

Motivating students to engage in postgraduate research degrees in ICT

ALTA Forum April 2013

What inspires students to undertake higher degrees by research?

- Dr Cally Guerin & Dr Damith Ranasinghe, Adelaide U
- Dr Paul Calder, Flinders U
- Dr Alistair McCulloch, UniSA
- Collaborators:
 - Dr Ivan Lee, UniSA
 - Said Al-Sarawai, Adelaide
 - 2 Students engaged in the qualitative and quantitative analysis of data

Work done so far ...

- Ethics approval from all 3 universities – completed in Feb 2013
- Surveys designed & underway at all 3 universities
 - Undergrad (69)
 - Honours & masters (46)
 - PhD (35)
- Completed focus groups with PhD students

Where	Gender	Origin
Adelaide	5 male, 4 female	3 local, 7 OS
Flinders	4 male	3 local, 1 OS
UniSA	10 male	10 OS
ACSW	3 male, 3 female	2 local, 2 PR, 2 OS

Initial results from surveys

Undergraduates (n = 69)

- NOT interested in research (n = 59)
 - Start earning \$ (58% strongly agree)
 - Tired of study (49%)
- Interested in research (n = 10)
 - Invent/create/discover (60% strongly agree)
 - Lecturer demonstrated relevance to real life (50%)

Hons/masters (n = 46)

- NOT continuing into research (n = 31)
 - Start earning \$ (61% strongly agree)
 - Tired of study (40% strongly agree)
- Continuing into research (n = 15)
 - Want to find out more (67% strongly agree)
 - Want to invent/create/discover (60% strongly agree)

Initial results from surveys

Undergraduates (n = 69)

- NOT

Current HDRs

- Want to find out more (85% agree or strongly agree)
- Want to invent/create/discover (60% strongly agree)

...relevance to
... (50%)

Hons/masters (n = 46)

- NOT continuing into research (n = 31)
 - Start earning \$ (61% strongly agree)
 - Tired of study (40% strongly agree)
- Continuing into research (n = 15)
 - Want to find out more (67% strongly agree)
 - Want to invent/create/discover (60% strongly agree)

Still to come ...

- More surveys
 - New crop of final year undergrads
- Analyse results
 - Factor analysis
- Conferences and journals
 - HERDSA, QPR, ICED, SRHE, ...