

## Go8 RENEWS RESEARCH LINKS WITH GERMANY



*Dr Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney and Dr Christian Bode, Secretary General of the DAAD, sign the Go8 MoU*

On 26 March the Go8 renewed its very strong links with Germany through a new MoU with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

For the past three years the Go8 and the DAAD have been partners in the Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme which has provided over \$3 million to support research exchange between Australia and Germany.

Signing today's MoU on behalf of the Go8 at the DAAD's Australian Alumni Event, University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, said it represents a long-term commitment from both sides.

"The Go8 is delighted to be renewing this partnership with the DAAD, one of the world's largest and most respected organisations in international academic cooperation," said Dr Spence.

"Of particular significance is the fact that the level of trust between our two organisations has been developed to such an extent in recent years that we are prepared to commit to long-term collaboration."

DAAD Secretary General, Dr Christian Bode, signing the MoU on behalf of the DAAD, said the scheme is the first ongoing cooperation between German and Australian academics.

"Since 2007 the scheme has attracted increased demand from both sides and has stimulated cooperation considerably. It has strengthened Trans-Pacific ties and supported the internationalisation of the universities in both countries."

Calls for applications under the Go8-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme are now open.

Details are available from the Go8 website: <http://go8.edu.au/university-staff/international-collaboration/81-go8-germany-joint-research-co-operation-scheme>

## Go8 PARTNERS WITH LEADING EUROPEAN RESEARCH FACILITY

Go8 students now have access to a joint PhD with one of the world's leading research facilities thanks to a new MoU with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL).

EMBL is Europe's life sciences research flagship. Based on analysis of citation data it ranks as the highest performing research institution outside the US.

The EMBL Australia International PhD Program will allow up to three students a year to undertake a PhD at the EMBL. The PhDs will be co-funded by EMBL Australia and each student's Australian host university.

"The Go8 is delighted to be forming this partnership with the world's most respected life sciences institute," said Go8 Chair, Professor Alan Robson.

"The MoU signed today will mean that Go8 students accepted into the program will receive joint supervision and a joint award from their host university in Australia and the EMBL."

Applications are open now, with the first PhDs to commence in October 2010. Australia became EMBL's first "Associate Member" in 2008 through financial contributions from the Australian Government, CSIRO and Go8 member universities (Monash, UQ, UWA and Sydney).

For more details, including online application submission, please see <http://www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/international-collaboration/194-group-of-eight-partners-with-leading-european-research-facility>



*Dr Iain Mattaj, Director General of EMBL, signs the Go8 MoU at Monash University on 29 March 2010; Back row L to R: Professor Richard Larkins AO, Chair of EMBL Australia, Kerrie Thornton, Go8 International Director and Dr Silke Shumacher, EMBL International Relations Director*

# PhD STUDENT CONFERENCE: CLIMATE: SCIENCE + HUMANITIES



Professor Tom Griffiths, The Australian National University, Professor Alison Bashford, Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University and convenor of the conference and Professor Pu Lijie, Nanjing University

Last month fifty graduate students from the US, Australia and China met at Harvard University to present their research on climate.

The Go8 partnered with the Committee for Australian Studies at Harvard University and the leading universities in China, the C9, in organising a conference for the research leaders of the next generation.

Professor Dick Strugnell, Dean of Graduate Studies from the University of Melbourne, said the conference provided an intense and stimulating environment for the students.

PhD student from the Australian National University, Petrina Schiavi, said the conference was unique in drawing together humanities and science scholars to talk about the ways in which their work crossed the boundaries of both humanities and science.

“Together, China and the US are responsible for around 40% of the world’s total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, while Australia is one of the highest emitters of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita. As scholars, we are acutely aware of the challenges and responsibilities of our own countries in reducing carbon emissions, of our need to work together, and also of the challenges that we face in attempting to address a global problem in our respective areas of research.”

Timothy Chandler from Monash University, whose paper focused on the experience of climate change in everyday life, said a Facebook group has been created so participants can continue to increase their understanding and research about climate.

Abstracts from the conference are available from: <http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k61661&tabgroupid=icb.tabgroup95861>



Students and supervisors attending the conference at Harvard University

## MATHS REVIEW ATTRACTS SUPPORT

The Go8’s Review of Education in Mathematics, Data Science and Quantitative Disciplines, released on 9 March, attracted considerable attention in the media and support from experts in the sector.



The review, chaired by former University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor, Gavin Brown, found that the state of mathematical sciences in Australia has deteriorated to a dangerous level and that universities will need to provide additional maths enabling courses and to improve cooperation between education and maths faculties in future.

The Review highlights some startling statistics.

- From 2001 to 2007 the number of students enrolled in a mathematics major in Australian universities declined by approximately 15%.
- The number of students taking Advanced Maths at high school also dropped by 27% between 1995 and 2007.
- Demand for mathematics and statistics graduates is predicted to grow by 3.5% per year till 2013.

The Review emphasises the fact that universities alone cannot arrest the decline and that federal and state governments will need to be closely involved in finding solutions for the future.

The Review can be downloaded from: <http://go8.edu.au/storage/go8/statements/2010/Go8MathsReview.pdf>

# NEW ADDITIONS TO Go8 WEBSITE

## Why the Group of Eight?

A new publication compares Go8 universities with the average across a range of measures including student-staff ratios and research income.

See: <http://www.go8.edu.au/go8-indicators>

University	Enrollment	Research Income	Student-staff ratio	Research income per staff	Research income per student	Research income per \$100m	Research income per \$100m	Research income per \$100m	Research income per \$100m
University of Queensland	24,000	\$100m	1:10	\$10,000	\$4,167	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
University of New South Wales	22,000	\$90m	1:12	\$7,500	\$3,409	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
University of Western Australia	18,000	\$70m	1:15	\$4,667	\$2,593	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
University of Melbourne	16,000	\$60m	1:18	\$3,750	\$2,188	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
University of Adelaide	14,000	\$50m	1:20	\$2,500	\$1,786	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
University of Sydney	12,000	\$40m	1:25	\$1,667	\$1,333	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
University of New South Wales (Sydney)	10,000	\$30m	1:30	\$1,200	\$1,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
University of Queensland (St. Lucia)	8,000	\$20m	1:40	\$800	\$667	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
University of Western Australia (Crawley)	6,000	\$15m	1:50	\$600	\$500	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
University of Melbourne (Parkville)	4,000	\$10m	1:60	\$400	\$333	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
University of Adelaide (Mawson Lakes)	2,000	\$5m	1:70	\$250	\$208	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
University of Sydney (Campanile Hall)	1,000	\$2.5m	1:80	\$250	\$100	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500

## Go8 Philanthropy

A new section of the website highlights the positive results of philanthropic funding. Students, researchers and donors tell how university philanthropy changed their lives.

See: <http://www.go8.edu.au/projects-made-possible-by-donors>



## New policy papers

1. A joint position paper with CSIRO and NICTA to the IP Australia Patents Law Reform Process "Maintaining an effective research environment in Australia".
2. A response to DIAC's skilled migration points test review discussion paper.
3. "Review of Education in Mathematics, Data Science and Qualitative Disciplines" for the Go8 by Professor Gavin Brown.

See <http://www.go8.edu.au/government-a-business/go8-policy-a-analysis>



# HIT SUMMER SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN TO Go8 STUDENTS

In celebration of its 90th anniversary, Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT), one of the leading universities in China and a member of the C9 (Consortium of China Nine Research Universities), has offered scholarships to students of Go8 member universities to attend a week long summer school in northern China from 28 July this year.

The HIT summer school 2010 "Modern China Program" will attract over 100 university students from all over the world. HIT will cover the cost of local expenses for successful applicants, including transport in Harbin, accommodation and meals.

To receive the scholarship, students will need to be currently enrolled at one of the Go8 universities and apply online at <http://cr.hit.edu.cn/> by 15 May 2010.

For further information, please go to <http://cr.hit.edu.cn/> or contact Ms Kelly Wang on [iea2@hit.edu.cn](mailto:iea2@hit.edu.cn).



## AFR higher education conference

## SPECIAL OFFER

For the first time the annual Financial Review higher education conference will be held in June this year in order to discuss the impact of the Federal Budget on the sector.

Staff of Go8 universities are eligible for a 10% discount on the registration fee. For details see: [http://www.afr.com/p/financial\\_review\\_higher\\_education\\_MaGTPhrjCzXrvUAYIcJWM](http://www.afr.com/p/financial_review_higher_education_MaGTPhrjCzXrvUAYIcJWM)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Go8 Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Research) meet in Canberra on 9 April
- Go8 Student Equity meeting in Canberra on 9 April
- Go8 Deans of Graduate Studies meet in Adelaide on 12 April
- Go8 Deans of Medicine meet in Canberra on 13 April
- Go8 Academic Policy Committee meeting in Canberra on 23 April
- Go8 Deans of Engineering meet in Perth on 29 and 30 April
- Go8 Facilities Directors meet in Perth on 7 May
- Go8 Vice-Chancellors meet in Sydney on 19 May
- Go8 Human Resources Directors meet in Perth on 20 May
- Go8 International Directors meet in Canberra on 21 May
- Go8 Chief Financial Officers meet in Brisbane on 25 June

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The *Go8 Update* is published online to keep the Go8 network of committees and staff at Go8 universities informed about the organisation's activities.

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