

UECA NEWS

UNIVERSITY ENGLISH CENTRES AUSTRALIA | 4th EDITION | JUNE 2018

THE BENCHMARKING PROJECT

UECa
UNIVERSITY ENGLISH
CENTRES AUSTRALIA
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



WELCOME
FROM
UECA
PRESIDENT
SIMON
WINETROUBE

It's been a busy and very productive period since the last newsletter at the start of this year and, looking ahead, I can't see it getting much quieter. Fortunately we have a great committee, so we share out the tasks and keep it all under control.

I am delighted that every UECa member institution from last year has renewed their membership for 2018 and 4 new members have either joined or are in the process. If that all comes to fruition, we will have very nearly all eligible centres signed up with UECa, which is fantastic.

Nearly all of those institutions also want to participate in the new benchmarking initiative. The high level of interest in this initiative has been significantly stimulated by new ELICOS Standards and the desire within the sector to provide better benchmarks to measure ourselves against than the commonly accepted English proficiency tests, such as IELTS. However, I hope and believe that members are also attracted by the broader opportunity to learn and improve our operations through the lens which a benchmarking exercise can provide.

UECa continue to engage with TEQSA to provide

feedback on the ELICOS National Standards and the guidelines as to how they will be interpreted. The recognition within government of the unique importance and viewpoint of University based English Centres is pleasing and members have engaged with the discussions extremely actively. UECa is committed to effective liaison with both NEAS and English Australia to ensure that there is alignment between all aspects of our industry on these keys national issues.

Our Professional Development Activities go from strength to strength with the Sydney PD Fest at UTS selling out in record time and further events planned this year in Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne as well as our continuing engagement with the CamTESOL Research Symposium and Research mentoring program.

We are always open to new ideas and suggestions (or constructive criticism) so please feel free to contact any committee member to do that. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter

Best wishes

Simon



MEMBER SERVICES

WHO'S ON THE COMMITTEE THIS YEAR?

Here are your 2018 -19 Committee members and their contact details.

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INDUSTRY FOCUS THE BENCHMARKING PROJECT



DR SARA BOOTH

Following on from discussions at the UECa Directors Workshop in 2016, members have been invited to participate in an exciting new national initiative called the External Referencing of the ELICOS Standards and International Education [ERESIS] Project.

The ERESIS Project is a collaboration with UECa, Dr Sara Booth from the University of Tasmania and Associate Professor Thomas Roche from Southern Cross University. The project leads will be joining member institutions on Friday 13th July, 2018 at The University of Queensland in Brisbane in a peer exchange workshop. The workshop will focus on developing benchmarking practices of institutional processes, curricula and assessment items against the 2018 ELICOS Standards. This workshop also aligns with the 2015 Higher Education Standards Framework on external referencing and benchmarking activity for quality improvement and quality enhancement purposes.

UECa is thrilled to be leading the field in this new national development. More than 20 universities have signed up to the project and coming workshop. If you are interested in still signing up or finding out more, please contact Dr Sara Booth: sara.booth@peerreviewportal.com

OTHER NEWS

A warm welcome to our new members – University of Tasmania (UTAS) and James Cook University (JCU)

UECa Members were very active in providing feedback on the proposed new ELICOS National Standards. This feedback was collated and then passed to TEQSA through English Australia.

In September, Simon Winetroube was invited, as a UECa representative, to participate in a DIBP teleconference on the proposed visa simplification. The DIBP teleconference was for DIBP to get feedback on their proposed visa reforms.

Simon also represented UECa in Melbourne, in May 2018 in a meeting with Michael Tomlinson (Director, Assurance Group at TEQSA) and some of his colleagues. He joined the representatives of English Australia and NEAS to discuss the TEQSA guidance notes on the new ELICOS National Standards. UECa members, Heather Thomas and Pamela Humphreys, were also invited in view of their expertise in this area.

CONNECTING DIGITALLY: AN INTERVIEW WITH DARREN BROOKES

UECa proudly sponsors The Regional Research Symposium at CamTESOL. In 2018, we welcomed Emeritus Professor, Bev Derewianka, as the plenary speaker. She was exceptionally well-received and made an invaluable contribution to the event.

UECa also collaborates with IDP Cambodia on the Regional Research Grant mentoring program.

Grant recipients from ASEAN member countries work one-on-one online with an Australian mentor to write a research paper on different aspects of ELT research. The program is co-ordinated by Darren Brooks. Research grant recipients will present papers at the Cambodia TESOL Regional Research Symposium in Phnom Penh in February 2019. Research papers are also considered for publication in the Language Education in Asia (LEIA) journal. Each year at the Research Symposium, workshops are run for new research grant recipients to help researchers identify the kind of research being carried out and to discuss research topics with peers. This year a Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) course, sponsored by NEAS, is being used to help researchers and mentors work online. Presentations are also planned for this year's UECa PD Fest events in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. UECa members will be able to learn more about the project and meet Darren at these events.

ATTENDEES AT A RESEARCH
SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOP



HEATHER THOMAS PRESENTS THE
SCHOLARSHIP TO MARK ULLA WHO
HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE CAMTESOL
RESEARCH PROGRAM THREE TIMES



PD FEST SYDNEY





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

9th May, 2018	UECA AGM The meeting was held in Sydney prior to the NEAS 2018 Management Conference. 22 members represented their centres in person and 4 over Zoom. Doltone House, Sydney
12th May, 2018	PD FEST Sydney UTS Insearch hosted the Sydney PD Fest. The event sold out in record time with just over 200 participants. The opening plenary from Dr Pamela Humphreys inspired a great deal of thought and conversation. Workshops held throughout the day were well-received by all participants. The winner of the best presenter award was Anne Burnett who will deliver her presentation again at the PD Fest in Melbourne in August.
13th July, 2018	[ERESIS] PROJECT <i>External Referencing of the ELICOS Standards and International Education</i> Members to meet up to establish the parameters of the project and initiate the conversation. Brisbane
14th July, 2018	ASSESSMENT SYMPOSIUM UQ – ICTE
3rd August, 2018	MANAGERS' FORUM Monash College
4th August, 2018	PD FEST MELBOURNE Monash College
18th September, 2018	DIRECTOR'S FORUM CET Sydney, the meeting will be held prior to the English Australia Conference
3rd November, 2018	PD FEST ADELAIDE University of Adelaide

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you to NEAS for their great contributions and support throughout the year. Special thanks to NEAS for hosting UECA members during the AGM in May, prior to the NEAS conference Doltone House, Sydney. Thanks also to English Australia for their support and collaboration.



PRINCIPAL SPONSOR 2018