



## Connecting with the connected

There is growing interest in the formation of groupings of universities on the basis of shared qualities and research intensity, and their networks with similar groups internationally.

Several groups such as the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) in the US, the Russell Group in the UK, and the Group of Eight (Go8) have existed for more than a decade. The Canadian U15 (as it is now known) formed in 1991 as the G10 and has since expanded to the G13 and more recently to the U15 with the inclusion of the Universities of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Some of these groups have been formed on the basis of tight membership metrics; the AAU is the leader in this respect. Some have formed primarily for the purpose of influencing national policy development; the Russell Group has this focus. Others such as the CIC have formed for the purposes of member capacity development through shared services, and academic and administrative innovations. The Go8 seeks to combine policy influencing, member capacity development and international networking. More recently we have seen the formation of the China 9 (C9), the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and the Japan RU 11 University Association.

The focus of the Go8-C9 collaboration over the last 5 years has been on graduate and undergraduate education and research. Priorities for the next 5 years will be discussed in 2012 when C9 Presidents visit Australia. The Go8 is exploring relations with the U15, with an initial focus on benchmarking, and has invited U15 Presidents to visit Australia in 2012. The Go8 Chair has recently been invited to participate in LERU's 10th anniversary conference in Barcelona which aims to look globally at the present and future position of research universities. The C9 and AAU will also be participating in the conference. The Go8 will be exploring relations with the RU11 in the months ahead. By the Go8 establishing relations with these groups, Australia benefits by being networked to the leading groups in the world's generation of knowledge.

## Go8 international rankings

Another university ranking system has confirmed the quality and international reputation of Go8 universities. QS World University Rankings 2011 include all Group of Eight institutions in the top 100.

Go8 executive director, Michael Gallagher, said that while there are flaws in all ranking methodologies and various perspectives on quality, they all reinforce the same consistent group of top tier institutions in Australia.

However he also warned that despite the good news that a number of Australian institutions had improved their ranking, "underlying message is Australia is falling behind the pace because of student staff ratios".

Further information is available at: [www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings](http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings)

# Go8 European Fellowships

## Applications due 21 October

The Go8 universities are currently welcoming applications for its annual European Fellowships.

The Fellowships are open to early career researchers from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Croatia. For the first time this year the fellowships will also be open to applicants from Russia.

Each fellow will receive benefits worth up to \$20,000 to travel to Australia in 2012 and work at a Go8 university for up to six months.

Applications close on 21 October 2011.

[www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/programs- and -fellowships-1/go8-european-fellowships](http://www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/programs-and-fellowships-1/go8-european-fellowships)

## Go8 sponsors Commonwealth Business Forum

The Go8 will sponsor a session of the Commonwealth Business Forum, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) in October in Perth.

The Go8/Navitas sponsored session on 26 October will focus on enhancing innovation through attracting, retaining and developing talent. Speakers include the Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans, Vice President of Organisation Resources at Riotinto, Joanne Farrell and CEO of Navitas, Rod Jones. Professor Alan Robson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia will chair the session. More information on the Commonwealth Business Forum is available at: [www.cbf2011.com](http://www.cbf2011.com)

## Go8 Backgrounder: 'Measuring the Impact of Research – the context for metric development'

Current economic conditions and the increasing competition for government funding are leading to an increased focus on the impact of research.

This backgrounder looks at a wide variety of methods of measuring the impact of research. Each method has its own characteristics and advantages. No one method is complete in itself and does not offer unambiguous or certain results. Measuring the impact of research is necessary and can be useful but it is important to use the results of such evaluations with care.

Available to download from the Go8 website at:

[go8.edu.au/university-staff/go8-policy- and -analysis/2011/go8-backgrounder-23-measuring-the-impact-of-research-the-context-for-metric-development](http://go8.edu.au/university-staff/go8-policy-and-analysis/2011/go8-backgrounder-23-measuring-the-impact-of-research-the-context-for-metric-development)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Go8 Deans of Graduate Studies meet in Canberra on 5 October
- Go8/DAAD/British Council "International Dialogue on Education" (IDE) in Berlin on 10 October
- Go8-China 9 HDR Forum and Leadership program in Tsinghua from 12- 15 October
- Go8 – China 9 Deans of Graduate Studies joint meeting in Tsinghua on 12 October
- Go8 Board meets in Canberra on 12 October
- Go8 Social Inclusion group meets in Sydney on 17 October
- Go8 Facilities Directors meet in Melbourne on 21 October
- Go8 Deans of Arts meet in Melbourne on 24 October
- Go8 Advancement Directors meet in Melbourne on 31 October
- Go8 Deans of Medicine meet in Canberra on 8 November
- Go8 Deans of Graduate Studies meet in Dunedin on 9 November
- Go8 Academic Policy Committee meet in Sydney on 16 November
- Go8 Planning and Statistics Directors meet in Perth on 17-18 November
- Go8 Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Research) meet in Auckland on 17-18 November
- Go8 Board meets in Canberra on 17 November
- Go8 International Directors meet in Canberra on 23 November
- Go8 Human Resources Directors meet in Melbourne on 24 November

**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. **CONTACT US** The Group of Eight Limited, Group of Eight House, Level 2, 101 Northbourne Ave, Turner ACT 2612 | PO Box 6229, O'Connor ACT 2602 | Tel +61 (0)2 6239 5488 | Fax +61 (0)2 6239 5808 | [www.go8.edu.au](http://www.go8.edu.au)