

Hello, everyone! My name is Giulia, and I am an overseas PhD student (Creative Writing). I would like to promote some changes that, hopefully, will benefit most of our early career researchers and sessional teaching staff.

For starters, I think we need to ensure that all PhD students reaching the completion of their degree receive adequate assistance in finding suitable work. As it is, not all graduates from the Faculty of Arts receive proper guidance and support. In fact, many of us struggle to find work.

Secondly, we need to have more transparent policies when it comes to hiring sessional staff. Currently, the criteria according to which a PhD student is offered some tutoring, while another is not, are rather unclear.

Thirdly, we need better training for those of us who will undertake sessional teaching jobs. At present, we are not really taught how to use Moodle, make a lesson plan, or engage the students.

Fourthly, ongoing mentorship from librarians would increase our chances of publishing papers of exceptional quality, and getting our research “out there” in impactful ways.

Lastly, we must argue for more useful activities and workshops towards the completion of our 120 Professional Development hours. At present, many workshops we are offered are not particularly relevant to most of us.

I believe that these changes would be beneficial for our community of postgraduates, and particularly for students from the Faculty of Arts. Thank you for supporting my ideas, and for contributing to making a positive change.