



Accreditation

Emeritus Professor Jenny Edwards

Accreditation Team

Accreditation



- Accreditation is a quality process which is co-operative between the institution and the ACS
- Designed to ensure a degree produces an ICT Professional
- The ACS is itself accredited by the Seoul Accord
- This is an international body which includes UK, US, Canada, Japan, Chinese Taipei, China (HK), Korea (and others pending)
- It offers mutual recognition of accredited degrees, Bachelors and (new) Masters



Accredited Degrees

- Degrees are accredited, not the institution, though there are minimum ICT staffing requirements for each degree
- A degree offered in different modes and/or on different campuses must demonstrate equivalent outcomes in all instances
- Currently one or more degrees are accredited at
 - 37 Australian Universities
 - 3 Australian HEPs
 - 2 Overseas Universities
(not affiliated with any Australian university)

CBOK (Common Book of Knowledge)



- Set of 21 skills under headings
 - Problem Solving
 - Professional Knowledge
 - Technology Resources
 - Technology Building
 - Service Management
 - Outcomes Management
- Each must demonstrably be met but with different Bloom's levels (or the absence of a skill justified)

SFIA (Skills for the Information Age)



- Skills related to job roles
- Lists of potential job roles
- Set of skills divided into 6 broad categories, multiple subcategories
- Level of skills ranges from 1 to 7
- Institution sets roles relevant to the outcomes from a degree
- Then illustrates how the subjects in the degree match to the skills required for that role at appropriately levels



Complexity & Advanced Subjects

- Panels look for complex computing
- Opportunities for teamwork on complex problems, usually as a capstone
- Interaction with industry – WIL, internships, industry based projects, etc
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Advanced Subjects as per the ACS definition

Submission Problems often encountered



- SFIA skills are set too high
- CBOK skills, especially for undergraduates are way overclaimed
- CBOK skills claimed erroneously
- No unified view in a school on CBOK skills between or even for the same subjects!
- Subjects claimed as Advanced, which aren't
- All requirements, CBOK, SFIA, capstone, advanced subjects, ethics, professionalism etc not covered in core/compulsory subjects
- Gaps in QA on assessment –
 - inconsistencies between learning outcomes in the subject description and actual assessment, exam questions and project reports



Other matters panels look at

- Industry involvement
- At least 5 graduates working in ICT from each degree
- If a specialised degree, eg networking, the graduates are working in networking
- Knowledge of complexity – students can solve complex problems without staff intervention or handholding
- Students/graduates know what is involved in being a professional
- Students/graduates have a working knowledge of ethics
(Ethics and professionalism do not have to be subjects in their own right but should appear throughout the degree, where relevant, and be embedded in students'/graduates' thinking)

Advanced Masters



- ACS also offers accreditation for an Advanced Masters
- A Masters where all subjects are at a genuine postgraduate level AND entry is from a cognate degree