End of Year Report to GGA Working Group:
‘Converting Generic Graduate Attributes into Employability'

The Careers Centre University of Sydney
“student lifecycle - graduate attributes - career management skills– employability”

**Background:** Earlier in the year the University's Careers Centre presented to the GGA working group its intention to embark on a project, in addition to its centralised operations, to bring its services directly to interested Faculties with the intention of forming "service level agreements".

These were based on a series of **modules aimed at raising student awareness of the generic graduate attributes they have developed during their university experience and translating these into employability outcomes:** Lifelong Career Management Skills. The Careers Centre sees itself in a unique position to assist faculties in meeting their Graduate Attributes Policy obligations. It maintains strong industry links with the major graduate recruiters and employs staff with high level professional expertise in this field. Students receive a certificate of attendance if they attend all 3 modules.

**Outcomes:** Since the beginning of the year the Careers Centre has now delivered its series of 3 Career Management Skills modules to the following faculties:
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Economics and Business
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Veterinary Sciences
(And a special presentation for International Students: “Essential Career Skills for International Students”)

The following external organisations co-presented as industry relevant guests:
- Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services Australia
- Ass’n of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia
- GHD (Professional Services)
- Macquarie Bank Limited
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Unilever
- ResMed
- Northrop Consulting Engineers

Levels of partnership with faculties varied. Some standout successes included:
- Faculty of Science: Modules run as part of an annual series in the ‘Jumpstart to Success’ series.
- Faculty of Arts: the GGA rep co-presented the first module on generic attributes and their applicability to employability, especially well received in student evaluations.
- Faculty of Vet Science- shortened version of modules presented in class time to penultimate year students.
- Faculty of Economics and Business-promotion of modules received full administrative support of faculty Program Adviser.

In each series the Careers Centre endeavoured to contact each GGA representative, and key academic staff with varying degrees of success.

**Marketing Summary:** Target: all undergraduate and post graduate students with particular focus on penultimate and final year students. Methods: emails, collaboration with student societies, collaboration with faculty staff, posters, internet notices.

**Student Evaluations:** All modules were evaluated-full details can be requested. In general modules were rated very good/good, with industry representatives being considered highly useful. Comments included: Insightful perspective into what we gain from our degrees, informative, good perspective on outside environment, makes you feel confident after hearing advice from someone who recruits graduates.

**The Future:** It is hoped that further collaboration with faculties and GGA representatives will grow the reach of the modules both across faculties and to numbers of students within faculties.

*Rosemary Sainty, Careers Centre, Nov 2005*