



Research Skills for an Innovative Future: Business Views and Needs
Queensland University of Technology
Friday, 2 March 2012

Purpose:

To conduct a series of workshops to ascertain business views about research workforce skills, employers' current and future needs and projected employment opportunities for higher degree research graduates.

Background:

The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) launched the report, *Research Skills for an Innovative Future*, in order to address Australia's workforce needs to cover the decade to 2020 and beyond. The report recommends that business investment in research and development must intensify in order to compete effectively on an international scale. DIISR has commissioned the Business/Higher Education Roundtable (B-HERT) to conduct two workshops seeking business views about research workforce skills. The information gathered from the workshops will inform the development of the government's implementation strategy.

Following B-HERT's approach, both QUT and Griffith University have agreed to participate and host a workshop. The workshops will be managed by B-HERT but to maximise the information obtained, both universities agreed to collaborate on the selection of complementary disciplines and suggest appropriate participants who can contribute to the consultation process. B-HERT will issue the invitations and although some university personnel will be represented, the workshops will focus on the views of business/industry that employ higher degree research graduates (HDR) in both research and non-research roles.

The Workshops:

Queensland University of Technology will host the **Research Workforce Workshop on Friday, 2 March at the Kelvin Grove Campus, Room 109, Level 1, 88 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove from 10.30am - 12.30pm** with a light lunch to follow. This workshop is the second in a series following the first one held at Griffith University in October 2011.

No more than 25 participants will be involved in each of the workshops with the majority coming from business and industry. Senior university research staff from each of the two universities will also attend. B-HERT will chair and facilitate the workshops.

Prior to the workshop, participants will be asked to complete a short questionnaire and the findings will be used in the workshop about the research workforce. The types of issues that will be covered include:

- the value attributed to HDR graduates as employees;
- the projected employment need for HDR graduates over the next decade and in what capacity;
- the perceived international competitiveness of Australian HDR graduates;
- industry recruitment practices to obtain HDR graduates;
- extent of collaboration with HDR graduate providers;
- recommendations to government for next steps.

Each workshop will be introduced by a panel consisting of 3-5 industry representatives and 1-2 university research personnel, each of whom will present short individual perspectives on the research workforce. The subsequent workshop discussion on the topic will draw out the full range of business/industry views.