

Graduate studies Overview 2010



It has been a highly successful year for Graduate Studies with more than 100 students awarded Australian Postgraduate Awards, and 25 IPRS (International Postgraduate Research Scholarships) and Curtin IPRS Scholarships awarded.

Curtin has continued to roll out one of its flagship scholarship programs – the Curtin Strategic International Research Scholarships. From early 2011 there will be more than 40 scholars at Curtin supported by the scheme.

As part of this program Curtin provided two doctoral scholarships to researchers in collaboration with the Institute for Infocomm Research based in Singapore. In addition, we provided scholarships for two scholars from the Sichuan area in China, to provide capacity building in public health and nutrition in the wake of the major earthquake of May 2008. The scholarships are targeted at Curtin's priority research areas and enable talented international students to pursue doctoral degrees in important areas of research.

Curtin supervisors have embraced the Register of Supervisors; we now have more than 800 registered supervisors from across the University, up from 270 in May 2008. With increased membership, the register is now a valuable web resource for prospective students to identify potential supervisors, and enables targeted matching of students to supervisors.

The Curtin Annual Student Satisfaction Survey and the national Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire provide indicators of the quality of the research student experience at Curtin. Good results for both of these measures have again been achieved in 2010, and Curtin will continue to improve facilities and resources for research students along with the support and commitment demonstrated by the Graduate Studies team.

Professor Graeme Wright

Dean, Graduate Studies

Graduate profiles

James Earnest

School of Management
Curtin Business School



Research by James Earnest is believed to be among the first academic projects worldwide to examine how project management knowledge areas can be applied to renewal efforts in a post-conflict society.

The complex issues between peace and development of economic reconstruction in a post-conflict environment are poorly understood and much debated. Agencies and government need to design and implement post-conflict reconstruction policies and projects that promote local community participation, equity and ownership in post-conflict rebuilding programs.

The concept of managing post-conflict reconstruction and development projects by use of internationally accepted project management processes is a relatively new research field. Recovery of war-torn societies is a development challenge due to limited resources of humanitarian aid practitioners, non-government organisations, and local and international aid agencies; and, Earnest says because operational practices continue to contradict principles and lessons learnt from experience.

His PhD thesis focuses on the post-conflict society of Kosovo, with the aim of developing a 'project-based management' framework within which economic infrastructure projects and programs can be designed, implemented and supported by local and international agencies.

The project, which will be completed in 2011, aims to provide humanitarian practitioners and international development organisations with a workable response methodology to formulate, implement and evaluate reconstruction projects established through peace-building initiatives.