Graduate Professional Skills Online Modules

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Spring Forum 2014
Ontario Consortium of Research Intensive Universities: Guelph, McMaster, Ottawa, Queen’s, Toronto, Waterloo, and Western

Project to create and deliver 18 professional skills development online modules, located in a single portal

Response to the increase in graduate student enrolments and changes to labour market: need for professional skill development to assist graduate students as they move into the workforce and pursue diverse career pathways
September 2013
application made to MCTU (Productivity and Innovation Fund)

December 2013
$1,170,000 grant awarded

31 March, 2014.
First draft of modules ready for review and beta testing.

1 Sept. 2014.
Portal will open for all Ontario graduate students.
Common Features

• 60-90 minutes to complete each online module
• Moodle platform
• Interactive and activity-based
• Assessments provide feedback to students as they work on the module
• Case studies and scenarios reflect graduate student experiences
Teaching & Learning
- McMaster
- Toronto, focus on teaching dossiers
- Waterloo, focus on online teaching
- Western, focus on technology in teaching

Mental Health
- Queen's
- Guelph

Career Development
- Queens, focus on versatile PhDs
- Waterloo, focus on non-academic careers
- Western, focus on non-academic careers

Entrepreneurship
- Ottawa, focus on start ups
- Waterloo, focus on IP

Research
- McMaster, focus on Community Engaged Research
- Guelph, focus on Research Management
- Toronto, focus on Student/supervisor relationships
- Toronto, focus on Mentoring Undergraduate Students

Academic/Research Integrity
- McMaster
- Queen's, focus on Intercultural Competency

Communications
- Western, focus on Academic & Professional Communication
Mental Health and Well-being \textit{(with Guelph)}

Inter-Cultural Competency

Expanding the Horizons of your PhD: Diverse Career Paths

Queen’s Modules
Modules on Careers and Entrepreneurship

- Expanding the Horizons of your PhD: Diverse Career Paths (Queen’s)
- Non-Academic Work Search (Waterloo)
- From CV to Resume (Guelph)
- Entrepreneurship and New Venture Creation (Ottawa)
- IP: An Entrepreneur’s Guide (Waterloo)
Modules on Research Skills

- Community Engaged Research (McMaster)
- Research Management (Guelph)
- Understanding Plagiarism and Research Integrity (Guelph/McMaster)
Modules on Communication Skills

- Several modules on teaching: including Mentoring Undergraduate Students (University of Toronto)
- Professional and Academic Communication for New Researchers (McMaster/Western)
- Inter-cultural Competency (Queen’s)
Graduate Student Progress Module
(University of Toronto)

- web-based tool which assists graduate students, supervisors, and supervisory committees by facilitating the documentation and assessment of a student’s progress
- provides universities with a software platform based on open source technologies which may be downloaded, installed, and customized at each institution
Potential Uses of Modules for Graduate Students and Programs at Queen’s

- Independent online use (students print record of completion)

- Blended learning use: Integration of modules into workshops offered across campus

- Integrated into graduate courses offered by programs
Next Steps

• All modules currently being reviewed internally and externally

• Looking for additional students to preview the modules

• If you’d like to preview the modules, contact denotter@queensu.ca