



Call for Proposals

Proposals Extended to: 24th April 2015

Conference theme

The Australian higher education sector is at a time of great change. At the heart of this change lies a fundamental question around the purpose of post-secondary education for the nation. Divergent drivers and influences from within and beyond the sector are challenging thinking and changing agendas.

Within this context of change the one imperative that still remains, if we hope to stay competitive according to recent OECD rankings, is our need to better connect, better collaborate and better engage with the world around us.

Given these realities.....

- How do we reconcile the economic imperative with the public good?
- What is the role for research and education in this landscape?
- What do these changing agendas mean for aspiring "engaged universities"?
- Does the deregulated market support an enhanced engagement agenda?
- What does the engagement agenda look like in these changing times?
- How can an engagement focus support inclusivity?

The 2015 Engagement Australia International conference of engaged scholars and practitioners will explore these, and other broader strategic themes and their interplay with engaged training, learning, research and service practices.

Conference aims

- Provide a forum for provocative and interactive discussion about the engagement agenda in Australia and internationally;
- Provide an opportunity for educators, researchers, practitioners and community members to showcase their work;
- Engage with individuals and organisations across all aspects of higher education to consider new thinking, theoretical models and good practice;
- Create a space for continuous learning and professional development for engaged scholars and practitioners.

Who should participate?

We encourage attendance from a broad range of *educators, researchers and practitioners*, including:

- Academics interested in the scholarly dimensions of engagement through specific teaching, research or service activities undertaken by universities;

- Students interested in engagement with communities, whether as a research focus, an engaged experience or area of passion and interest;
- Managers and leaders in universities and education providers focused on how to structure, strategise and development engagement within their institutions;
- Practitioners working in community, government, business and industry organisations focused on enhancing connectivity with higher education for mutual benefit.

Presentation formats

Presenters select from the four formats ensuring their abstract relate to the conference theme: 'Changing times: Changing agendas'. All abstracts will be double blind peer reviewed to ensure a high standard of presentations. All abstracts will be de-identified prior to the review process.

Research Presentations (Abstract length: 1000 words) **Online via:** [Secure Online Portal](#)

Abstracts for a Research Presentation are required to be academic in content, demonstrate theoretical underpinnings, including original empirical research. The Research abstract will be judged for its quality and relevance to the conference through double blind peer reviewing. Abstracts must include analysis of the current literature, research questions, methods and results and implications of the research.

Each research presentation will be 20 minutes plus 10 minutes questions and answers.

Roundtables (Abstract length: 500 words) **Online via:** [Secure Online Portal](#)

Roundtables provide an opportunity for peer exchange, dialogue and exploration of key issues relevant to University-Community Engagement. Roundtables present ideas in development and provide an opportunity for feedback, development and refinement with a collective problem solving focus. A submission to facilitate a Roundtable must include a summary describing the problem or issue, its significance, the questions to be posed, and a plan for engaging the participants.

Each roundtable will be 45 minutes.

Poster (Abstract length: 500 words) **Online via:** [Secure Online Portal](#)

Posters should display: research outcomes, describe ongoing projects, and elaborate the experience of University-Community Engagement. Posters may include photographs, statistical tables, figures, charts, or other graphic material relevant to the project. They should be in hardcopy A1 format.

Presenters must be available at their poster to answer questions and discuss their poster during the presentation session.

Stories of Engagement (Abstract length: 500 words) **Online via:** [Secure Online Portal](#)

Story telling will showcase different ideas, innovations, experiences or theories of those working in one of the many diverse areas relating to university engagement with its communities. This knowledge sharing activity will challenge presenters to clearly and succinctly *present case* in a total of five minutes. There will be no use of audio-visual materials.

Individual presentations will be strictly limited to 5-minutes without any technological aids.

Presenter guidelines

Presentation proposals that: do not follow the guidelines, are incomplete, or received after the deadline may not be considered.

Number of submissions

Each individual may submit a maximum of two proposals as the Primary Presenter. There is no limit on the number of submissions for which a person may be listed as a supplementary presenter.

Co-presentations

Co-presentations by community, business/industry and university partners are **strongly** encouraged.

Feedback from peer-review process

In order to grow presenter capacity and to support delegate-learning all people who submit a proposal will receive feedback from the reviewers. It is important to remember that conference presentation sessions are limited and this is a *competitive process*. As a consequence all submissions reviewed may not be accepted and for some, acceptance may be conditional upon making changes as suggested by the reviewers.

What happens if your proposal is accepted?

As the time-line below indicates, if your proposal is accepted you will receive notification by email. However to secure your conference presentation in the program you will need to:

1. Submit any amendments as request by the peer-reviewers by Friday 29th May 2015.
2. Pay your Conference Registration

Note: All accepted presenters will receive early bird rate for registration

Conference program time-line

The Conference Program Committee wishes to advise all prospective presenters and conference delegates that the following time-line will be strictly adhered to.

Proposals due	Friday 27 th March 2015
Peer review process starts	Monday 30 th March 2015
Peer review process concludes	Monday 13 th April 2015
Reviewer feedback and amendments	Tuesday 16 th April - 17 th May 2015
Final notifications of acceptance	Monday 25 th May 2015
Conference program published	Monday 1 st June 2015

If you have enquiries please email us on admin@engagementaustralia.org.au

Call for papers extended now due 24th April 2015