

Go8 names European Fellows for 2012



Eight early career researchers from Russia, Romania, Hungary and the Czech Republic have been named as the successful Group of Eight European Fellows in 2012. Each fellow will receive benefits worth up to AUD20,000 to travel to Australia and work at a Go8 university for up to six months.

The Go8 European Fellowship scheme began in 2007. It recognises the importance of international contacts for early career researchers and plays an important role in building Go8 research partnerships in Europe.

The Go8 European Fellows for 2012 are:

Dr Jan Novak from the Czech Republic – hosted by the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at The University of New South Wales

Dr Zdenek Lajbner from the Czech Republic – hosted by the School of Biological Sciences at Monash University

Dr Jenő Kontschán from Hungary – hosted by the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at The University of Adelaide

Dr Daniela Andrei from Romania – hosted by the Psychology Department at The University of Western Australia

Dr Sorana Corneanu from Romania – hosted by the Centre for the History of European Discourses at The University of Queensland

Dr Mihail Mihăilescu from Romania – hosted by the School of Mathematics & Statistics at The University of Sydney

Dr Ekaterina Filippova from Russia – hosted by the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics at The Australian National University

Dr Alexandra Soltamova from Russia – hosted by the School of Physics at The University of Melbourne

A total of 87 applications were received, a significant increase compared to previous rounds and evidence that the opportunity to work in one of Australia's research intensive universities is growing in popularity in eastern Europe.

The Go8 congratulates all successful applicants and looks forward to welcoming them to Australia in 2012.

Further details available: www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/programs-a-fellowships/63-go8-european-fellowships

Go8 partners with ATN on research impact symposium

Go8 Policy Advisor, Dr Les Rymer, speaking at the symposium on research impact



The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) and the Go8 jointly held a symposium on exploring mechanisms for measuring the social and economic benefits ("impact") of research on Friday 4 November in Canberra.

The symposium provided both international and local perspectives on the assessment of research impact. David Sweeney, Director (Research, Innovation and Skills) from the Higher Education Funding Council for England gave the keynote address.

In recent times, there has been increasing discussion in the higher education sector regarding the need for a measure of the impact of research from Australian universities. This is partly due to the fact that the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative conducted by the Australian Research Council evaluated research excellence rather than socio-economic benefits.

In 2012, the ATN and Go8 will undertake a joint initiative – *Excellence in Innovation for Australia* – to formally measure these benefits. There are 12 universities participating – four Go8 universities (The University of Queensland, The University of Melbourne, The University of Western Australia and The University of New South Wales), the five ATN universities (Curtin University, University of South Australia, RMIT University, University of Technology Sydney and Queensland University of Technology), plus Charles Darwin University, The University of Newcastle and The University of Tasmania.

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A business view on higher education



Joanne Farrell speaking at the Commonwealth Business Forum

The Go8-sponsored session on enhancing innovation through attracting, retaining and developing talent at the Commonwealth Business Forum in October attracted a sizeable audience, reflecting the quality of the speakers as well as the importance of the theme.

In addition to the Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans, the speakers were Vice President of Organisation Resources at Rio Tinto, Joanne Farrell, and Navitas CEO, Rod Jones.

Navitas co-sponsored the session and CEO, Rod Jones, spoke on international education and the power of knowledge and skills, with a particular focus on the growing global demand for tertiary education. He pointed out that in order to accommodate the additional 98 million students expected globally in 2025, more than four major tertiary institutions of an average size of 30,000 students would need to open every week for the next 15 years.

Ms Farrell spoke on developing talent to meet the local and global needs of a mining company. She focused on Rio Tinto's Operation Centre in Perth which controls 14 mines, 1400 kilometres of railway, three power stations and three ports, all of which are approximately 1500 kilometres away. Through the use of technology, including advanced robotics and tele-operated ship loading, a relatively small number of staff is able to control these large-scale operations with increased efficiency and reliability. Rio's global production model driven professionally from the hi-tech operations centre may be the kind of supply solution to the growing global demand problem outlined by Rod Jones.

The Go8 is working to achieve closer links with business. This includes not only increased university-industry collaboration in higher education and research, but also encouraging business leaders to champion the cause of excellence in university education and research.

Go8 Universities dominate ARC research awards

Nearly seventy per cent of the ARC Future Fellowships announced on 14 November were awarded to academics based at Go8 universities. The aim of the Future Fellowships program is to attract and retain outstanding mid-career researchers.

Also announced on 14 November were the ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards which provide support to promising early career researchers. Of the 277 awarded, 204 went to early career researchers based at Go8 universities.

Further information is available at:
www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/default.htm

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"The Go8 believes that ERA needs to remain as the measure of the excellence and quality of Australian research but there is a place for a separate exercise to identify the benefits of that research to the Australian community," said ANU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Young.

"We are approaching the trial as an experiment, with the aim of identifying if there are credible ways of evaluating the translation of research into practice and the symposium was a key part of this process."

Participants at the symposium discussed the challenges ahead, including the lack of international models from which to learn. One of the many challenges will be to decide upon the nature of research data to be collected and the method of assessment that best evaluates the impact of research.

However, in jointly hosting the symposium the ATN and the Go8 share a commitment, in the national interest, to producing research that is not only high quality but also benefits the broader Australian community.

Best wishes for 2012 from the Group of Eight
 澳大利亚八校联盟祝愿您 2012 年一切顺利
 Die besten Wünsche für 2012 von der Group of Eight
 अष्ट के समूह की ओर से वर्ष 2012 की शुभ कामनाएं
 Nuestros mejores deseos para el 2012
 مجموعة الثماني توجّه لكم أطيّب الأمنيات للعام 2012م
 Meilleurs voeux pour 2012 de la part du Groupe des Huit
 Mike Gallagher, Kerrie, Alan, Helen, Jane, Ian, Les,
 Meagan, Mike Teece, Jocelyn, Martin and Bernadine