



Alumni Experience Conference (AEC)

- Date:** 26-27 September, 2018
- Theme:** Alumni Knowledge and Experience: Reflecting on Real-World Transition Practice
- Venue:** Monash University, Clayton campus
Faculty of Education
19 Ancora Imparo Way, Clayton, Australia

Alumni Experience Conference (AEC) is the first-ever event for alumni, scholars, researchers and current students in various disciplines to discuss ways of enhancing the connection between curricula/pedagogies and real-world practices.

It aims to provide participants with relevant professional development as well as the opportunity to contribute to this important conversation about the gap between University and Employment.

Please go to our website to register and/or make a submission:

<https://www.monash.edu/alumniconference/>.

Conference program

Day 1 – Wednesday 26 Sep 2018		
8:30 – 9:00	Arrival and registrations	G31
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome address by Ms Spica A. Tutuhaturunewa – the Indonesian Consul General	G31
9:30 – 10:15	Keynote by Dr. Le Thanh Vinh <i>"Strategies towards career success of returnees: Implications for bridging the gap between university and industry"</i>	G31
10:15 – 11:00	Coffee break	Outside 101
11:00 – 12:30	Parallel sessions	221, 231, 304, 321
12:30 – 1:30	LUNCH (presenters)	Outside 302
1:30 – 3:00	Parallel sessions	221, 231, 304, 321
3:00 – 3:30	Coffee break	Outside 101
3:30 – 4:30	Professional development sessions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>"Pursuing a career in an internationalised context: Challenges and Possibilities"</i> 2. <i>"Lesson from IT Professional Evolvment and Strategies for Sharing"</i> 	221, 231

Day 2 – Thursday 27 Sep 2018		
9:00 – 10:00	Keynote by A/P Michael Tomlinson Graduates' Employability and Career Readiness	G31
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	Outside 101
10:30 – 12:00	Parallel sessions	221, 231, 304, 321
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH (presenters)	Outside 302
1:00 – 2:30	Parallel sessions	221, 231, 304, 321
2:30 – 3:00	Coffee break	Outside 101
3:00 – 4:00	Professional development sessions: 1. "Building an International value proposition in the Global Knowledge Economy" 2. "Navigating barriers to win the employability battle"	221, 231
4:00 – 4:30	Conclusion	101

Keynote presentations

Keynote 1: Strategies towards career success of returnees: Implications for bridging the gap between university and industry

By Dr. Le Thanh Vinh

Monash alumnus and Standing Vice Chairman of FLC Group Jsc. - one of the leading multi-sector corporations in Vietnam.

Summary:

The development of emerging markets in such Asian countries as China, Vietnam, Korea, India and Malaysia is leading to *'reverse mobility'* – a phenomenon featured by an increasing number of students in developed countries choosing Asian countries for their studying experiences and a significant number of Asian students overseas returning to home countries to seek career development opportunities. This phenomenon is situating 'Western' education in a new position where there is the need to prepare students with skills and knowledge to succeed in both host and home countries. Fulfilling this emerging role requires a better understanding and embedding experiences of international returnees in university programmes. This presentation, based on experiences of a former student in Australia for many years and an employer of influential industries in Vietnam, will discuss:

- A brief career landscape of Vietnamese graduates after they returned to Vietnam.
- The (dis)connection between overseas study outcomes and requirements of the local labour market.
- Capitals that international students should develop at their early study stage to be better prepared for post-study employment.
- Implications for efficient alignments between higher education and industries.

Presenter's bio:

Dr. Le Thanh Vinh completed his Bachelor degree at the University of Law in Ha Noi, a Master of International Business and a Master of International Commercial Law at Deakin University, Australia and a PhD in Law at Monash University, Australia. Vinh has more than 15 years of experience in legal practice, business and hospitality management on several high-level positions. He is currently acting as the Standing Vice Chairman of FLC Group Jsc. - one of the leading multi-sector corporations in Vietnam. Over the last six years working at FLC, Vinh has played a key role in bringing FLC Group to be recognised as the leading developer of largest scale hospitality and resort projects in Vietnam estimated at US\$3.8 billion. A significant factor contributing to Vinh's successes is his quality and capacity in intertwining knowledge/skills and networks that he obtained and developed locally and internationally. This has been well evidenced by his success in calling up a team of many Australian-trained top managers to successfully awaken the invaluable tourism potential of many once wasted pieces of land and transform them into popular tourist attractions. This has created thousand local jobs, contributed to substantial socio-economic developments as well as strengthened the leading position of FLC Group in Vietnam.



Keynote 2: Graduates' Employability and Career Readiness

This presentation explores new ways of thinking about the challenge of graduates' post-university employment and the implications this raises for graduates' employment outcomes and career progression. It departs from traditional approaches to graduate employability which have tended to view the acquisition of skills and competency development as core markers of 'graduateness' and offers new insights on this problem. The presentation draws upon extensive research with graduates and employers and shows that employability is increasingly about the development and deployment of key resources; namely forms of organisational/sectoral-related cultural, social, identity and psychological capital. The talk will explore how these operate in graduates' transitions and can be further nurtured during study and beyond. Employability and career development is largely constitutive of a complex mix of personal qualities, proactive labour market engagement and the ability to reflect productively on experiences to develop a 'narrative of employability'. Upon this understanding we can think through strategies and opportunities to develop graduates' self and career awareness.

Presented by Associate Professor Michael Tomlinson

University of Southampton, UK; Leading researcher in graduate employability

Michael Tomlinson is an expert in the sociology of education and work, with specific interests in higher education policy and the labour market. He has extensively researched the area of graduate employability and transitions to the labour market and his work is conceptually and critically informed. In addition, he has researched developments in higher education policy, including critical approaches to the marketisation of UK higher education and the implications this has for institutions, students and academics. His work to date has developed new insights on the changing value of higher education and the debates around the student-as-consumer. In the field of employability, he has pioneered a number of key models, including the graduate career orientations model and, more recently, the graduate capital model. The latter has been actively incorporated in the University of Southampton careers and employability strategy, as well as other UK institutions. This work has formed the basis for the allied Career Readiness Test which provides a diagnostic assessment to students and graduates to help them better plan their post-university transitions. He is the author of two key books which have brought together his thinking in these fields, *Education, Work and Identity* (Bloomsbury, 2013) and *Graduate Employability in Context* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). He also serves on the editorial boards of *Journal of Education and Work*, *British Journal of Sociology of Education* and *Higher Education Policy*.



Professional Development Workshops

To facilitate career development of alumni, we invite you to join three free Professional Development (PD) sessions coached by scholars and graduates who first came to Australia as a refugee or an international student but have now been known as renowned scholars and successful career developers. What made them successful? Please join us and hear about their stories and strategies (Please see the Conference Programme for the Session Schedules).

PD Session 1: Pursuing a career in an internationalised context: Challenges and Possibilities

This workshop discusses the challenges and possibilities involved in developing a career in the current labour market, characterised by transnational skills mobility, global demands and local needs and the rising knowledge economy. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussions related to approaches to developing intercultural capabilities, transnational networks, dynamic connections with home, diaspora and related communities and other employability skills. Insights into developing a professional portfolio which evidences and capitalises on graduates' existing strengths, experiences, attributes, skills and networks will be presented. The workshop uses Harvard University's Visible Thinking Approach to engage participants in exploring the individual as well as structural conditions that facilitate or inhibit the development of graduate employability and the negotiation of different demands to thrive in career.

Presented by Associate Professor Ly Tran
Faculty of Education, Deakin University

Ly Tran is an Associate Professor in the School of Education, Deakin University and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow. Her research focuses on international students across the school, VET and HE sectors, student mobility, the New Colombo Plan, staff professional learning in international education. She also undertakes projects on higher education, vocational education and graduate employability in Vietnam and China. Ly has been awarded various fellowships, prizes and awards including the prestigious Future Fellowship from the Australian Research Council. She has recently won Deakin University's Vice-Chancellor's Award for Mid-Career Researcher for her outstanding contribution to research and publications in the field of international education. Ly has produced over 150 publications including books, book chapters, refereed articles, reports and conference papers. Ly's book, "Teaching international students in vocational education: New pedagogical approaches", won the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) Excellence Award for Best Practice/Innovation in International Education (<https://shop.acer.edu.au/teaching-international-students-in-vocational-education>).



PD Session 2: Lesson from IT Professional Evolvement and Strategies for Sharing

This presentation hopes to highlight the challenges and opportunities faced by an international student some 20 years ago in Melbourne. The determination towards self-reliance and a hunger to succeed is a key drive in his career involvement. The speaker took on opportunities as it was presented and worked hard to gain the respect and recognition from his peers. The landscape of his work changes quite rapidly with the impact of technology. Understanding the shift of this landscape is paramount to the next strategy move for his organisation. He believes that teaching is ageless and learning is lifelong.

Presented by Mr. Steven Ngoi

Head of Learning Environments, ICT Melbourne Polytechnic

Steven Ngoi completed his Bachelor degree in Information Technology and a Master's degree in Education from Monash University. After a few years' working as an IT learning support at Monash, he moved to Swinburne Online as their first Education Technologist in a start-up and later became manager of Education Technologist administrators. He then joined Deakin University to take up the role of Manager Learning Environments managing multi-million dollars' enterprise systems and now at Melbourne Polytechnic as their Head of Learning Environments.

With great passion and personal effort, Steven grew in an industry where his Learning Designer or Education Technologist role did not exist a decade years ago, making contributions in this role as an essential component that now plays a significant role in almost every university.



PD Session 3: Building an International value proposition in the Global Knowledge Economy

This presentation will examine career paths for graduates planning an international career. Given increasing mobility in the context of a global knowledge economy, many graduates seek employment outside Australia. An examination of the careers literature highlights that job-readiness abroad is linked to working effectively across cultures and other 'soft' employability skills, including teamwork, communication, flexibility and adaptability. This workshop explores international employability and its emphasis on 'soft' and transferable skills. This workshop will help graduates to transition and build credibility for offshore employment. Participants will learn to articulate their international value proposition through exposure to opportunities, including targeted internships and service learning (or volunteer) opportunities abroad.

Presented by Dr. Karen Medica

Lecturer, Monash Business School

Karen joined the Business School in 2017 as a Lecturer working with students to enhance their graduate employability and life-long learning opportunities. Her PhD thesis completed in the Department of Management was entitled Cultural Adjustment in the context of an aid-funded higher education sojourn, focused on inter-cultural identity and the reintegration of international students following a study experience in Australia.



Karen has worked with international not-for-profits, Governments (Australian and International), higher education institutions, and corporates. She brings to Monash experience of working and living across cultures in countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Her qualifications include PhD (Management), Masters Public Policy and Management, Masters Arts (Development Studies), Bachelor Arts (Hons – Geography and Environmental Science). In addition, she holds a Graduate Certificate of Career Development and a Certificate in Workplace Training and Assessor.

PD Session 4: Navigating barriers to win the “employability” battle

For a student who is about to graduate, looking for the first job is an intense journey to employability success. If you are lucky to have your parents or friends who own a business, you can depend on them to offer you employment. But if you don't, you will have to rely on yourself, your ability to learn from both successes and failures, and the tenacity you will need to develop along that journey.

At this presentation, I will share my employability experiences, and discuss what I believe the challenges that lie ahead of each graduate from the very first moment they step into the journey. Looking through the employability lens, particularly basing myself on both “triumphs” and “setbacks”, I will explain the reasons as to why a “war” strategy and a positive attitude can matter more than you think. I will argue for the equal importance of individual agencies (hard skills, soft skills, identity etc.), attitudes and life experiences as the basis for achieving your employability goals.

Presented by Mr. Thuan Nguyen

Business Owner and Director, TND Migration Consulting, Victoria

Thuan Nguyen arrived in Australia in 1981 as a refugee from Vietnam. Thuan finished Higher School Certificate (HSC) in 1983 in Victoria at the age of 26. He received his first degree (Bachelor of Science) from Monash University in 1986. After graduating, Thuan was employed by Westpac Banking Corporation in 1987 as part of the bank’s graduate trainee programme. He rapidly went through the programme - achieving manager level after three years. During his six years of service at Westpac, Thuan received scholarships from his employer to pursue two post graduate courses at Victoria University then Melbourne University. Between 1999 and 2011, Thuan held a senior position at Etihad Stadium in the role of IT Manager. He was part of the executive team, reporting directly to the CEO. Thuan went to Vietnam to work for Dai-ichi Life Insurance for three months as a special consultant to assist the IT Team with reviewing and improving IT business processes. It was his short time in Vietnam that helped him reshape his employment strategies. He returned to Australia in 2012. In 2013, Thuan enrolled in and completed the Graduate Certificate in Immigration Law and Practice. Since March 2014, he has operated a very successful migration consulting practice with his wife in Springvale, Victoria.

