



From the President's Desk

by Dave Marr

What's in a name? The AAIR Executive Committee recently reviewed the results of our survey and agreed that there was no need to change the name. It has served us well but it perhaps needs to be better promoted. One idea was to coin a tag-line and we received a large number of suggestions in that regard from the survey. The Committee is deliberating on these and will put their most popular four or five out to the wider AAIR community for your opinion. We hope to do that in the not-too-distant future.

One other area where AAIR is looking to refresh itself is in the area of a professional forum organiser. To this end we've sent out an invitation to tender to a number of event managers who have credentials in running education-based events. Applications close on 16 October after which time a select group of members will review these applications and make a recommendation to the Committee. This new contract for providing professional forum management will include event management support for both the Annual and SIG forums. The contract will run from the commencement of 2016 through to the close of the 2019 Annual Forum.

The Committee now feels it is timely to enhance due diligence with such a tender process. This will give the successful

tenderer more continuity and clarity around the future arrangements, something that's been missing I feel for the past few years. It also means we can improve our forward planning, particularly the location of Forums over the period of the contract, so we can let our members know well in advance where and when the Forums will be.

The move to support the SIG Forum in the event management tender arose from feedback from the Local Organising Committees who, despite having done fantastic jobs in putting together the SIG Forums over the past few years, have felt that some assistance from an event manager would have made the job that much easier. Of course we'll try to keep registration costs much the same as in previous years by a gain in efficiencies and by limiting the scope to essential services the contracted party will need to provide.

A request to change the name of the DW/BI Special Interest Group has been approved. The SIG will now be known as the DW, BI and Analytics SIG. It was agreed that the addition of 'analytics' more fully describes these complementary areas of special interest.

I shouldn't end without mentioning the change of Prime Minister and cabinet reshuffle in Australian Federal politics. Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham has

taken on the Education and Training portfolio while The Hon. Christopher Pyne MP has moved to Industry, Innovation and Science which is inherently linked to the higher education portfolio.

Senator Birmingham has had great success in the Vocational Education/Training sector and hopefully those skills will translate to higher education. Senator Birmingham suggested in the HES (23/09/2015) that he'll consult more broadly before announcing any further policies which seems a pragmatic way to proceed. At least there's a recognition again that 'science' is an important issue. I'm sure the Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb, will be somewhat reassured by this move although there'll be a long road back I feel for the CSIRO and the like. However the rhetoric and veiled promises won't mean too much without some real action occurring to turnaround the uncertainty that the sector has been feeling for the past 18 months.



Dave Marr,
President



Registrations for the 26th Annual AAIR Forum

On behalf of the Australasian Association for Institutional Research (AAIR) Forum Organising Committee, we would like to extend a warm invitation to you to participate in this year's 26th AAIR Annual Forum.

It's been 16 years since the Forum has been across the Tasman to Australia's easterly neighbour, so we're well and truly overdue for a visit. If you haven't been to either Wellington or New Zealand, then you're in for a wonderful surprise. Lonely Planet named Wellington, 'the coolest little capital in the world', and it certainly lives up to that claim. Nestled between a sparkling harbour and rolling green hills (at least in November), New Zealand's capital city is renowned for its arts, heritage, culture and natural beauty.

[Registrations](#) and [accommodation bookings](#) are now open.

Program

Please see our [Forum Program](#) for latest program updates.

This year's Theme: The Winds of Change

It seems only fitting then that this year's theme is "The Winds of Change". If there's one thing that higher education has in common across the globe is that 'change' is the new norm whether that's because of

changes in government policy or radical improvements to technology. Institutional researchers are more often these days being asked to lead the institution's response to these changed environments. Our skills help us to meet these challenges and AAIR plays an important part in developing those skills and your knowledge.

Forum themes include:

- Benchmarking for Continuous Quality Improvement
- Informing Learning and Teaching through Evaluation and Surveys
- Closing the Loop – Putting Evidence into Practice
- Influencing Change through Information and Evaluation
- Modelling the Implications of Change
- Looking forward, looking back, new horizons
- Compliance and Government Reporting
- Planning, Policy and Positioning
- Business Intelligence and Analytics

Introducing our Key Note Speakers:

[Stephen Few](#) founded Perceptual Edge in 2003. With 30 years of experience as an innovator, consultant, and educator in the fields of business intelligence and information design, Stephen is now a leading expert in data visualization for sensemaking and communication.

[Steve Maharey](#) is the Vice-Chancellor of Massey University. He was the Member of Parliament for Palmerston North from 1990-2008 and a Senior Cabinet Minister from 1999-2008. Earlier in his career he was a Senior Lecturer in Sociology and a Junior Lecturer in Business Administration. His main areas of academic interest include social policy (particularly social development), education, media and cultural studies, social change and politics.



Higher Education@home

by Louise Hargreaves

1. The [tertiary education sector now has four ministers](#) to negotiate with after a recent cabinet reshuffle which saw [Simon Birmingham](#) promoted to education minister, [Christopher Pyne](#) moved into the industry, innovation and science portfolio and new appointments for international education ([Richard Colbeck](#)) and vocational education ([Luke Hartsuyker](#)).

reforms bill. The previous Labor government first proposed extending HELP to New Zealand citizens who had been long-term residents in its 2013 budget with the measure supported by the Coalition. But it never got to parliament before Labor lost office.



Higher Education Reform

2. [Fee deregulation is expected to be dumped by the Turnbull government](#) as it negotiates a new role for universities and research in a future economy. Barney Glover, chairman of Universities Australia, said it was unlikely "a new education minister would promulgate the same legislation".
3. [Pursuing the demand driven reforms without fee deregulation – Andrew Norton](#). According to [media reports](#), new education minister Simon Birmingham is considering proceeding separately with extending the demand driven system to sub-bachelor courses and to higher education providers outside the public university system. Fee deregulation would be dumped. This is the strategy [I have been advocating](#) for months.
4. [Loan fees advantage the rich: NTEU](#). The key academic union has lashed out at suggestions the government should dump fee deregulation but introduce a loan fee on HECS to keep the student loan scheme affordable to future governments while allowing them to extend loans to private colleges and sub-degree programs. Paul Kniest, policy and research co-ordinator with the National Tertiary Education Union, said a loan fee would financially benefit wealthy students whose parents could afford to pay tuition fees upfront.
5. [No student loan for Australia-based New Zealanders](#). Thousands of New Zealanders who grew up in Australia continue to be locked out of access to the student loan scheme as the government refuses to split the measure from its higher education

Policy Watch

6. [ALP's Higher Education Policy receives mixed response](#). The university sector has greeted Labor's higher education policy with a mixture of praise, caution, disappointment and scepticism. Peak group Universities Australia liked Labor's commitment to "guaranteeing" per-student base funding but stressed that the funding increases largely entrenched the status quo. ALP's higher education policy is available [here](#) and factsheets [here](#). Andrew Norton's first thoughts on Labor's higher education policy are available [here](#). A podcast of Michelle Grattan's interview with Kim Carr is available [here](#).
7. Vice-chancellors [have cautioned Labor against tying additional taxpayer funds to retention rates and improved graduate outcomes](#), saying the move could add red tape and place an unrealistic burden on universities in a softening jobs market. The sector has also warned that rewarding institutions based on student outcomes could discourage them from enrolling the most disadvantaged students, who had been the biggest winners of the demand-driven system established under the former Labor government.
8. The Minister for Education and Training has announced that a [code of ethics would be developed for international education agents](#), to enhance the quality and reputation of Australia's international education sector.
9. [The promised legislation to recover HELP debt from people overseas](#) was [introduced](#) to the House of Representatives on 17 September. In

principle this is a good idea, with the main issue being how to implement it. As outlined in our [Grattan doubtful debt report](#) last year, both the UK and New Zealand experienced significant difficulties in recovering student debt overseas. [Andrew Norton, Commentary from Carlton](#)

10. [Better regulation, less red tape to boost international education](#). The Minister for Education and Training has introduced new legislation to streamline regulation, remove duplicative requirements and cut red tape for Australia's international education providers. Mr Pyne said the [Education Services for Overseas Students \(Streamlining Regulation\) Amendment Bill 2015](#) removes unnecessary reporting from the ESOS Act while protecting the high quality of Australia's international education sector.
11. [Disadvantaged or just interesting? Higher education equity review](#). A review into "disadvantaged" groups in the higher education system has been commissioned by the Education Department in a move that could change the funding universities get under equity programs. Expressions of interest have been sought for a project to examine whether six educationally-disadvantaged groups are still relevant, and if any other groups should be identified.

Higher Education Funding

12. [\\$20bn of spending cuts still in legislative limbo](#). Nearly \$20 billion of higher education related spending cuts remain unlegislated and stuck in parliament,

representing more than a quarter of the value of all federal government budget measures, [according to the latest Parliamentary Budget Office figures](#).

13. [Should universities have to pay back unpaid student debts?](#) At a recent [ANU forum](#) on higher education financing, economist Lorraine Deardon said that since UK universities were allowed to treble their fees in 2012, more than 60% of UK students may never repay their loans. She suggested that with income-contingent loans, allowing universities to set their own fees should entail some "risk sharing" between governments and universities.
14. [Is government getting value for money from subsidies to online education?](#) Swinburne Online's success is a result of a rational response to a government incentive – that is, the subsidies offered through the demand driven system and HECS loans – to increase the number of students enrolling in bachelor degrees. Nevertheless, there are policy questions that need to be looked into.
15. University fees: what students pay in deregulated markets [The Grattan Institute]. Student fees now comprise a fifth of public university funding – almost \$6 billion a year. In 2013 about \$4.3 billion of these fees were paid by international students. The rest were paid by domestic students, with postgraduate students paying more than \$900 million.
16. [Expenditure on education and training in Australia 2015](#). Previous analysis by the Mitchell Institute has shown a clear disjuncture in Australia's expenditure on education and training, with spending on schooling and higher education far outstripping spending on vocational education and training. One year on, this trend has intensified.
17. [How does being second-last in the OECD for public funding affect our universities?](#) Australia aspires to have some of the [best universities](#) in the world. Australians expect their universities to feature in [global rankings](#) where there is a [strong correlation](#) between money spent and ranking achieved. Student numbers are [increasing](#), while Australians continue to advocate for equitable access to higher education. But, as a nation, are we prepared to pay for a world-class system?

Research

18. The report to the Department of Education and Training on [the status of national eResearch infrastructure in Australia](#), funded under National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) and related initiatives (2006-14) is now available for download.
19. Australia's top [eight universities have urged the federal government to stop funding PhD research students at universities that are below world standard in a given subject area](#). In a [submission](#) to the government's review of research training, the elite Group of Eight universities says that institutions should have a minimum rating of three in the Excellence in Research in Australia rating system to be eligible for PhD student funding.
20. [Middle-ranked universities fight to keep PhD funding](#). A group of middle-ranking universities have hit back at a proposal which could concentrate more funding for PhD students in Australia's top research universities. The Innovative Research Universities (IRU) say that a plan put forward by the elite Group of Eight universities to limit PhD funding to broad areas of universities in which research was of world standard, was a "crude" approach.
21. [Research training scheme: unis brace for funding hit as Senate balks](#). University vice-chancellors say a 10 per cent cut to the research training scheme looks increasingly likely with plans for fee deregulation and other reforms seemingly set to hit a wall in the Senate. The research training scheme, which pays supervisor salaries and other costs associated with higher research degrees, was worth \$678.5 million in 2015.
22. [Impact measures will become core key performance indicators in academe](#), as missed commercialisation opportunities and a "disaster regime" in research funding force a rethink of the employment model. John Carver, a chemist from Australian National University, said Australia would follow Britain's lead in giving real weight to indicators such as the social benefits of research, and the generation of successful spin-out companies.

23. [Flexible funds for postgrad stipends](#). *Opinion*: The system of funding stipends for postgraduate research students should be overhauled with universities allocated a pool of money that they can use as they see fit, such as offering higher rates to some students at the risk of reducing the number of PhD and research masters students they host.
24. [ACOLA Research Training Review](#): The mining industry has hit out at the "misguided" focus on metrics in directing research funding. In its submission to the review of the research training system, the Minerals Council of Australia complains that academics aren't encouraged to engage with industry and that universities are too focused on their rankings in the Excellence in Research for Australia.

Graduate Outcomes

25. [Research centre admits error: Ivy League graduates do well](#). Australia's elite universities are claiming victory after one of the country's most highly regarded economic research centres was forced to [withdraw a finding that graduates from prestigious universities earn on average less than those who graduate from other institutions](#). The Melbourne Institute of Economic and Social Research has conceded the findings of its July report were incorrect, blaming a computer coding error for the mistake.
26. [Postgraduates finding work, but it's not full time](#). More than 90 per cent of postgraduates have jobs, according to the latest [Graduate Careers Australia](#) data, but overall figures are masking an alarming plunge in postgraduates in full-time employment. Just 81.9 per cent of postgraduates looking for full-time work are now employed on a full-time basis, a fall of 7 per cent since 2005. That number has slid dramatically, while the number of unemployed postgraduates has increased from 4.3 per cent to 7.4 per cent, the figures show.
27. [Poor recent graduate outcomes due to a slow economy and easier university entry](#). There are, however, other potential explanations for the decline in FT employment for Bachelor degree graduates.

28. [How does your choice of university affect your future?](#) Last year's graduate labour market was the [toughest on record](#). More people completing degrees and fewer jobs meant lower rates of full-time employment. A third of recent graduates seeking full-time work in 2014 were still looking four months after completing their studies.
29. [Indigenous graduation rate less than 50 per cent](#). University completion rates are still dragging for indigenous, disadvantaged and regional or remote students, found researchers who spent nearly a decade tracking a university cohort.
30. [Data reveals attrition on pathway to graduation](#). A [report](#) released in late August, funded by the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education at Curtin University, offers insights into student completions.
31. [No easy path for first in family. "First-in-family"](#) undergraduates are the outside runners in a game of perennial catch-up, with a lack of "hot knowledge" edging them out of the support networks they need to get ahead. A [new study](#) has found that FIF students are driven to university by the same desire for "a better life" that spurs everyone else. But time spent compensating for their lack of insider knowledge diverts them from other survival strategies.
32. [Low ATAR students have difficulty completing a degree](#). Not surprisingly, the higher a student's ATAR score is in year 12, the more likely they are to complete the university degree they enrol in. [A long-term study](#) by the Commonwealth Education Department, Completion Rates of Domestic Bachelor Students – A Cohort Analysis, 2005-2013, found that only half of students with an ATAR of 30-49 who started their degree in 2005, had completed nine years later.
- international education sector stakeholders meeting last week.
34. [What attracts Chinese students to Aussie universities?](#) How much will the budget cut damage Australian education exports and how much will visa regulation improvements make up for it? A UNSW [recent study](#) published in the Australian Journal of Education found efforts to improve visa processing were not as important as university rankings or affordability.
35. [Overseas research students up 57 per cent](#). Australian universities are increasingly sourcing research students from overseas, with the number soaring 57 per cent since 2009 — outpacing growth of just 10 per cent in the number of locals doing higher degrees by research. The heavy recruitment from overseas means the proportion of international research students has risen from 25 per cent in 2009 to almost a third, according to analysis by former Melbourne University deputy vice-chancellor Frank Larkins.
36. [Australia's universities are bracing for cutbacks to Brazil's Science without Borders outward-bound program](#) amid reports the government plans to suspend or reduce new scholarships next year as it tries to rein in spending. Universities have taken in more than 4000 Brazilian students under the program, the bulk of them going to the Group of Eight and Australian Technology Network institutions.
39. [MBA numbers explode as students flock to private colleges](#). Torrens, the new private university based in Adelaide, wants to move quickly to becoming one of Australia's major MBA providers. Owned by Laureate, a global education company formed by US entrepreneur Doug Becker, Torrens scooped up the long-established Chifley Business School in July and aims to be a major player in the highly fragmented Australian MBA market.
40. [Australia is one step closer to adding another university to the higher education sector](#) after Excelsia College lodged its application for university college status, the first to do so since a change of regulations in 2012. Excelsia, formerly known as Wesley Institute, has secured the backing of Indiana Wesleyan University, with work at its new 5000sq m Macquarie Park campus nearing completion.
41. [Almost two-thirds of Australian students are being trained for jobs that will vanish or look completely different in the future](#), a statistic that is "deeply alarming" and warrants the "serious" assessment of the vocational education sector. New research commissioned by the Foundation for Young Australians reveals 58 per cent of students and 71 per cent of vocational education students are on a career path that may disappear or be fundamentally rerouted.
42. [More law students on horizon as new school opens in Australian Technology Park in Sydney](#). Think big, the website promotes. Do law! What Australia's newest law school does not promote is the [difficult job market for law graduates](#) in the post-global financial crisis landscape. The Sydney City School of Law is pitching itself as an exciting, new institution for the technology generation. Run by Top Education Institute, it will begin offering classes from 2016 and is located in the Australian Technology Park in Sydney. There are more than 40 law schools in the nation.

Sector News and Views

37. [Thousands of undergrads to study abroad in 2016](#). Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop and Minister for Education and Training Christopher Pyne have released details of the 461 mobility projects that will be funded in 2016 under the New Colombo Plan. A summary of the projects is available [here](#).
38. [MBA course fees have increased](#) nearly three times more than the rate of inflation over the past decade. Based on fees charged by business schools whose MBA has been ranked by The Australian Financial Review BOSS magazine, the median fee rose by 89 per cent from 2004 to 2015. Over that period the consumer price index increased by 33 per cent.
43. [University of Queensland on course to boost building sector](#). Queensland's biggest university is forging ahead with plans to build 1300 on-campus student beds in a masterplan to expand its main campus. The University of Queensland is seeking approval for a staged development to build four connected buildings and an adjacent building, with hopes to have the first students move in late 2018.

Student Recruitment

33. [Immigration authorities have cancelled almost 11,000 visas of non-genuine students](#) in the year ending June, an increase of more than a third compared with the previous corresponding period. The new figures come as the government puts the finishing touches on its streamlined visa-processing framework, with a working group of

44. [Boost for South Australian International Education](#). Three South Australia universities have committed A\$1.368m over four years to the state government's Destination Adelaide plan to grow SA's international education sector.
45. [Sydney University proposes masters overhaul](#). Masters by research programs and the honours year in some disciplines would be ditched and replaced by an intensive research track masters degree that led students directly into their PhD, under a proposal by the University of Sydney.
46. [ECU restructure to re-energise its research](#). Edith Cowan University plans to eliminate an entire layer of its bureaucracy, jettisoning its four faculties and streamlining 14 schools into eight under a "significant change management staff proposal" circulated to staff.
47. [Five things to think about when choosing a university course](#). How do you choose the right university, or the right degree? The whole process can seem daunting. What should you focus on? How do you weigh up the different elements involved? So much seems to be at stake. Students and their families often focus overwhelmingly on only some of the crucial aspects of choosing the right university, often missing other equally important, but less obvious, issues.
48. [Universities, institutes sign up to Athena SWAN pilot on gender bias](#). The university and research sectors are getting serious about tackling the gender bias in scientific research, with a majority of universities signing up to a pilot of Britain's Athena SWAN accreditation program in which an institution's performance on gender equity is externally assessed and publicly rated.
49. An ambitious [\\$20bn-\\$30bn Chinese-backed plan for a hi-tech "city"](#) of 80,000 residents in Melbourne's outer west with a university campus and research centre is just one step away from being approved by the Victorian government.

International Students in Australia

50. The Australian dollar has hit a six-and-a-half year low, but the decline has produced [a welcome incentive for international students electing to study in Australia](#).
51. [Glut of overseas students to fall as China rises](#). China's emergence as cultural superpower could sound the death knell for Australia's international education industry, magnifying the East Asian giant's "pulling power" just as ours wanes. Historian David Walker has outlined a bleak future for Australian education exports, saying the seesaw will tip as China becomes the world's cultural epicentre.
52. [International students contribute most tuition fees, fears of over-reliance](#). Tuition fees paid by international students in Australia account for almost 72% of total tuition gains at public universities, according to a recent report by the Grattan Institute. Entitled "University fees: what students pay in a deregulated market", the [report](#) found that in 2013, students from overseas paid A\$4.3bn to study in Australia out of a total of nearly A\$6bn. Students from China make up the bulk of international student fees.

Online Learning

53. [MOOC Watch: Brian Schmidt's online courses now available on demand](#). The series of four massive open online courses (MOOCs) on [astrophysics](#) featuring Nobel prize winner Brian Schmidt of the Australian National University, is now available on demand. Instead of having to wait until the university and MOOC provider edX schedule the courses again, you can do them at any time.

Big Data and Technology

54. [The time has come for universities to harness big data for the benefit of students](#). Universities should be using the big data they hold on students to enhance success rates, a Deakin University academic says. Associate professor Stuart Palmer says it's time higher education providers harnessed

this potential. Palmer says big data university computer systems collect about students and how they engage with their learning can be a valuable asset in understanding and perhaps predicting academic success.

55. [Adoption of new technologies crucial to Australia's future](#). New technologies offer unprecedented opportunities for economic growth and community wellbeing, but only if Australians are ready to adapt and learn, according to a [new report](#) from the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA).

Rankings and Ratings

56. [New website to drive high education quality and student choice – QILT](#). Students can now compare the quality of teaching and learning in higher education institutions and study areas around Australia, thanks to an innovative new website. Minister for Education and Training has launched the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching — or QILT — [website](#) to offer independent information to students.

In an [opinion piece](#) in *The Australian* by Hamish Coates, Chair of Higher Education at the University of Melbourne, Hamish concludes that the QILT website is a good effort but requires more work.

57. [ANU climbs back into world's top 20 universities](#). Australia has five universities in the world's top 50 in the latest QS World University Rankings with the Australian National University (ANU) returning to the global top 20. The QS rankings, whose methodology is kinder to Australia than other major university ranking charts, puts seven of the research intensive Group of Eight universities into the top 100 - the only one missing out being the University of Adelaide at 113.

Who's on the Move (or not)?

58. [Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canberra Stephen Parker](#) is resigning after nine years in the top job. Professor Parker made the announcement on Tuesday, but will remain in the position until July, in order to give the university time to find a replacement through an international headhunt.

59. [Federation University vice-chancellor David Battersby has announced he will retire](#) in the second half of 2016 after a decade in the job. Professor Battersby was appointed vice-chancellor of the then University of Ballarat in 2006 and went on to oversee a major expansion and rebranding in 2014 as Federation University.

Tips and Tricks

60. A list of Higher Education Twitter Hashtags you may like to follow.

[Twitter Hashtags for Higher Education Professionals.](#)

[10 higher ed Twitter accounts worth following.](#)

[More Higher Ed Folk you may like to follow.](#)

Do you have a higher education twitter list you would like to share? If so please send your favourite hashtags to the editor@aair.org.au

61. [6 TED Talks That Anyone Designing Online Training Should Watch.](#) We all know that TED Talks are educational and inspiring, and most of us have watched them from time-to-time for general entertainment and inspirational purposes. However, as I watched one of these videos just the other day, I realised there are lessons that can be found about designing online training from talks related to design and education in general. This is a short collection of TED Talks that I believe will give the online training designer a ton of great ideas for improving training courses. If nothing else, they are entertaining and inspirational.

62. [5 Overlooked LinkedIn Tools for Higher Ed.](#) It is well understood that setting up a LinkedIn University Page and creating LinkedIn Groups are beneficial for alumni engagement. Universities are also well served in leveraging LinkedIn Company Pages to recruit faculty and staff. But these features only begin to scratch the surface of all that the social network offers the higher education market.

63. [Cool New Things in Google Drive.](#) Google has been busy. Updating its logo was a big deal, but there are some pretty cool new things in Google Drive. I have been creating a ton of new docs, sheets, slides, forms, etc for the new school year and I noticed several new things popped up as I was working.

64. [Using the Excel Status Bar.](#) As presented in many previous Tech Tips, we have seen that there are usually a number of different ways to accomplish the same task in Excel. Offered in this AIR article is a very basic, but extremely efficient tip on working with both filtered and non-filtered data that will work with Excel 2007 or later.

Frivolous Favourites

65. [We all speak English, don't we?](#) A little translation guide: *What the British Say, What the British mean and What the Dutch Understand.*

66. Lego Academics' photo scenes a hit on twitter! Welcome to the world of Lego Academics ([@LegoAcademics](#)), the creation of a banjo-playing American archaeologist working at the University of Glasgow. Donna Yates documents the frustrations of "modern academia" using Lego's research institute of women scientists.

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.

[The Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education: 2015 Tertiary Education Public Seminars](#)

The Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Melbourne is hosting a series of public seminars in October and November focusing on emerging trends shaping Australian tertiary education.

The seminars are open to all staff and students of the University of Melbourne and members of the public. Each topic will draw from international experience to inform how we can best position Australian tertiary education for the future. Topics are:

- The imperative for deep community and industry engagement
- The design of tertiary systems and institutions suited to the 21st Century
- Transformations driven by emerging technologies and forms of participation
- The growing concerns about employability and the value of undertaking tertiary education

For more information and registration, please go to the [Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education website](#)

Looking for higher education conferences and events?

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

[Educause](#)

October 27-30 October, 2015- Indianapolis

The EDUCAUSE Annual Conference is the premier higher education IT event, offering an engaging and informative program, formal and informal opportunities to build your professional network, and allows you to learn, reflect, and engage with colleagues from around the world.

[OBHE: The New Landscape of Higher Education: Pathways, Partnerships and Performance](#)

December 2-3, 2015- London

The 21st century University is complicated. By some accounts, take international student mobility, globally distributed institutions and MOOCs, higher education has never been more open and entrepreneurial. But at the same time, universities must contend with growing regulation at home as governments grapple with the seemingly impossible formula of widening access, improving quality and lowering cost.

The 2015 Observatory conference will attempt to make sense of some of this complexity.

[AIR Forum 2016](#)

May 31 – June 3, 2016 - New Orleans

The Call for Session and Workshop Proposals for the 2016 AIR annual conference, the Forum, is now open. The Forum is the world's largest gathering of higher-education professionals working in institutional research, assessment, planning, and related postsecondary education fields. This four-day conference will offer more than 300 presentations on topics representing all sectors of higher education, and submitting a presentation proposal is the first step of the selection process. For information regarding the AIR Affiliated Organisation forum travel grant please see the [AIR AO Travel Grant Site](#).

Enjoy Reading?



Here are a few recent releases:

[Higher Education and the Law](#). A new book that places the Australian Higher Education Sector under the legal spotlight. [The book was launched at the MinterEllison Law Firm](#) in Sydney on Thursday, 20 August 2015 by The Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG.

The book, co-edited by Associate Professor Joan Squelch from The University of Notre Dame Australia's School of Law, Fremantle, together with Professor Sally Varnham, University of Technology Sydney, and Patty Kamvounias, University of Sydney, provides an overview of the legal framework of higher education. It considers key aspects of governance, accountability, quality assurance and how the law impacts on the relationship between universities, staff and students.

[Moving beyond college: Rethinking higher education regulation for an unbundled world](#). By Michael B. Horn and Andrew P Kelly, August, 2015. In the face of increasing costs and lackluster outcomes, traditional higher education is under increasing pressure to prove its value proposition. Meanwhile, new providers have "unbundled" the components of a postsecondary degree or certificate by offering stand-alone courses or sequences of courses, targeted job training, and assessments and certifications, often at much lower cost than existing institutions. These models cannot deliver all of what a traditional college or university does, but they can provide affordable, flexible, and customizable opportunities to learn.

[Deceiving a Generation: Education, Class and Employment](#). By Patrick Ainley, Release 22 October, 2015. Learn to succeed', "realise your goals", and "achieve your ambitions". These are the promises of educational advertising, endorsed by every government. They are a blatant deception. This book uniquely brings together schools, colleges and universities to describe a growing loss of legitimacy at every level of learning that leaves students and apprentices over qualified but underemployed.

Higher Education Abroad

by Louise Hargreaves

Global News & Views

1. [What will higher education be like in 2040?](#) Higher education systems and institutions are very different now compared to 20 or 40 years ago. Worldwide, higher education has experienced several changes that can be summed up as processes of internationalisation, globalisation, commodification and massification. Understanding and preparing for a range of new scenarios is paramount for higher education institutions across the globe.

2. [Is higher education heading toward a smart city future?](#) According to researchers around the world, there is increasing momentum from some of the world's most innovative universities to align curriculum, research and overall mission to city development that specifically focuses on technology-based systems and services. In other words, progressive higher education is linking itself more than ever to the Internet of Everything.

3. [Administrators Are People, Too.](#) When I moved into administration after being a professor, a colleague who had made the same move years before told me to brace for the loss of my faculty friends.

Impossible, I argued – we attended regular Friday cocktail hours, had fought and won battles across campus, supported each other across the thorny paths leading to tenure and promotion. We'd been through it all, and those are precisely the kinds of experiences that make for lasting relationships. I was wrong. My colleague was right.

4. [Emerging field has huge potential for college and university curricula.](#) Data analytics is gaining traction as a new career option for college graduates. Here's how one institution is grabbing the opportunity and helping students prepare for jobs in the field.

5. [Why hasn't higher education been more disrupted?](#) Virtually every industry has been fundamentally changed by the rise of the Internet. However, even though we are now in a second wave of disruption with the shift to mobile,

higher education still remains largely unchanged. Why?

6. [3 Reasons Student Retention is More Important than Ever.](#)

The current landscape of higher education demands that institutions strive to be competitive across numerous different qualifications and categories. Meeting the needs of a changing population of students with diverse backgrounds and priorities is an increasingly complicated process that extends well beyond initial enrolment.

7. [What are innovation spaces, and do you need one?](#) Spaces for makers, hackers and co-workers on campus could support better learning, and entrepreneurial, outcomes. But what do they look like? Designated spaces for "tinkering" at some of the country's most prestigious institutions may not only spur lifelong learning habits, but also produce social and technological innovations critical to today's economy, says a [new report](#).

8. [Internationalisation as National Policy.](#) The internationalisation of higher education (IoHE) is a relatively new but broad and varied phenomenon shaped over the past 25 years by the globalisation of our economies and societies and the increased importance of knowledge for sustaining them. IoHE is driven by a dynamic combination of constantly evolving political, economic, socio-cultural and academic rationales. Motivations take on different forms and dimensions in different regions and countries and in different institutions and programs. There is no single model that fits all nations.

9. [US to Help Provide Skills Training to 400 Million Indians.](#) In a boost to India's ambitious skill development programme, the United States will collaborate with it on a number of education-related projects to help the country achieve its goal of providing such training to 400 million people in the next decade.

10. [What will Jeremy Corbyn's win mean for UK universities?](#) Jeremy Corbyn has won the Labour leadership on an anti-austerity, no tuition fees ticket. Fees

have been around in some form since the 1990s but Corbyn has pledged to find £10bn to abolish them completely and bring back grants.

11. An expanded study of English Language Training (ELT) in the UK provides [further evidence that Britain is losing share in the global ELT marketplace](#). The report sheds new light as well on the composition of the enrolment base – the increasing role of the junior market in particular – and other important trends for UK providers.

[UK: How to approach the Teaching Excellence Framework.](#) The

announcement of a proposed Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) has caused a frisson in higher education, by suggesting that the quality of teaching in universities is worth careful consideration in its own right. It's not the first time that governments have sought to drive a greater focus on teaching quality in universities.

12. [Survey says post-study work options a major factor in choice of destination.](#) The recommendations attached to the latest survey from Hobsons conclude with a stark warning for UK policymakers: "Failure by government to improve the current status of [post-study] work rights will see revenue generation from international students decline – and rapidly. International student revenue is something UK institutions have long relied on, with the long-term effects of a decline likely to take decades to rebuild."

13. [UK Government reopens the higher education system.](#) The Department for Business, Industry and Skills (BIS) has published new guidance as to how private providers and further education (FE) colleges can enter the higher



education sector, following a moratorium on new providers entering the system that was put in place before the General Election.

14. [When it comes to academic quality, Europeans show the way.](#) There is a growing concern about the cost, quality and value of higher education. Despite the increasing cost of an academic degree, [recent studies](#) show substantial percentages of students, even in the most selective US colleges and universities, have failed to demonstrate significant improvement in critical thinking, complex reasoning and writing skills over the four years of college.
15. [EU backs project to test students across Europe.](#) A new project to create an "internationally comparable" test of what students learn across European higher education is to be launched with a €500,000 (£365,713) grant from the European Union. This autumn will see the start of a feasibility study on the Measuring and Comparing Achievements of Learning Outcomes in Higher Education in Europe project, known as Calohee.
16. [Japanese government asks universities to close social sciences and humanities faculties.](#) A recent survey of Japanese university presidents found that 26 of 60 national universities with social science and humanities programmes [intend to close those departments](#) during the 2016 academic year or after. The closures are a direct response to an extraordinary request from the Japanese government that the universities take "active steps to abolish [social science and humanities departments] or to convert them to serve areas that better meet society's needs."
17. [Some German universities will educate refugees for free.](#) While affordable tuition for undocumented immigrants is a remote prospect in some parts of the world, about 60 German universities are employing a radical strategy. They are offering refugees the chance to attend courses as guest students, without charging tuition fees.
18. [Germany claims success for elite universities drive.](#) Report praises US\$5-billion scheme for making leading universities more competitive — but some smaller institutions have done just as well. The campaign, called the [Excellence Initiative](#), led to 14

institutions gaining the common — although unofficial — label of 'elite'.

19. Foreign students studying at public higher education institutions in Poland [will no longer have to pay tuition fees in full upfront](#), after a recent change in policy. The amendment also states that the tuition fee prices for international students will be set by the universities themselves.
 20. [Pakistan to expand university access across country.](#) Pakistan's Higher Education Committee (HEC) has announced plans to open [five new universities and 36 sub-campuses](#) over the next three years. A further nine existing campuses will also be upgraded to become fully accredited universities through this ambitious expansion programme.
 21. [Turkey is well on its way to hosting 100,000 students by 2018](#) — a goal set by the government earlier this year — as statistics show 72,000 international students studied in Turkey, in 2015, up from 2014's 48,000.
 22. [Vietnam halts new model university project.](#) Vietnam will not co-operate with any foreign governments to open more universities until at least 2020 according to a new decision by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung. The PM requested a focus on developing the existing two national universities in Hanoi and HCM City into leading universities which will gradually reach regional and world standards.
- ### Higher Education Funding
23. [Why students with smallest debts have the larger problem.](#) Borrowers who owe the most are least likely to default. The reason for this strange pattern? The biggest borrowers tend to become the highest earners. In particular, borrowing is highest for those who go to graduate school. Forty percent of new loans go to graduate students.
 24. [New Data Gives Clearer Picture of US Student Debt.](#) An air of mystery has long surrounded student debt. We know the total number of borrowers and their combined debt — 40 million people owe \$1.2 trillion — but beyond these headline numbers, the data has been frustratingly thin. Who borrows? Who defaults? Why are so many borrowers in distress?

25. [Fact Check: Is Refinancing Student Debt Really Good Policy?](#) Student loans have become an issue in the US presidential campaign, especially on the Democratic side. And it's no wonder. There are more than 40 million Americans with some \$1.3 trillion in outstanding student loan debt. But people who study education finance say one widely popular proposal to help lessen the debt load may not be as good as it seems.

Online Learning

26. [How Coursera Cracked The Chinese Market.](#) Coursera [announced](#) in July that they crossed 1 million registrations as China became their second largest market, overtaking India.
27. [Online learning platform Udemey has seen an increase in revenue of 200% year on year,](#) as the demand for skills-based online learning increases. Udemey, which launched in 2010 in the US, provides free and paid-for online courses tailored for skills-based learning in subjects including language learning, office productivity and IT and software.
28. [Online learning platform Coursera bets big on India,](#) to start new technology, business courses. Online learning platform Coursera, which raised \$49.5 million (Rs 328 crore) last month, is doubling down on India, with the aim to introduce hundreds of new courses in technology, data science and business in the coming year.
29. [How Online Providers Stand Out Against On-Campus Competition.](#) As the quality and acceptance of online programming has grown steadily over the past decade, so too has the demographic of students online providers can serve. In fact, a [study](#) by the Learning House found that nearly half of online students live less than 50 miles away from the institution at which they are enrolled.
30. [This Is How Students Cheat in MOOCs.](#) Researchers at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have identified a way students are cheating to earn credit in MOOCs. The method is the subject of a working paper, "[Detecting and Preventing 'Multiple-Account' Cheating in Massive Open Online Courses,](#)" published online.

31. [What learners do during MOOCs and why it matters.](#) Course design may take a back seat to personal and environmental factors, and notetaking is just as critical during MOOCs as in face-to-face courses. These are just a few of the findings [of new qualitative research](#) that examines the experiences and practices of students who participate in MOOCs.
32. [Do MOOCs Help?](#) Unlike at colleges and universities, where students finish their studies and leave with a diploma, most learners who complete one of Coursera's massive open online courses report benefits that help them in less measurable ways. But results from a new [report](#), billed as "the first longitudinal study of open online learning outcomes," also suggests many learners credit MOOCs directly for pay rises, promotions, academic progress and more.
33. [As Coursera Evolves, Colleges Stay On and Investors Buy In.](#) Three years ago everyone was talking about Coursera, which had begun partnering with some of the world's most elite colleges to offer free courses. There was overheated hype, as [pundits speculated](#) that it could be a magic bullet to bring down college costs.
34. [6 concerns students have about MOOCs.](#) In a new qualitative data report, Communication Instructor Dr. Andrew Cole at Waukesha County Technical College and Dr. C. Erik Timmerman, associate professor at the Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, reveal the thoughts of one large university's current college students toward MOOCs.
35. [OpenClassrooms Launches First MOOC-Based Bachelor Degree Recognized By French State.](#) French startup OpenClassrooms is launching the first State-recognized bachelor degree in France that relies exclusively on MOOC. The start-up partnered with IESA Multimédia to create this program. There are [three learning paths](#) in engineering, design and digital marketing. Students will have to complete all the courses and required projects in order to get their degree. It's the exact same degree that you would get at IESA, except that you won't see any teacher. IESA is already working on 40 different MOOC for this program.

Credentialing

36. [University of California System Promotes Digital Portfolio to Grads and Students.](#) A company that helps users link their achievements documented in their digital portfolios with firms that may be seeking those kinds of skills has inked a deal with the University of California System to make it available to current students and graduates.
37. [3 tips for alternative credentialing.](#) Institutions of higher education can take steps to strengthen their alternative credentialing options and attract adult learners to their programs, a new study found. Eduventures, Inc., a research and advisory firm that analyzes the forces that are transforming higher education, announced findings from research on alternative credentialing models that is aimed at providing insight into programming options based on consumer demand.

Competency Based Education

38. [Challenges and Opportunities: Innovative Credentials in the Medical Education Space.](#) Competency-based education has been gaining momentum across the American higher education landscape over the past five years, but in the medical education field competencies have been king since 2000.
39. [Competency-based education not a fad.](#) Arthur Levine, president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and former president of Teachers College at Columbia University, argues that the rise in competency-based education reflects the transition out of an industrial economy. He says that, in a digital, information economy, the focus is on outcomes rather than processes, paving the way for education to move beyond standardized degree programs.
40. [Guidance for Competency Based Education Experimental Site Released.](#) The Obama Administration has worked steadily to increase access to and completion of high quality degrees for students of all ages and backgrounds. Competency based education (CBE) is one example of a promising new delivery model with the potential to improve degree completion, reduce costs to students and improve

transparency and alignment of learning outcomes to the needs of employers and society. And the field is growing.

Big Data and Technology

41. [Biggest cloud challenge? Hint: It's not the technology.](#) As universities migrate enterprise applications to the cloud, change management—not technical challenges—is proving to be the biggest hurdle of all.
42. [The biggest potential, and biggest challenge, to Big Data in higher ed.](#) The era of big data in higher education has arrived. However, it's important for campuses to figure out how to properly capture, manage, and use this data wisely in order to improve student outcomes and retention at their institution. If the data is not properly utilized, the institution runs the risk of wasting both time and money.
43. [Beyond student progress: How Ivy Tech is approaching data analytics.](#) Data analytics has received a lot of attention in higher education in recent years for its power to improve retention. Schools across the country are exploring ways to find patterns in things like student demographics, campus activities, and course participation to develop early warning systems that alert counselors and the students themselves that they might be off-track. For most institutions, it is not a matter of collecting new data, but of merging datasets and looking for the patterns.
44. [Universities turn focus to big data careers.](#) Over the next five years, the University of Michigan will invest \$100 million in a new Data Science Initiative intended to help better connect students and faculty researchers to data science and the study of big data's implications for society.
45. [Top 4 ways to apply big data in higher education.](#) With more than 425,000 students set to start university in the coming weeks, here's how big data can help institutions provide the best service possible.
46. [Tales from the Front Lines of Adaptive Learning.](#) Adaptive learning platforms in higher education are starting to produce some promising results, yet the market is still in its infancy. Instructors who volunteer to be guinea pigs for pilot implementations often end up encouraged by the results — yet

exhausted by how much work is involved in retrofitting their courses to the adaptive platforms.

47. [Florida Atlantic adopts Internet of Things platform](#). Florida Atlantic University's Institute for Sensing and Embedded Network Systems Engineering (I-SENSE) is adopting Telit's deviceWISE IoT Platform in an effort to aid the university's research projects and technology solutions for the Internet of Things.
48. [4 characteristics of a good ed tech investment](#). Forget MOOCs, say technology investors. What higher education institutions should invest in are personalized learning platforms that provide simple data on outcomes.

Rankings, Ratings and Benchmarking

Lots of activity on the global university rankings front this month with the release of a number of new ranking systems and some changes in methodologies.

49. [The New College Scorecard](#). The Obama administration has released a trove of new federal data that show how much a college's former students earn and whether they are successfully repaying their loans. [The updated online tool](#), which [like its predecessor](#) is called the College Scorecard, features new measures of student outcomes at specific institutions, including new graduation rates, median salary information and loan repayment rates.
50. [Changes in Ranking Methodology](#). This year and next the international university rankings appear to be set for more volatility with unusually large upward and downward movement, partly as a result of changes to the methodology for counting citations in the QS and THE rankings. *Times Higher Education* (THE) have been preparing the ground for [methodological changes](#) in their world rankings. A [recent article by Phil Baty](#) announced that the new world rankings scheduled for September 30 will not count the citations to 649 papers, mainly in particle physics, with more than 1000 authors.
51. [Which 100 universities are the most innovative?](#) Stanford University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University top the

inaugural [Reuters Top 100 ranking of the world's most innovative universities](#).

The Reuters Top 100 ranking aims to identify which institutions contribute the most to science and technology, and have the greatest impact on the global economy.

52. [A new college ranking system from Washington Monthly magazine](#) takes a different approach to ranking the nation's colleges and universities while exploring with industry experts the ins and outs of American higher education. Washington Monthly's college rankings rate institutions based on three criteria: social mobility, research and civic engagement.
53. [Global Ranking from Russia](#). A very interesting new set of global rankings appeared seven days ago; the [Round University Ranking from Russia](#). The organization is rather mysterious, although probably not so much in Russia and nearby places. The rankings are based entirely on data from Thomson Reuters (TR) and the structure and methodology are similar to last year's Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings. A look inside the engine: [the structure of the Round University Rankings](#).
54. [One of the most persistent criticisms of global university rankings is that they are not fair](#): institutions in usually rich, English-speaking countries have an inherent advantage. They have superior financial clout. Their scholars speak the lingua franca of global scholarship and are better integrated into the established professional networks and predominantly English-language publication systems.
55. [Are Indian universities better than their global rankings suggest?](#) Every year, when the Times Higher Education World University Rankings or the QS World University Rankings are announced, Indian institutions fail to make the mark. But academics say this is less a reflection of India's higher education system and more an indicator of the deficiencies of the rankings.

Research

56. [English universities reap benefits of private sector links](#). A yet-to-be-published analysis has strongly

endorsed Britain's policy to ring-fence 10 per cent of English university research funding for encouraging better engagement with industry and other external stakeholders. The modelling, commissioned by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, suggests that every £1 invested in the country's Higher Education Innovation Fund has delivered £7.30 in additional knowledge exchange income across the period from 2009 to 2014.

57. [Citations? Great. But have you got the 't factor'?](#) So your email signature contains your h-index, your Eigenfactor score and the impact factors of the most prestigious journals you have published in. But wait – you've forgotten your "t factor". This is a new Twitter-based "altmetric" proposed in a paper, [t factor: A metric for measuring impact on Twitter](#), posted on the arXiv preprint server by two researchers from Germany's Max Planck Society.
58. Twitter, YouTube and sound bite politics may have compressed the attention span of the average punter and now a new study has unearthed the same phenomenon in the cerebral world of academic publishing. Researchers from the University of Warwick have found that [journal articles attract more citations if they have short titles](#).
59. [Is co-authorship of academic papers out of control?](#) With one physics paper published this year by the team at the Large Hadron Collider at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (Cern) listing 5,154 researchers, and with hundreds of articles now citing at least 1,000 authors, some scholars have started to ask if this ever-expanding approach to credit is rendering the concept of academic authorship meaningless.

Student Recruitment and Mobility

60. [Four trends that are shaping the future of global student mobility](#). Every now and then, we find it helpful to step back from the steady tide of market reports and information and think about some of the larger trends that are influencing international student mobility. Here are four that are likely to have a profound impact on global education markets for the next decade and more.

61. [What would U.S. higher education look like if international students made up 10% of enrolments?](#) Every year, U.S. colleges and universities enrol more international students than any other country in the world. In fact, with nearly 600K students, the U.S. enrolls twice as many international students as that of the next largest host country, the UK.
62. [US: Admissions officers seeing more MOOC credentials on applications.](#) Prospective students are touting massive open online course enrolment and completion on college applications, often in hopes of differentiating themselves from their competitors. The New York Times reports that college admissions officers are viewing these classes on applications as similar to extracurriculars that they don't necessarily need to verify, because they are interesting but not a game changer for a student's application.
63. [US: First-time enrolment in Ph.D. programs on the rise, with some exceptions.](#) A survey of 636 universities by the Council of Graduate Schools found overall growth in graduate school enrolment from 2013 to 2014 but not across all program types. The Chronicle of Higher Education reports 3.5% combined growth across master's and doctoral programs includes a 0.5% drop in enrolment for arts and humanities programs.
64. [Why More U.S. Students Are Going Abroad for College.](#) As the cost of college in the U.S. soars to record levels, American students in growing numbers are enrolling in schools abroad, where tuition fees are substantially lower—and in some cases nonexistent.
65. [Internationalisation high priority in Europe; fuels student growth.](#) International recruitment is driving overall enrolment growth at universities across Europe, according to the [European University Association's Trends 2015](#) report. It also found that Internationalisation is among the highest priorities for EU higher education institutions.
66. The Danish government has released a [new code of conduct for higher education institutions](#) that recruit international students, with the aim of making Denmark a more attractive study destination. It aims to address an upcoming skills gap predicted by Danish employers by making it easier for students to access information about academic courses, student services, tuition fees (where applicable) and living costs.
67. [China crisis: what does it mean for student recruitment?](#) Imagine the scenario: an increasingly prosperous Asian country, which sends more students than any other nation to UK universities, is suddenly hit by a stock market collapse, a currency devaluation and a deep recession. Students are unable to afford foreign study, leaving academic departments across the UK with a financial black hole.
68. [The number of international students in Malaysia has risen by more than 100 per cent over eight years,](#) Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said. In 2007, there were 45,000 international students in Malaysia and the number had reached 106,000 so far this year, and expected to increase to 110,000 by the year-end.
69. An oil-rich country in the Middle East, [Kuwait is sending its students abroad in growing numbers](#) following several years of economic growth and expanded government scholarships for overseas study. Immigrants account for roughly 69% of the country's total population of four million, and the number of young people aged 15-19 is expected to surpass 250,000 by 2016.

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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 the last week of October. Please send your contributions to the editor@aaair.org.au by Friday October 16.



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