



BECOMING A COMPETITIVE ACADEMIC CANDIDATE – A WORKSHOP FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES AND EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



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What do you see in the future?

- What do you think are the opportunities and challenges for academics, especially those in your field?
- What are you doing to maximise opportunities and 'set yourself up'?

Current academic job market

- Competitive – lots of PhDs out there
- Job market changing, if not confusing (great education doesn't mean [great] job)
- Universities going through restructuring, often based on government initiatives and new funding models
- Casual and fixed-term contracts – limited job security, employment benefits, prospects for advancement

- Different Focus bring different opportunities and challenges
 - Teaching and Research (T&R) positions - traditional
 - Teaching-only positions
 - Research-only are often contract positions
 - Going into industry

What is valued?

- Research track records which include funding successes in competitive grant schemes
- High impact publications
- Good Teaching
- Good Engagement

Competitive grants

- **Category 1: Australian Competitive Grants**
E.g. Australian Research Council
Discover Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)
- **Category 2: Other Public Sector Research Income**
- **Category 3: Industry and Other Research Income**

- Don't give up! Persevere.

High Impact Publications

- High impact means the frequency an average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year.
- Average time it takes to get a high impact publications could be 2 years
- Everyone wants high impact so rate of acceptance is low
- How to get things published – from an editor's perspective
- Don't give up!

Cat's and Shanton's experience and strategies with grant funding and publications

Good Teaching

- Student Experience Scores
- Case Studies and Sharing Best Practice, Awards in Teaching are important
- Research into Teaching and Learning (eg. Internationalisation, group collaboration, educational technology, etc.)
- Publications and Grants in Teaching

Engagement

- Engagement with Industry and Wider Society
 - How do you measure impact?
 - How do you ensure your research can influence practice?
 - Where are the opportunities for collaboration?

Your experience, strategies and questions with grant funding and publications