

ALTA 2014/15 Plan

Focus

The ALTA plan comprises two main areas:

1. Enhancing Work Integrated Learning (WIL)
2. Benchmarking Learning Outcomes as required by the Higher Education Standards Framework (HESF)

WIL

In keeping with the ACDICT skills action plan, the aim is to address the common problems facing the ICT industry: shortages of ICT professionals; poor perceptions of ICT as a course of study and as a career; and gaps in the knowledge and skills of graduates.

Standards

The HESF requires benchmarking (peer review internal and external between institutions) of learning outcomes. Assessment is the main measure of student attainment of specified learning outcomes. The aim is therefore to identify existing ICT benchmarking practices within and between institutions and to bring these practices to the attention of the whole academic ICT community.

Strategies

WIL

Stronger collaboration between industry and academia should help to address knowledge and skills gaps. These stronger relationships should also help students develop more accurate perceptions of the ICT careers for which they are being prepared and lead to an improved student experience, reduced attrition from ICT courses and, ultimately, improved graduate employability. Strategies include:

- a. Strengthening collaboration between academia and ACS, ACSF and AIIA
- b. Sharing best practices amongst the ICT academic community via the ALTA Forum

Standards

The OLT has funded several institutional projects, Councils of Deans of various disciplines, and OLT Fellows to develop Learning Outcomes and engage in benchmarking assessment between institutions. Considerable knowledge and experiences have been acquired that can be applied to the benefit of the ICT discipline. Strategies include:

- a. Identifying effective practices already developed in ICT and related disciplines to share with the ICT community
- b. Convening a workshop on developing and implementing best practices in ICT at the ALTA Forum

ALTA Team

To help action the strategies, an ICT learning and teaching champion in each of the WIL and Standards areas will assist the ALTA President and Executive Officer. The two people who have expressed willingness in this regard are:

- WIL: Associate Professor Tanya McGill, Head of IT, School of Information Technology, Murdoch University
- Standards: Dr Steve Drew, Director of Learning and Teaching - Griffith Sciences Group