose-built beds despite increasing appetite from institutional investors and although supply is forecast to increase 36 per cent by the end of the decade.
27. [Flinders University could shed up to 200 staff next month, under an early retirement scheme that rewards underperforming academics](#) with generous payouts and tax concessions. The voluntary scheme has been approved by the Australian Taxation

Office and is designed to help the university deal with a \$30 million budget shortfall.

28. [Monash University student satisfaction levels take a dive](#). Monash University has registered a dramatic decline in student satisfaction in the quality of its teaching and study units, with the number of students evaluating their courses as “needing critical attention” jumping to almost 21 per cent.
29. [Deakin University lets students count professional experience towards a degree](#). Deakin University has pioneered an innovative new approach to masters degrees which allows students to save time and money by using professional knowledge and experience they already have to make up two-thirds of the required academic credit. The new system is available now for Deakin's master of professional practice (information technology).
30. [University of Canberra to sign \\$1.7 billion deal to build new campus residences](#). The University of Canberra will sign a development deal worth an estimated \$1.7 billion to build up to 3,300 new residences on campus over the next two decades. The deal is with national developer Peet Limited, which has a Canberra based wholly owned subsidiary, CIC Australia.
31. [Student age change costs Murdoch University](#). A 30 per cent hit on student enrolments in Western Australia last year has been blamed for Murdoch University posting a deficit of \$4.5 million. The so-called half-cohort resulted from a change in the school entry age in 2001. Murdoch University saw its meagre 2014 surplus of \$2.9m tumble into the red last year. While student numbers were predicted to collapse by 30 per cent last year, only UWA was affected to that extent.
32. [Federation's Warrnambool campus takeover includes \\$14m sweetener](#). The federal government has quietly agreed to a \$14 million sweetener to help smooth the potential takeover of Deakin University's Warrnambool campus by Federation University despite uncertainty over whether the deal would go ahead.

Big Data, Analytics & Technology

33. [The Role and Influence of Universities in the Digital Economy](#). This report presents an overview of the ideas, issues and insights from the Presidents' Conversation, a two-day higher education leadership forum hosted by Professor Peter Høj, Vice Chancellor at the University of Queensland and co-chaired by Ken Boal, Vice President of Cisco (Australia and New Zealand) and President of the Business/Higher Education Roundtable. The report is a synthesis of the major challenges and opportunities arising from the digitisation of higher education.
34. [Technology increasing alienation of tertiary students](#). Technology use is at an all-time high for tertiary students, including through online courses, but many still yearn for face-to-face contact with staff and fellow students. A survey on the experiences of Australian first-year students, released last year, suggests students could become less engaged at university as a result of accessing more of their learning online.
35. [Australian universities increase IT spending well above global average](#). Australian universities are growing their IT budgets much faster than their peers in the rest of the world, as they seek improved educational outcomes on top of operating efficiencies. Gartner has pegged IT spending growth in the higher education sector at 1.2% globally. However, IT spending in the sector is expected to be higher in Australia, with growth slated to be 4% in 2016, reaching \$A1.7bn.
36. [Social crowdfunding app Tilt lets Aussies pass around the digital hat](#). Tilt makes it easy to chip in money without reaching for your wallet. Officially launching in Australia after beta testing since October, Tilt is targeted at young people — particularly university students — and is accessible via iOS and Android apps as well as desktop browsers.

Graduate Outcomes

37. [STEM Studies – Top Marks for employment and salary](#). STEM graduates can earn almost \$10,000 more than the average starting salary,

according to *The Good Careers Guide 2016*. The first annual *Good Careers Guide* was released today, detailing some compelling employment statistics for those studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

International Education

38. [Australia creates international education cross-sectorial council](#). Representatives from Australia's higher education, English language, pathway, private and vocational sectors are all represented on the new Council for International Education that will work to implement the [newly-published National Strategy for International Education](#).
39. [One-third of Australian employers not tuned in to international students](#). More than a third of Australian employers are not aware that international graduates from Australian universities are available for employment, according to new research from the international education sector. David Harrington, president of Hobsons Solutions, which works with educational institutions to help recruit international students, said that universities needed to do more to protect and grow the education exports that are worth nearly \$19 billion a year.
40. [Enabling growth and innovation in Australia's international education sector](#). The Turnbull Government's 2016-17 Budget commits \$12 million over four years to support the implementation of Australia's National [Strategy for International Education 2025](#) – backing one of five key economic super-growth sectors. The \$12 million allocated in the Budget will help implement the National Strategy, underpinning the opportunities Australia has to continue to grow its share of the international education market, which is one of our top export earners.

Online Learning

41. [Adaptive engineering course opens up engineering fundamentals to all](#). The University of New South Wales Australia and adaptive learning provider Smart Sparrow have unveiled what they call the world's first-ever open adaptive engineering course designed to unlock access to high-quality courses for

learners of all backgrounds. It is the first Engineering MOOC to leverage Adaptive Technology.

42. [Melbourne University's MOOCs hit enrolment record.](#) The University of Melbourne has surpassed its millionth massive open online course enrolment just three years after going live. The university now offers 20 courses, attracting enrolments from 188 countries, more than 30 per cent of them emerging nations.

Rankings, Ratings, Surveys & Benchmarking

43. [The higher the ranking the higher the price, study finds.](#) Australian universities with a higher position in global league tables tend to set higher international tuition fees, according to a recent study. The [comparative analysis](#) of international student fees in Australia was conducted by recruitment firm Studymove Consultants and looked at close to 4,300 programmes at all 39 Australian universities. A strong correlation emerged between the ranking position and the price of the annual tuition fees for international students.
44. [Little known Marcus Oldham College tops all universities in student satisfaction.](#) A specialist private college has beaten all of Australia's universities in student satisfaction, according to a large-scale survey published on the federal government's new search engine to help students choose higher education courses. New data released last week on the Quality Indicators for Teaching and Learning (QILT) website (www.qilt.edu.au) shows that students rated Geelong agriculture and equine business institution Marcus Oldham College as the best in Australia for its overall education experience.
45. [Collaboration 'name of the game' for Australian research, says ranking architect.](#) Australia is bucking a first-world trend and quietly increasing its share of high-prestige research, says the architect of one the newest global rankings. But it will have to hitch its wagon to China to maintain its progress. [The fourth Nature Index](#), released in late April by the Nature publishing house, shows that Australian researchers are steadily increasing their output in big-name journals.

46. [Monash, UQ drop out of ranking.](#) Both Monash and the University of Queensland have dropped out of the [Times Higher Education top 100 most reputable universities ranking](#), leaving just three local institutions — Melbourne, Australian National University and Sydney — in the list. Melbourne once again topped local universities on the Times Higher Education list, but fell eight positions to 49. Both ANU and Sydney fell from the 51-60 category to 61-70.

Research

47. [How to improve research training in Australia – give industry placements to PhD students.](#) The skilled graduate must become the most important outcome of research training in Australia – as it is in many other parts of the world – urges a [new report](#) by the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA). The findings from the ACOLA review of the Australian research training system suggest that universities need to better serve the needs of doctoral graduates.
48. [May 2016 ARC Grants Announcement.](#) On 6 May 2016, Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham, [announced](#) new research grants under four ARC funding schemes. A total of 258 new research projects have received ARC funding of \$163 million.

Student Recruitment & Mobility

49. [Enhancements to the QILT website. As part of the 2016-17 Budget,](#) the Government announced an additional \$8.1 million to enhance the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) website www.qilt.edu.au. QILT helps students and their families make informed choices about their higher education study options by bringing together survey data from all Australian higher education institutions about student's experiences and graduate job outcomes. The website now includes data from [private institutions](#).
50. [Chinese student boom hits new record.](#) [Almost](#) 50,000 Chinese students started courses in Australian universities, colleges and schools this year, up 23 per cent on last year, making students from

China more important than ever to the booming education export industry. [Federal government data](#) shows a 13 per cent increase in the number of international students from all countries but by far the biggest number were from China - a record 46,400 in total.

51. The Australian Government's [Endeavour Scholarships, Fellowships and Endeavour Mobility Grants](#) support two-way engagement between Australia and the rest of the world. The scholarship and grants provide life changing opportunities for Australian and overseas students and professionals to access learning and research opportunities globally. The 2017 round of the Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships close on 30 June while the 2017 round of Endeavour Mobility Grants are open until 10 June.
52. [Australia rolls out SSVF, 10-year visa to China.](#) In his first ever visit to China, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull courted Chinese tourists and students by introducing fewer student visa categories and piloting a 10-year visitor visa. Speaking in Shanghai, Turnbull said the Simplified Student Visa Framework, announced last July, would be available to Chinese applicants to make it more "straightforward and easier" for students to apply to study in Australia.
53. [A more transparent university admissions process? Here's what we should be talking about.](#) It's been a tough year for the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR). First, a [Fairfax Media investigation](#) showed that large numbers of students are being admitted to university programs with scores well below the cut-off. Then, federal Education Minister [Simon Birmingham told](#) the Higher Education Standards Panel that he is keen to explore "greater transparency measures" in university admissions processes.
54. [Low-SES, regional students struggle with university admission.](#) Career advisers and parents of students from low-income backgrounds and regional areas are directing students away from university, in a sign that the federal government's \$500 million-plus flagship equity program to improve tertiary access for disadvantaged students is failing to hit the mark.

55. [Australia's role in harnessing India's young talent.](#) Delivering education and creating jobs for the subcontinent's vast cohort of young people is a global challenge comparable to combating climate change. And Australia has a role to play in harnessing the energy and talents of that crucial demographic, one of Australia's top India experts says.

Who's on the Move (or not)?

56. [Following Universities Australia meeting](#) in late April Barney Glover (WSU) stays on as chair and Margaret Gardner (Monash) continues as his deputy. New board members are John Dewar (La Trobe), Jan Thomas (USQ) and Andrew Vann (CSU). Jane den Hollander (Deakin), Peter Lee (SCU) and Ian O'Connor (Griffith) retire.

Institutional Researcher's Corner



AAIR Newsletter Editor Position

Are you looking for a little something extra to add another string to your bow? Show off your skills, learn some new ones, while also helping your Association.

Imagine what it would be like if everyone in your Association knew your face and knew your name. Your profile would instantly be raised amongst your peers.

This is an exciting opportunity for an enterprising AAIR Member!

AAIR is seeking an Editor for the Association's monthly Newsletter.

The current Editor, Louise Hargreaves, will step down at the end of 2016 after two years in the role. This is a fantastic professional development opportunity to increase your knowledge of the sector and gain an in depth

understanding of higher education issues at the international and domestic level. It is hoped that the incoming Editor could shadow the outgoing Editor for the last few issues of the year and then commence in January 2017.

Details:

- Free registration to AAIR events
- Term of Appointment: 2 years
- Hands on involvement in your Association
- Time commitment per month: 12 hours

Whilst a volunteer role, benefits include:

- having a broader profile in the sector
- obtaining/improving editing and layout skills
- professional development experience to add to your curriculum vitae
- potential flow-on to/from your own work through various research that's undertaken
- free registration to AAIR events

The incoming Editor is welcome to take the Newsletter in new directions – to put a personal stamp on the Newsletter. The key for AAIR is that the content keeps our members informed and is of interest to our broad readership which now numbers close to nine hundred.

We are open to your ideas and happy to discuss how AAIR can best support you in the role.

The outgoing Editor will provide the necessary resources to the incoming Editor regarding where topical information can be sourced, and will receive any necessary training during the handover period.

There may be an opening for the Newsletter Editor to become involved in the Association's social media pages if interested.

This is great opportunity for you to advance your own professional development and become more involved in your Association.

If you are interested in applying for this rewarding position within your Association, please email your expression of interest and resume to either:

Dave Marr (AAIR President):

E: president@aaair.org.au

T: 02 4388 3992

or

Andrea Jeffreys (AAIR Secretary):

E: secretary@aaair.org.au

T: 03 9479 1319

Only Financial Members Are Eligible to Apply For This Position

Expressions of interest are open until an appropriate candidate is appointed



57. Have you joined [AAIR's LinkedIn Group?](#) Start a conversation with your fellow AAIRies or post an article you would like to share. Click on the link to join today.

Tips and Tricks

58. [Using the Criteria Field in Microsoft Access](#) by Lee Allard, Director of Institutional Research, Siena College. Many of us use Microsoft Access to extract data from Banner or other enterprise systems, or to store data that doesn't fit in our enterprise system. This tip provides an overview of the criteria field in Access queries, including Flexible Criteria, Date Criteria, and Using Tables as Input.
59. [Heat Maps in Excel 2010](#) by John Leonard, Associate Dean of Administration and Finance, Georgia Institute of Technology. This tech tip introduces a technique for helping explore patterns in worksheets – heat maps. The conditional formatting feature in Excel 2010 can be used to create heat maps on worksheets without the need for separate external programs or other software programs.



60. [AIR National Survey of Institutional Research Offices](#). The National Survey of IR Offices, administered in 2015, established a baseline of IR Office capacities. This inquiry sought to document the characterizations of IR Offices as they exist in 2015, including scope of work, reporting lines, staffing, and fiscal resources. Guiding questions included: How many people work in the IR Office? What tasks are assigned to the IR Office? What fiscal investments do institutions make in their IR Offices?

In April 2016, AIR released a summary report (see below) examining the data with a focus on IR offices at not-for-profit institutions. The data collected have several stories to tell, and we are excited about the possibilities. AIR looks forward to continued collaboration with data consumers to explore this information with multiple lenses, which will further illuminate the resources and capacities of IR offices. In the coming months, we will outline a process for researchers to request use of these data in the aggregate.

[Download the Report](#).

61. [AIR report makes it clear: Completion metrics must be re-examined](#). A [new report](#) from the American Institutes for Research suggests a revision in the metrics that define institutional success, including graduation and persistence. The report suggests that the way the U.S. Department of Education measures graduation — as a rate determined by six-year completion, measuring only first-time, full-time enrolled students — means many graduates are never counted; 70,000 students earned degrees last year but didn't count towards their institutions' graduation rates, the study said.
62. [Learning analytics in higher education - A review of UK and international practice](#). This report documents the emerging uses of learning analytics in the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom. Through a series of eleven case studies it presents an overview of the evidence currently available of the impact that analytics are having on teaching and learning.

63. [EFTSL keeps university staff on their toes](#). What the EFTSL? You haven't lived, or at least have been living on Mars, until you have attempted to explain EFTSL — equivalent full-time student load — to university staff. This is because EFTSL and its international equivalents — FTE in Britain, EFTS in New Zealand — are policy palimpsests.

Frivolous Favourites

64. [International student sitcom in running for TV spot](#). Comedy fans across Australia could soon be welcoming a smartly satirical sitcom about the life of an international student to their screens. Ronny Chieng: International Student is one of six shows in the running to win a national spot on ABC's [Comedy Showroom](#). The show is a semi-autobiographical comedy about a Malaysian student — “blunt, barbed and not afraid to cut through BS” — who struggles to get along with fellow students when he enrolls at university in Australia.

66. [Need a New, Important-Sounding Job Title? Try This](#). The lengthy, jargon academic job title has long been an easy target for critics of the bureaucratization of higher ed. How many assistant deans, vice provosts, and special-assistants-to-the-whomever does a college need? A new website, [universitytitlegenerator.com](#), takes that sentiment to the extreme, generating a new, fake job title — and estimated salary — with each click.

67. [Do students pick universities because of movies?](#) Are movies a hidden factor in choosing a university? Does Hollywood and Bollywood influence where students want to study? Instead of prospectuses and stalls at international recruitment fairs, should universities try to attract overseas students through the cinema? Instead of focusing on international university rankings, should they be looking at box office takings?

65. How to Read an Academic Paper

"IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN"	I didn't look up the original reference.
"A DEFINITE TREND IS EVIDENT"	The data are practically meaningless.
"WHILE IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE DEFINITE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS"	An unsuccessful experiment, but I still hope to get it published.
"THREE OF THE SAMPLES WERE CHOSEN FOR DETAILED STUDY"	The other results didn't make any sense.
"TYPICAL RESULTS ARE SHOWN"	This is the prettiest graph.
"THESE RESULTS WILL BE IN A SUBSEQUENT REPORT"	I might get around to this sometime, if published/funded.
"A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF OBTAINED DATA"	Three pages of notes were obliterated when I knocked over a glass of beer.
"AFTER ADDITIONAL STUDY BY MY COLLEAGUES"	They didn't understand it, either.
"THANKS ARE DUE TO JOE BLOTZ FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THE EXPERIMENT AND TO CINDY ADAMS FOR VALUABLE DISCUSSIONS"	Mr. Blotz did the work and Ms. Adams explained to me what it meant.
"A HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT AREA FOR EXPLORATORY STUDY"	A totally useless topic selected by my committee.
"IN MY EXPERIENCE"	Once
"IN CASE AFTER CASE"	Twice
"IN A SERIES OF CASES"	Three times
"IT IS BELIEVED THAT"	I think.
"IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT"	A couple of others think so, too.
"CORRECT WITHIN AN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE"	Wrong.
"ACCORDING TO STATISTICAL ANALYSIS"	Rumor has it.
"IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH ADDITIONAL WORK WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PHENOMENON OCCURS"	I don't understand.
"A STATISTICALLY-ORIENTED PROJECTION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE FINDINGS"	A wild guess.
"IT IS HOPED THAT THIS STUDY WILL STIMULATE FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS IN THIS FIELD"	I quit.



Positions Vacant



Seeking another opportunity in Institutional Research in Australia? Try our [Higher Education Jobs](#) webpage for current vacancies in the profession. If you are seeking an international career change see our American colleagues [AIR Careers](#) page.

Looking for some training and development?

See our [Training and Development](#) webpage focused on training for institutional researchers.

Looking for higher education conferences and events?

Here is a selection of upcoming events (or past events) that may be of interest. See our [Events/Fora](#) webpage for more national and international events.

[QILT Surveys and Evaluation Forum returns!](#)

16-17 June, 2016

The long awaited resurrection of the higher education surveys and evaluations forum has finally arrived. We are running the forum alongside the [AAIR SIG \(Special Interest Group\) Forum](#).

This forum has been developed to meet the needs of higher education student survey practitioners, institutional researchers and program evaluators, as well as to assist those in management, planning and data analysis of the QILT suite of surveys, and also the broader student surveying space.



[The 2016 Australian Higher Education Summit](#)

14-15 July, 2016

Melbourne Park Function Centre

The Australian School of Applied Management, is organising the 2016

Australian Higher Education Summit, which takes place in Melbourne on 14th/15th of July. With three streams across the 2 days focussing on Leadership, Technology, Research, and Partnerships, the conference aims to provide attendees with an unparalleled opportunity to examine the management structures, partnerships and value chains within the tertiary sector that are paramount for personal, commercial and operational success. [New Agenda](#) Release

[Higher education Institutional Research \(HEIR\) Conference](#)

7-8 September, 2016

Liverpool John Moores University

Metrics that matter: future directions for qualitative and quantitative institutional research.

HEIR2016 will explore the role of metrics and data in supporting higher education institutions, agencies and practitioners to make sense of the rapidly changing and globalised education context.

Call for papers [now open](#).

[Brain Gain – Charting the Impact and Future of Transnational Higher Education.](#)

9-11 November, 2016

Transnational higher education (TNE) is an engine of ideas, creativity and opportunity. For decades, thousands of partnerships, alliances and international branch campuses have provided much-needed access to higher education. For host countries, TNE offers high-value know-how and capacity, helping to strengthen domestic higher education. For exporters, TNE represents new revenue and is integral to international student recruitment and mobility and reputation building...

Call for proposals now open [submit by 31 May](#)

Enjoy Reading?



Here are a few recent releases:

[Global Perspectives and Local Challenges Surrounding International Student Mobility](#) by Krishna Bista and Charlotte Foster.

[Global Perspectives and Local Challenges Surrounding International Student Mobility](#) explores comparative research regarding the implementation of effective strategies needed when working with native and non-native individuals in educational settings. Offering perspectives from international student experiences, as well as views on current mobility trends, immigration policies, and challenges with cultural expectations, this publication will be a critical source for educators, policymakers, and university staff who interact with international students.

[Technology and the Disruption of Higher Education: Saving the American University](#) by Professor Henry C. Lucas Jr.

New technologies provide opportunities and threats to the American University. These technologies include online and blended classes and MOOCs. These new forms of instruction focus on promoting active as opposed to passive learning. There are chapters on each of these types of classes based on my experiences teaching them. The book discusses how to use new technologies and the opportunity they provide to enhance teaching and learning. It also identifies the threats these technologies pose for schools that do not take advantage of them. Some colleges are going to fail while others will enter into a decline. Technology-enhanced approaches to teaching and learning are not enough to save the university. The last chapter of the book explores some radical changes that colleges need to undertake themselves if they are to maintain their key role in society.

[Student Equity in Australian Higher Education: Twenty-five years of a Fair Chance for All.](#) Andrew Harvey, Catherine Burnheim & Mathew Brett Editors.

This book examines twenty-five years of the Australian framework for student equity in higher education, *A Fair Chance for All*. Divided into two sections, the book reflects on the legacy of equity policy in higher education, the effectiveness of current approaches, and the likely challenges facing future policymakers. The first section explores the creation of the framework, including the major elements of the policy, the political context of its development, and how it compares with international models developed during the same period. The performance of the six student equity groups identified within the framework is also examined. The second section of the book considers future trends and challenges.

Higher Education Abroad

by Louise Hargreaves

Global News & Views

1. [Why Higher Education Needs to Be More Future-Focused.](#) As the threat of MOOCs and for-profit education fades, so too does the sense of urgency that drives innovation. Yet anyone who thinks that a decade from now higher education will look much as it does today is sadly mistaken. A host of trends are already well underway that spell the end of one era and the beginning of another.
2. [Tradition vs. Nostalgia in Higher Education.](#) The discussion surrounding the creation of a dynamic system for revitalizing today's colleges and universities is often mired in the debate over the loss of tradition, the time-honored practices of relatively modern learning institutions. It is no wonder since this is what we have to associate with higher education.
3. [Understanding and Responding to the Need for Stackable Programming.](#) Today's students are diverse and have grown up with the ability to choose from a variety of options at their fingertips. If you just go to any app store, you will find thousands of choices available to anyone. Yet, people like sequences and how things move from one level to another. Processing and programming are sequential, and today's students understand that. With so many choices available to the youth today, sequencing can help them organize the information so they can make a good decision.
4. [More countries moving to internationalise higher education.](#) New research from the British Council looks at the internationalisation policies for higher education in 26 countries. It ranks Germany and Malaysia at the top of the study sample as having the most balanced portfolios in support of internationalisation, with the UK and Australia following close behind.
5. [Amazon, Google and Apple – How these three big players are changing the higher education landscape.](#) In the same week that Amazon acquired an [e-learning company \(link is external\)](#) and announced that it intended to strengthen the value of its Kindle device

by offering e-learning for schools, colleges and universities, Alphabet (Google's parent company) became the [largest company in the world by revenue \(link is external\)](#). Google offers education supports from a free version of office products, through thousands of applications which run on any device to the devices themselves.

6. [Build or Partner? Becoming Competitive in the International Postsecondary Marketplace.](#) Private pathway program providers create opportunities for universities to leap into the Intensive English Language Program marketplace with both feet, but sometimes they create more questions than answers.
7. [Nine universities on one small campus? It's real. It's here. And could be higher education's future.](#) Shady Grove is a program unlike any other, with nine state universities converging at the Rockville, Md., campus, part of an effort that began 16 years ago to reduce college costs, produce an educated workforce and encourage college completion among populations that traditionally struggle to get their degrees.
8. [Universities can't solve our skills gap problem, because they caused it.](#) The class of 2015 graduated with an average of \$35,000 in student loan debt, the most in history. And yet, executives and hiring managers continue to complain about their inability to fill skilled positions in their companies. This is the skills gap, and we've been talking about it for more than a decade. So why aren't universities addressing this problem? Because they can't. Here's why.
9. [Trump's Emerging Higher Ed Platform.](#) Campaign co-chair describes ideas being prepared for fall campaign. Among them: getting government out of student lending, requiring colleges to share in risk of loans, discouraging borrowing by liberal arts majors and moving OCR to Justice Department.

10. [U.S. Higher Education Slow To Shift to Digital Experiences.](#) Public universities could really use some help in sorting out how to use their digital content, technologies and practices to do a better job of interacting with their "customers" — students and families. Likewise, they're making glacially slow progress on meeting the expectations of prospective students. Those findings come out of a sponsored survey that examined the current state of content management practices in higher education. According to "[Digital Transformation in Higher Education](#)," delivering "experiences" to education customers — above and beyond publishing content — remains "aspirational" for public universities.
11. [17 crowdfunding sites for millions in higher education donations.](#) Taking a cue from savvy students, colleges and universities are turning to online crowdfunding sites to rake in millions in alumni donations and program and research funding.
12. [Business schools get a road map for change.](#) Stay ahead of the curve is a maxim as applicable to businesses as those who teach about managing organizations. Amid uncertainty over potentially disruptive modes of educational delivery (online or otherwise), increased global competition for students and faculty, and rising employer demand for innovative and socially-conscious graduates, business schools around the world are feeling the heat to adapt — or perish.



13. [US educators following President Obama's lead to open new links with Cuba](#). US President Obama has taken concrete steps this year to improve bilateral relations with Cuba. Major international education organisations in the US have followed his lead and opened new programmes and initiatives to strengthen institutional links between US and Cuban institutions, and to expand student and faculty mobility.
14. [Brexit could discourage European students from studying in UK](#). There are 125,000 European students enrolled in British universities currently. Universities UK estimate they generate £3.7 billion (US\$5.25 billion) in economic impact and support more than 34,000 jobs. As the 23 June referendum on the UK's EU membership looms, speculation is increasing as to how a British exit ("Brexit") from the EU could affect European enrolment in the country.
15. [UK Higher education white paper: the big changes](#). The government's [higher education white paper](#) – and the legislation that will follow – redraws three fundamental relationships that have defined higher education in the UK for 100 years: with the state, with students and with research.
16. [Companies Like Facebook and Google Could Soon Be Able to Offer Degrees in the UK](#). Recently there have been some proposals that would see changes made to the UK's higher education system, and if they come to pass it could mean companies like Facebook and Google could set up their own academic institutions. Institutions [capable](#) of awarding degrees, just like a university. The proposals have been made in a paper called [Success As A Knowledge Economy](#), which is focussed on higher education reforms here in the UK.
17. [The business of running a university](#). When universities were first created in medieval times, they were mainly communities of ecclesiastical scholars. Now, they are multimillion-pound businesses with complex leadership teams, human resources departments, mission statements, international strategies, communications executives and directors of enterprise.
18. [UK Students vote to sabotage plans to rate teaching in universities](#). Students have found a weapon in their battle to stop the government raising tuition fees still further: at a conference in Brighton they have voted to sabotage two key surveys unless the government withdraws its planned reforms. The National Union of Students will boycott both the National Student Survey (NSS) and the Destination of Leavers from higher education survey (DLHE), which provide statistics the government needs to carry out its plans.
19. [UK universities trial U.S.-style liberal arts education](#). In February this year, Times Higher Education (THE) [reported](#) that [Regent's University London](#) had become the latest UK University to implement liberal arts degrees to its body of courses, mirroring those on offer at top U.S. institutions.
20. [If graduates' economic returns differ so should their fees](#). The recent IFS Study told us what intuitively we already knew. Where and what you study matters. But the study also provokes some important questions. First, is it fair that students are liable to repay the same amount, and in many cases will repay similar amounts if their economic prospects differ markedly?
21. [Paris bets big on science and technology with new mega-university](#). When asked how to create a great city, the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan said: "Create a great university and wait 200 years." It would be an understatement, then, to say that the fall 2015 launch of the University of Paris-Saclay—which merges 18 French academic and research institutions in one sprawling 30-square-mile research campus—heeds Moynihan's words.
22. [Germany to continue building its Ivy League](#). The program designed to create a German Ivy League will be extended indefinitely, giving a handful of the country's top universities a yearly bonus of at least €10 million in extra funding, the German government has announced.
23. [German Universities Are Told to Be More Transparent About Industry Research Ties](#). German university heads have welcomed proposals by the *Stifterverband* – a network of foundations, businesses and individuals supporting the country's higher education and research – for improved transparency in collaborations between universities and industry.
24. [Germany and Malaysia 'top performers' for internationalisation](#). Germany and Malaysia have been singled out as the best performers in major British Council research that looks at national policies on openness to international higher education. [The Shape of Global Higher Education: National Policies Framework for International Engagement](#), published on 4 May, examines policies in 26 nations by assessing them against 37 qualitative indicators
25. [Korea's Internationalization Challenge](#). The president of the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology said the institution's focus on English-language courses and the introduction of social events for international staff and students has helped make the campus more attractive to those from overseas, but internationalization is still a "challenge" across the country.
26. [When Everyone Goes to College: a Lesson From South Korea](#). Mr. Obama and American leaders often hold up South Korea's near-universal college-attainment rate as something for the United States to emulate. But Koreans say that increased enrollment has devalued the college degree, and, as recent graduates struggle to find work, others worry about the social costs of so many under- or unemployed young people.
27. [Korea's exam-free term good for schools, says government](#). A new policy set to overhaul the Korean education system is an opportunity to boost enrolments at New Zealand schools, Education New Zealand has urged. The programme exempts Korean middle school students from taking any exams for an entire semester while they focus on creative or physical activities instead
28. [Is Higher Education Making the Grade in Vietnam?](#) Vietnam has announced a bold new higher education reform agenda. The government of Vietnam will offer up to 10,000 government scholarships for overseas doctoral study between 2014 and 2020 (or 1300–1500 per year) to tertiary and research institute staff. The so-called 911 Project will also offer scholarships to qualified non-academic professionals committed to tertiary teaching careers.
29. [Brazil: research highlights shift to affordable destinations and career-oriented studies](#). BELTA has just released new research on 2015 trends in the Brazilian study abroad market. The data points to a distinct shift to more affordable destinations, notably Canada, Ireland, and Malta.

30. [Show me the Money!: How much have leading Chinese universities got to play with in 2016/17?](#) This month, the Times Higher Education reputation rankings revealed 18 Asian universities have made the top 100. Amongst these 18, 5 Chinese institutions now rank in the top 100. Every year, the relentless climb of leading elite institutions from China leads to a chorus, speculating both positively and negatively on the rise of China as a global HE superpower.
31. [The Gaokao: History, Reform, and Rising International Significance of China's National College Entrance Examination.](#) For more almost 9.5 million rising high school graduates across China, three days in June represent a critical turning point. That's when the goakao, China's high-stakes standardized college entrance exam, is administered. The exam was long the only admission requirement for higher education in China.
32. [Chinese private school company buys US university campus.](#) A Chinese company is set to buy a campus from the University of Connecticut and turn it into an international school. Weiming Education Group has agreed to buy the 58-acre West Hartford campus for \$12.6 million (£8.7 million), reported the [China Daily](#).
33. [New China policy cracks down on EMBA corruption.](#) From next year, students entering Executive MBA programmes offered by Chinese and foreign business schools will be required to take a national entrance exam, the Ministry of Education has announced. The move aims to increase the academic standards of MBAs and put an end to "richmen's clubs".
34. [China's elite question capitalist values yet send their children to study at Western universities.](#) The nation has its own tertiary institutions – some of them renowned – so why do top leaders prefer Harvard or Oxford for their offspring?
35. [Chinese government boosts UK ELT recruitment.](#) A new organisation backed by the Chinese government has launched in the UK aiming to attract native English speakers to teach English in China through a new internship programme. Backed by the State of Administration Foreign Experts Affairs, [Post Study](#) was recently established to recruit students for the Teach in China internship scheme which waives the traditional two-years' work experience required to be granted a working visa and guarantees their visa approval.
36. [The Future of Education in Japan: The International Baccalaureate.](#) The IB diploma is becoming the world's most common university entrance qualification. It is accepted in 140 countries, by 3700 schools, and from more than one million students. In Japan, the goal is to introduce the IB program to 200 high schools or more by 2020
37. [New Foundation Seeks to Give 15,000 Arab Students Scholarships.](#) A billionaire Emirati industrialist started the region's largest scholarship fund last week. Abdulla Al Ghurair—who made his fortune in iron, steel and banking—has set aside a third of his family's wealth to get tens of thousands of Arab students enrolled in universities to get science and engineering degrees. The first batch of scholarship recipients will study within the region, but Jalbout is working to expand internationally to give future students the chance to pursue their education outside the Arab world.

Data, Big Data, Analytics & Technology

38. [Uber University is already here. Sounds implausible?](#) Not at all. Uber-U is already here, if not yet in name, in practice. It relies on a small number of technologies...
39. [Billion-dollar e-learning market about to undergo major shift.](#) Analysis explains how faculty-friendly offerings and reduced switching costs are beginning to transform—and accelerate—higher education technology adoption patterns.
40. [4 essential tips for institutional leaders using data.](#) As data continues to play an increasingly important role in college and university operations as institutions leverage it to form policy and dictate practices, a new report has identified four best practices specifically suited for institution and system leaders.
41. [8 ways wearables are influencing higher education's data use.](#) Look around today, and you're likely to spot a Fitbit—a wearable activity tracker that collects data about your daily steps and exercise—or other device on the wrists of more than a few people around you.

As real-time data tracking and analysis becomes more ubiquitous for personal use, how can the higher education community use the Fitbit analogy to improve teaching and learning, to learn about the things that work best in classrooms, and to ensure student success?

42. [Google develops NanoDegree program for mobile.](#) Google has teamed up with Udacity to offer a nano degree in mobile app development. This MOOC was created by Google to demonstrate how to get a mobile app from concept to production. They offer the course content for free, but if you require a mentor and want the certificate, then you will need to pay Udacity \$199 per month to get the [Tech Entrepreneur Nano Degree](#).
43. [Can Facebook boost MOOC retention?](#) Social media tools might be the key to keeping students engaged in MOOCs and preventing course dropouts, according to new research on MOOC course design that was presented at the annual ACM conference on Learning at Scale on April 26.
44. [Dropbox unveils new product aimed at higher education.](#) Dropbox announced a reduced cost service for faculty and graduate students that integrates with popular academic software and invites greater collaboration while allowing campus IT staff to control security settings.
45. [Learning Machine, Credly Partner on Competency-Based Admissions.](#) Learning Machine has integrated Credly's digital credentials with its enrollment management and portfolio platforms. The move is designed to make competency-based learning accessible to admissions representatives, according to information released by the companies. "Digital credentials, when paired with examples of real work, jumpstart high bandwidth conversations with the right applicants," said Dan Hughes, president and COO at Learning Machine
- ## Credentialing
46. [Is blockchain the future of storing, transferring student records?](#) Blockchain, a "decentralized ledger" technology developed alongside bitcoin, is being eyed in higher ed as a means of cheaply recording and vetting student

credentials for employers. The approach would save money for institutions, as they would no longer need to operate their own databases since the information would move to a reportedly secure global public network.

47. [In Search of a Tower of Babel for Credentials](#). In the last half decade, new forms of credentials such as badges, nanodegrees, microcredentials and certificates of completion have flooded out into the world from various learning environments. And with this torrent of new assertions of learning come a variety of questions: Who issued this credential? What is it supposed to represent? Was there a rigorous assessment involved?
48. [Hiring Experts Still Mostly Boggled by Digital Credentials](#). The future for digital credentials is still a bit foggy. A new survey on the topic found that just over a third (36 percent) of people involved in human resources and talent management have any knowledge of the topic. Only a quarter of those surveyed have already begun using digital credentials, such as badges, in their recruitment or hiring processes.
49. [UoP, UC Berkeley establish transfer students agreement](#). University of the People is partnering with the University of California, Berkeley. According to the articulation agreement between the two Californian universities, UC Berkeley will consider qualified, top-performing UoPeople Associate's degree graduates, who wish to transfer to complete a bachelor's degree at Berkeley.
50. [US Education Dept. Warns of More Scrutiny for Accreditors](#). The U.S. Department of Education is, once again, weighing in on accreditation, expanding some flexibility in the accreditation process but also warning of more scrutiny for accrediting agencies.

Competency Based Education

51. [US: The new push toward competency-based education](#). Recent reports suggest that over 500 colleges and universities are preparing to launch new competency based education (CBE) programs, up from an estimated 52 last year. In the coming months, a cadre of next generation degree programs will tap emerging technologies to

customize learning and offer newfound flexibility to students who can progress through courses at their own pace.

52. [Taking Competency-Based Credentials Seriously in the Workforce](#). It sounds cutting-edge, but the concept of a competency-based education that results in an institution-agnostic microcredential isn't new. For well over a century, industries have worked with colleges and universities through various types of extension programs to salt the workforce with better-qualified candidates. But in the Age of the Internet, for-profit online education providers such as [Udacity](#) and [Coursera](#) have tweaked that model by collaborating with companies to develop programs.

Graduate Outcomes

53. [What skills do employers value most in graduates?](#) Ernst and Young was the first prominent graduate employer to decide that its own entry criteria were a more accurate judge of job applicants than the degree classifications on their CVs. But similar moves away from a reliance on degree grades are now [taking root](#) at other big accountancy firms PwC and Deloitte, too. The latest [Global Employability University Survey](#), published in November 2015, reinforces the message that employers are placing a lower value on degree grades.
54. [Many Future Jobs Will Not Require a Bachelor's Degree—where does that Leave Higher Education?](#) The four-year degree is no longer a necessity for individuals entering today's workforce. Institutions need to do more to ensure their offerings are in demand both by students and employers.
55. [3 blossoming fields of study with massive potential](#). As students become more concerned with leveraging their postsecondary education for entry into the job market, colleges and universities must look beyond traditional fields of study to ones that directly lead to future-ready careers. Future-ready, or future-proof, careers refer to careers that not only have a significant number of current job openings, but whose openings are expected to increase in the future.
56. [International Student Employability: How Do U.S. Universities Stack Up?](#) It's that time of year again—graduation! But amidst the accomplishments and

excitement there is one thing weighing heavily on your students' minds: what happens next!? They have put in the time and effort, secured their degree and are now looking for the next step: a job.

57. [UK: What your choice of degree means for your future earnings](#). The mass expansion of higher education, the arrival of high fees in English and Welsh universities, the ongoing technology revolution and the Great Recession have pushed and pulled the graduate labour market in contrasting directions over the last 15 years. So a [new study](#) published by the Institute for Fiscal Studies to help us to better understand how new graduates fare when they leave university is especially welcome.
58. [Merger of elite Paris universities gets the go-ahead](#). Two of the most prestigious universities in Paris have agreed to merge by 1 January 2018. The newly elected boards of Paris-Sorbonne and Pierre and Marie Curie universities voted last week to formally commit to the plan following the re-election of pro-merger presidents at both institutions.

Higher Education Funding

59. [US: What does cutting rates on student loans do?](#) Are lower interest rates the best route to a fairer, more effective student loan program? From the rhetoric heard in Congress and on the campaign trail, the answer appears to be "yes." But both empirical evidence and economic theory show that lowering interest rates is a blunt, ineffective, and expensive tool for increasing schooling and reducing loan defaults.
60. [UK student debt twice that of Aussies](#). English graduates are more in debt than their US, Canadian, Australian or New Zealand counterparts by the time they leave university, a report says. Those who graduated from English universities last year — under the £9000 (\$17,250) fees regime — owe an average of more than \$84,325, data from the Sutton Trust shows. US graduates owe between \$A38,234 for students at public or private non-profit universities, and \$42,979 for those at private for-profit universities.

Online Learning

61. [Professors hate online education. To save colleges, they have to learn to love it.](#) Online education presents great opportunities for colleges and universities, but also great threats. As this disruptive technology spreads, some universities will become better, and rise in stature. Others will go out of business. What will separate the winners from the losers? You might think the answer is money, to invest in new technologies. But the real key to success — and also the chief potential roadblock — is the faculty.
62. [George Washington U grads sue over online experience.](#) Graduates of an online master's degree program in security and safety leadership at George Washington University filed a class action lawsuit last week, arguing the program didn't live up to its promise of being as good as its face-to-face counterpart.
63. [Lessons about Online Learning.](#) In its infancy, online learning was viewed as a more accessible alternative for students unable to commit to the traditional higher education path. But in recent years online education has been gaining more acceptance. The most recent U.S. Department of Education data from fall 2014 indicate that 5.8 million students took at least one online course, with 2.85 million of them studying exclusively online.
64. [China's tech fever attracts US online education giant.](#) Silicon Valley-based online education provider Udacity announced its entry into China on Monday, hoping to tap into the rising demands for talent among the country's tech companies. Udacity, which features training courses designed by tech giants like Google and Facebook, launched its Chinese-language website to make all of its 132 courses available to Chinese learners.
65. [Could a liberal arts approach to online learning be more successful?](#) As working adults become the norm in higher education, the focus of many colleges and universities has shifted to online education, with its promise of flexibility and convenience. To meet the needs of these learners, a large number of schools are pursuing massively scalable, highly automated solutions,

although high dropout rates plague some of these business models.

66. [Online education's potential in Latin America starting to be tapped.](#) Coursera has experienced rapid growth in Latin America, which has become the company's fastest growing region, with Colombia and Mexico representing almost half the region's users. Coursera's impressive success in expanding its user base in Latin America underscores the power of having local partners and the imperative of making courses relevant locally.

Rankings, Ratings and Benchmarking

67. [Rankings 'must disaggregate data to drive performance'.](#) Multi-indicator rankings provide a rich data set, but because the link between effort in a particular area and ranking outcome is not transparent, they cannot drive a coherent performance regime, the iREG-8 conference on university rankings and international academic relations in Lisbon was told.
68. [Report outlines specific metrics for new higher education data infrastructure.](#) A technical guide from the Institute for Higher Education Policy follows up on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's [call for a new metrics framework](#) to measure the performance of colleges and universities.
69. [Outcomes Over Exclusivity: The Ideal Rankings for Today's Students.](#) Higher education rankings have become a feature of the postsecondary space. Measuring all kinds of different aspects of institutional performance, there are rankings available that speak to a wide variety of questions. However, the one question that's most important to today's students—and the one for which information is least available—is outcomes.
70. [Best universities in Africa 2016.](#) Times Higher Education World University Rankings data reveal the top 15 universities in Africa. South Africa's University of Cape Town has topped a Times Higher Education snapshot ranking of the best universities in Africa thanks to its highly-cited research, a strong international outlook and an ability to attract large sums of money from industry. View the full results of the [Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-2016](#)
71. Times Higher Education - World's most prestigious universities 2016. [Asia](#) has increased its share of institutions in a global ranking of the world's most prestigious universities. The continent has 18 institutions in the [Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings 2016](#), up from 10 last year. Its top performer — [Japan's](#) University of Tokyo — held on to 12th place, while [China's](#) Tsinghua University and Peking University leaped eight and 11 places, respectively, to reach 18th and 21st place.
72. [QS Higher Education System Strength Rankings 2016.](#) Which nations have the world's strongest higher education systems? Find out with the QS Higher Education System Strength Rankings — an assessment of overall system strength and flagship university performance, alongside factors relating to access and funding
73. [Sociologists examine negative impact of higher education rankings.](#) According to new research in the Russell Sage Foundation's "[Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability](#)," data-based accountability measures like rankings, performance evaluations and test scores often have negative impacts on the institutions they're measuring.
74. [US: Social media's top 50 colleges and universities.](#) Engagement, impact and responsiveness were all key to landing a spot on the list of the best institutions on social media. Technology and data company [Engagement Labs](#) released its 2016 ranking of the top 50 U.S. colleges and universities on social media networks Facebook and Twitter.
75. [Students say digital presence is key to enrollment decisions.](#) According to a new report, [The Digital Search for Education](#) student survey data reinforces that higher education institution must place greater emphasis on their digital presence, engaging students with digital communications that are most in line with their preferences in order to boost enrollment.

Student Recruitment and Mobility

76. [Colleges Use Snapchat to Attract Prospective Students](#). When Alex Cosentino visited the campus of the University of South Carolina earlier this year, the 18-year-old looked beyond the brochures and tour guides for a glimpse of what the school is really like. His source? The social media platform Snapchat.
77. [The Institutional Race for International Tuition Dollars: Are the Costs Acceptable?](#) International student mobility is driving the agenda of higher education now more than ever. Numbers are rising, from 2 million globally mobile students a decade ago to close to 5 million now to an anticipated 8 million in another decade. As a group, these highly mobile students are viewed as a rich economic resource, with a strong focus on their revenue-generating potential manifest in national and institutional policies around the globe.
78. [Education agents say internet is changing the shape of study travel recruitment](#). The internet is the biggest disruption to language travel recruitment, a panel of education agents has said. Speaking at the [Eaquals](#) conference last week, agents from Italy, Spain and Germany agreed that the internet has changed how they recruit and relationship they have with schools.
79. [New Zealand: Foreign student numbers fall](#). Visa figures show schools and private tertiary institutions are bearing the brunt of a fall in foreign student numbers. Figures published by education promotion body, Education New Zealand, show that in the first three months of 2016 there were 27,268 foreigners with student visas, 1725 or 6 percent fewer than in the same period for 2015.
80. China is the leading sending market for the US, and now accounts for nearly a third of all international enrolment in American institutions. Particularly given the high volume of Chinese applicants, US educators are keen to strengthen their admissions and selections processes and to protect against credential fraud. [Third-party video interview services, based both in the US or China, have come to play a more prominent role in US admissions in recent years](#) and are seen as a way to better ensure the integrity of the admissions file and also to provide for a more complete assessment of the applicant
81. [The Spending War on Student Recruitment](#). There's been a great deal of recent [press](#) and [politics](#) around the climbing walls, lazy rivers and other [seemingly lavish campus amenities](#) that have become commonplace at colleges and universities. But critics are missing the real arms race in higher education: a new student-recruitment spending war that is orders of magnitude more expensive and ends in only higher tuition rates for students -- with none of the fun and relaxation.
82. [America and Japan reporting big gains in Vietnamese enrolment](#). The number of Vietnamese students abroad began to expand rapidly around 2006 and shows no sign of cooling off. Over the last two years, Japan and the US have seen gains of nearly 50% in their Vietnamese enrolments. This continued growth is being fuelled by a hot Vietnamese economy, along with a correspondingly rapid expansion of the country's middle class, as well as persistent concerns about the quality of higher education within Vietnam.
83. [Why don't more Canadian students study abroad?](#) How can Canada encourage more postsecondary students to study abroad? Employers and higher ed institutions have acknowledged the value that this type of experience could bring to the country's workforce. But only 3.1% of full-time university students and 1.1% of full-time college students have studied abroad as part of their postsecondary education.
84. [Growing Chinese middle class projected to spend heavily on education through 2030](#). China's working-age population is projected to increase by another 100 million people by 2030. Consumer spending within this group is expected to more than double over the same period, effectively making it one of the most important consumer groups in the world. Education is a major category for this increased spending.
85. [March of Mandarin: the Chinese study travel market boom](#). The study of Chinese as a foreign language has become one of the world's largest language learning markets in just 10 years of exponential growth. Kick-started in 2004, by the launch of the Confucius Institute programme, which aims to promote understanding of Chinese language and culture around the globe, the sector has seen rapid expansion both at home and abroad.
86. [China is attracting a massive influx of international students, but what are the policies in place to help them stick around?](#) A lot of international students want to stay in China after graduation, but the two-year work experience requirement makes getting a work visa challenging. China's [Ministry of Education](#) held the first ever ministry sanctioned international students job fair in China at Peking University on April 18, attracting over 1,700 foreign students from nearly 100 countries
87. [Beijing Gaokao to undergo huger structural change in 2020](#). The Beijing Municipal Commission of Education has officially released its new policy for the National Higher Education Entrance Examination (Gaokao) that will take effect in 2020. The biggest highlight of the April 7 announcement is that the policy breaks the Gaokao tested courses into humanities and science.
88. [The international recruitment outlook for Russian universities](#). Head of the Department of International Programmes at Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, highlights the importance of national initiatives that are transforming the higher education landscape in Russia, notably the "5/100" project announced in 2012.

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A great way to get involved with the AAIR community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your IR colleagues? The next AAIR Newsletter will be published in late June. Please send your contributions to the editor@air.org.au by Wednesday June 15.



Louise Hargreaves
AAIR eNewsletter Editor