

International HRD Student Report: utilizing research to inform strategy

Zlatko Skrbis

Dean, UQ Graduate School

Timing

Departure from formerly uniform RHD landscape in RHD training

- University of Sydney
- University of Western Australia
- Melbourne model
- UQ model

The role of international RHD students

Re-thinking of RHD training:

- PhD loses its relevance? (US Council of Graduate Schools meeting in Brisbane, 2010)
- What sort of skills set do our graduates acquire and how?

Strategy

- market (how to remain competitive and distinct)
- Internal administrative pathways

Student lifecycle perspective

Methodology and sample comprehensiveness

- PhD students in Australia
- Research Masters in Australia
- Prospective RHDs offered a place in Australia
- RHD Alumni

- Nationalities
- Disciplinary backgrounds

- “Real person” perspective

Alexander, Serbia, Earth Science, Brisbane

Why study for a PhD:

To become expert in my field
Need a PhD for my chosen career

Why research in Australia:

Acceptance of previous qualifications
The overall package of scholarship, supervision and duration
Close to fieldwork

Critical considerations:

Access to a visa
Facilities for research
Finding a project that will keep me inspired

Why not the US:

Extended duration, with coursework component
No certainty that scholarships will last
Less freedom to select topic

Why not the UK:

Lack of responsiveness from universities
Too expensive

Positive experiences:

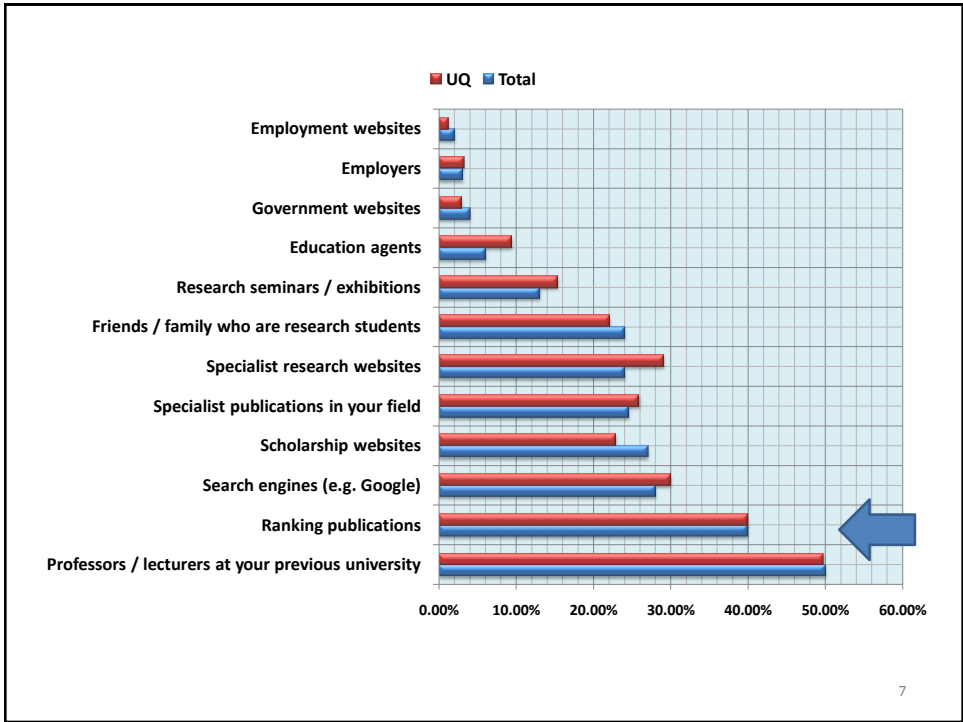
Australian researchers are pioneers in my field

What could be improved:

Scholarships do not cover living expenses
Unanticipated living and studying costs

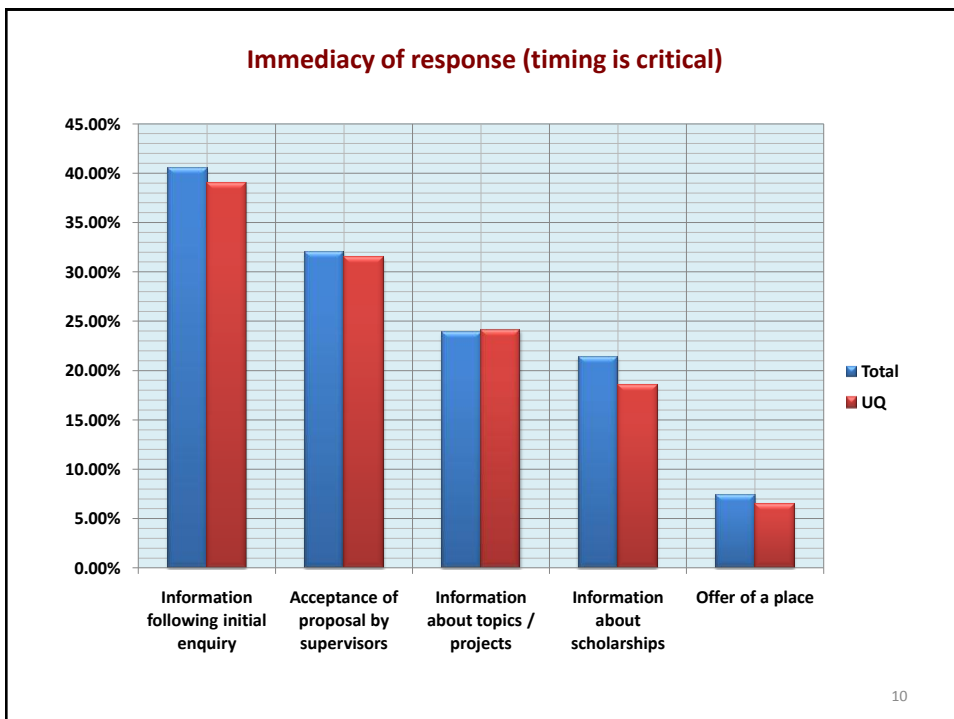
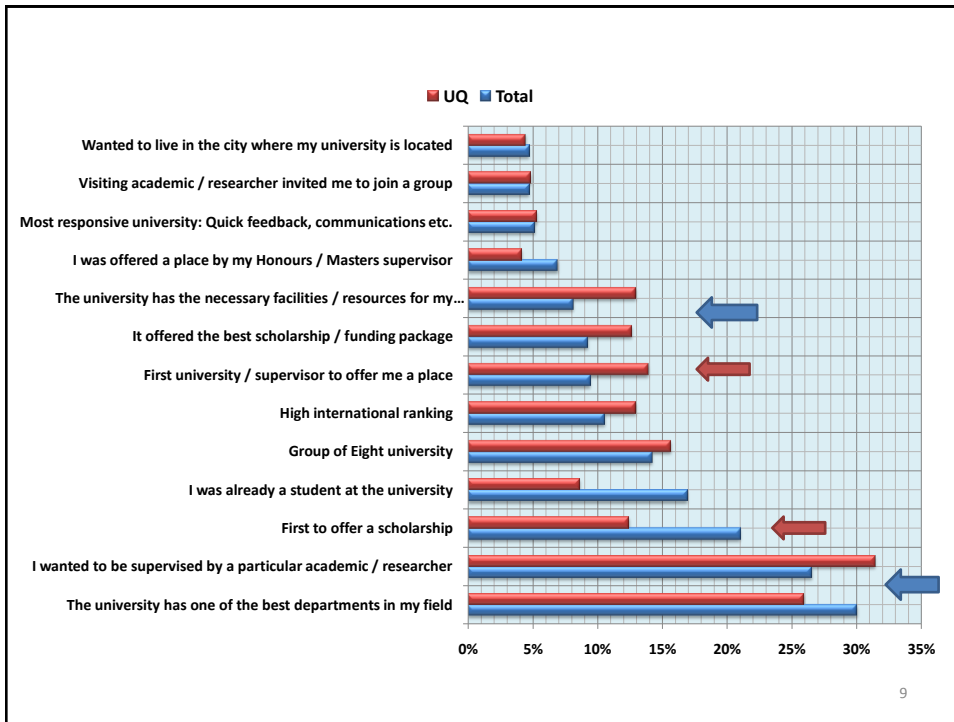


Information sources



THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

Choice of university

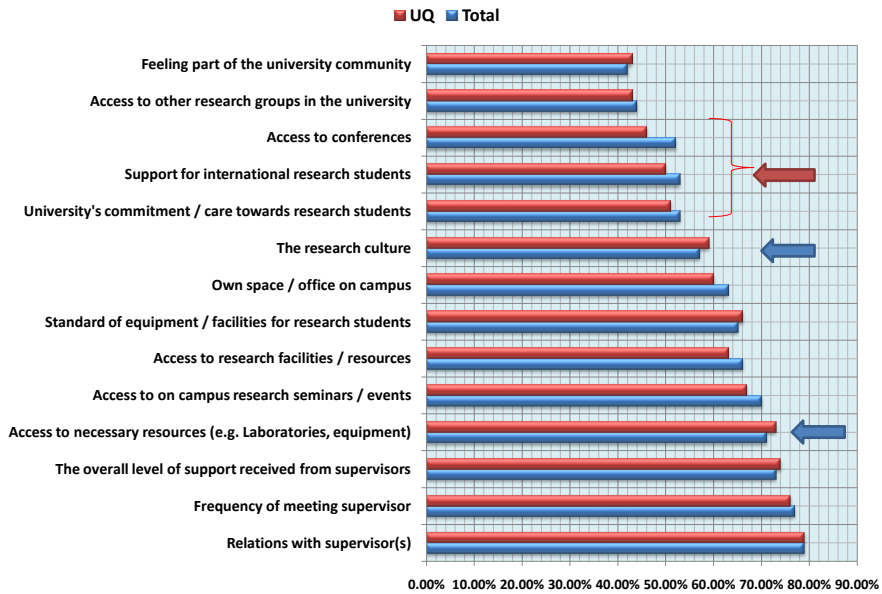


Supervision and mobility experiences

Variables		Total	UQ
Level of daily supervisor interaction	Main supervisor	9%	14%
	Co-supervisor	6%	8%
Level of weekly supervisor interaction	Main supervisor	58%	63%
	Co-supervisor	30%	32%
	% who have participated in a voluntary programme in Australia	19%	18%
	Voluntary programme in another country	10%	9%
	Fieldwork in rural Australia	8%	10%
	Fieldwork / assignment at another Australian university	8%	8%
	International conference	44%	46%
	Fieldwork in another country	19%	20%

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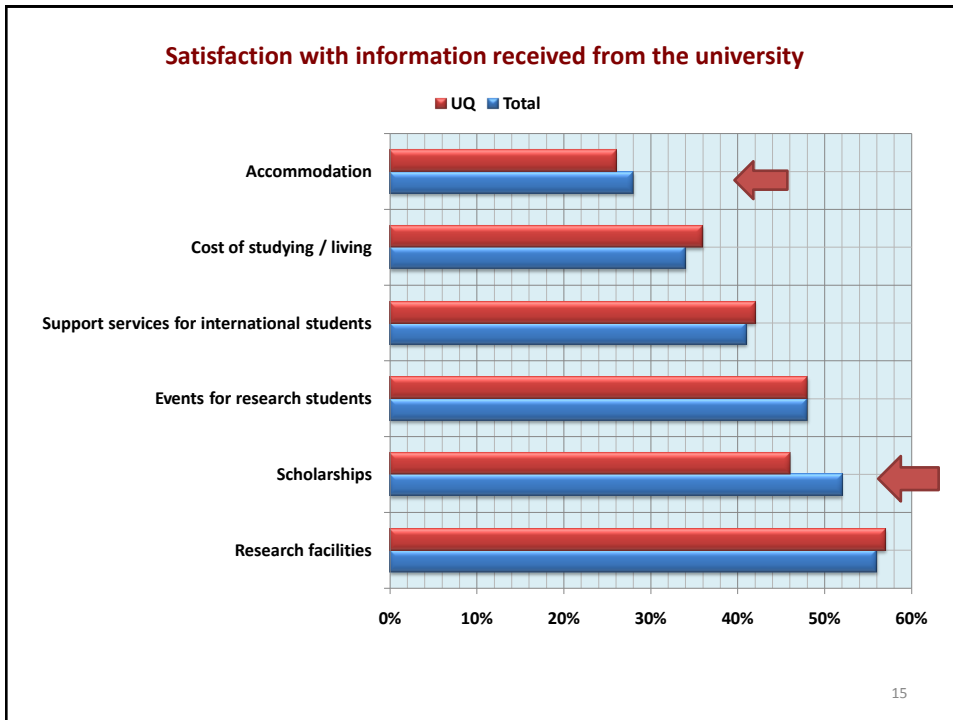
High levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the research experience




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Overall satisfaction





Confirmed assumptions and self-perceptions

Context:

- Advantages of “Australian PhD” brand
- Importance of integration with students & community

UQ Specific:

- Value of investment into research and high research performers
- Importance of investment into reputational capital
- Significance of research infrastructure (eg Institutes)
- Critical investments: a) scholarships; b) “RHD experience”, including strengthening RHD community

Critical issues to be addressed: direct or indirect consequence

- Institutional responsiveness from EOI to admission – CRM system
 - Changes to how RHDs are administered & marketed (changes in UQ GS)
 - Strengthening UQ distinctiveness – domestically and internationally
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