

[作者] The University of Queensland <http://www.findlight.cn> 2006-11-27

[单位] The University of Queensland

[摘要] 21 November 2006. The University of Queensland is leading a national drive to improve the teaching, learning and job prospects of Australia's 26 university-based undergraduate biotechnology programs.

[关键词] biotechnology teaching learning job prospects



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The University of Queensland is leading a national drive to improve the teaching, learning and job prospects of Australia's 26 university-based undergraduate biotechnology programs.

The project, directed by UQ Business School's Associate Professor Damian Hine and Associate Professor Ross Barnard from the Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences (BACS), also involves investigators from the University of New South Wales, Flinders University and Monash University.

It recently received a funding injection of \$300,000 as part of The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education's Discipline-Based Initiatives Scheme. Dr Hine welcomed the funds, saying biotechnology's highly cross-disciplinary nature, and the rapid technological development in the industry increased the need for a national approach to its teaching and learning to advantage the placement of graduates.

The project builds on the work funded by the Australian Universities Teaching Committee (AUTC), now The Carrick Institute, over the past four years by this team. This work has created a number of national of initiatives including Uni-

BEN (University Biotechnology Educators Network) encompassing more than 238 academics and 100 university administrators associated with the nation's biotechnology programs.

Previous projects undertaken by this team also found deficiencies in graduates' skills sets in critical areas, the most pertinent being Chemistry. Other so-called "soft skills" needed focus as well, such as problem-solving, communication, teamwork and analytical skills. Meanwhile, biotechnology graduates reported limited advancement opportunities within small companies.

Dr Hine said the scoping study to be undertaken over the next year would initially include a greater engagement with industry, particularly the peak industry body, AusBiotech, and the Australian Institute for Commercialisation. The team will also investigate the current status of undergraduate biotechnology programs nationally to determine term sustainability given tighter budgets and shifting governmental funding priorities.