



**Report on the
Inaugural Brazil
Australia Higher
Education Forum,
9-10 June 2015**



Strategies to strengthen higher education engagement between Brazil and Australia

9-10 June 2015, Royal Tulip Hotel Brasilia



Australian Embassy Brasilia



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This report was funded by the Australian Government
Department of Education and Training

Prepared by

Universities Australia

GPO Box 1142

Canberra ACT 2601

Australia

Web: www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au

ABN: 53 008 502 930

Australian Embassy Brazil

SES Quadra 801

Conjunto K, Lote 7

Brasilia-DF-CEP70200-010

Brazil

Web: www.brazil.embassy.gov.au

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Inaugural Brazil Australia Higher Education Forum

Strategies to strengthen higher education engagement between Brazil and Australia

Key findings

- Institutions and governments in Brazil and Australia share many common ambitions for higher education.
- Networking opportunities and discussion forums are immensely helpful for breaking down barriers and establishing new relationships.
- Partnerships, between universities or with industry, need to be strategic, flexible and multifaceted with a long term view.
- Cooperation needs to be of mutual benefit and requires a mutual commitment and mutual investment.
- There is scope to improve two way staff and student mobility between Australia and Brazil.
- There is scope build on links established through mobility programs such as *Endeavour* and *SWB* to build long-term research partnerships.
- Research collaboration often begins with individuals but can be institutionalised with support of an overarching Memorandum of Understanding.
- There is scope to develop more trilateral relationships either between institutions or institutions and industry.

Specific outcomes

- Department of Education and Training and Universities Australia Joint Communique
- Improved understanding of the Australian and Brazilian higher education and research systems
- Agreement to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding between Universities Australia and the Council of Rectors for Brazilian Universities
- Agreement to convene a second Brazil Australia Higher Education Forum in 2016



Introduction

In June 2015, the Australian Department of Education and Training and Universities Australia, with the Council of Rectors of Brazilian Universities, jointly convened the inaugural Brazil Australia Higher Education Forum. Funding for the event was provided by the Department of Education and Training's Regional Links program.

The event brought together fifty delegates representing Australian and Brazilian universities, peak bodies and relevant Government agencies.

In 2011, Universities Australia (UA) developed and began to implement a multifaceted strategy for improving higher education engagement with Latin America. The Strategy identified Brazil as the key partner country within the region along with Colombia, Peru, Chile and Mexico. The Strategy outlined various mechanisms for facilitating greater



engagement between universities in Latin America at the sectoral, government and institutional level. Specifically UA agreed to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with counterpart associations, and where appropriate government agencies, in each country. In addition, UA began to explore opportunities to encourage greater student mobility (particularly through the *Science without Borders* and *Endeavour* programs) and agreed to manage sector wide academic and staff exchange programs wherever possible.

In March 2015, UA ran a shadowing program for four senior Brazilian university representatives. This program was funded by the Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR) and for the first time exposed Brazilian universities to the Australian

Opposite: Ms Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive, Universities

higher education system through attendance at the annual UA Higher Education Conference followed by one on one shadowing with an Australian counterpart. The program was considered highly successful by all involved. UA was keen to build on that success and maintain momentum with a follow up event to improve understanding and visibility of both the Australian and Brazilian higher education and research systems.

UA members expressed a strong interest in convening a higher education forum for senior university representatives from Brazil and Australia and UA welcomed the Australian Government's commitment to support this ambition.

The purpose of the Inaugural Brazil Australia Higher Education Forum was to explore opportunities to deepen academic and research engagement between our two countries and build on the links already established through the *Science without Borders (SWB)* scholarship program. As the first significant sector-wide event for Australian and Brazilian universities, this forum provided an ideal opportunity to dispel some of the misconceptions around higher education in the two countries and to explore some of the commonalities. For the Australians in particular, it was an opportunity to communicate to the Brazilian delegates that our interest in engagement extends well beyond inbound student recruitment and while the *SWB* program is a fantastic initiative of the Brazilian Government, it by no means encapsulates the degree of potential collaboration between our institutions.

It has become clear that if we invest in this partnership there will be mutual benefit at a national level as well as at the institutional level. Delegates suggested that prior to this event, there was a common perception which placed Brazil and Australia not just at opposite ends of the Earth literally but also in terms of interests, cultures and specifically higher education systems. In fact, we have discovered that we can find commonalities between the two countries and can work together to pursue our shared national and institutional priorities. This report highlights some of the key discussion themes and provides recommendations for moving this relationship forward.



The Roundtable Discussions

Fifty delegates from twenty universities, government agencies and peak bodies met at the Royal Tulip Hotel in Brasilia over two days to participate in a series of roundtable discussions covering three broad topics: mobility, research and industry engagement. The forum was facilitated by Professor Paulo de Souza, currently of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Australia. With a wealth of knowledge about both the Australian and Brazilian education and research systems, Professor de Souza was able to ensure dynamic and frank discussion flowed throughout the two days.

The three key objectives in convening the event were:

1. **To listen** and really take note of what government, peak bodies and institutions from each country are saying about their respective higher education systems, what the long term strategies are, what each can offer and what can be achieved through international partnerships.
2. **To understand** the challenges in improving higher education engagement between Brazil and Australia, the opportunities that already exist and the potential to create new avenues of cooperation.
3. To pave the way for **long lasting relationships**, well beyond the lifespan of the *SWB* program, with an increasing focus on research and postgraduate study.

The event was designed to encourage frank discussion and maximise networking opportunities. The forum opened with a short presentation from each of the university peak bodies highlighting the intention in convening the event and the expected outcomes. The peak bodies encouraged delegates to consider not only institutional opportunities for engagement but the role of peak bodies and governments in promoting and supporting collaboration. This was followed by presentations from the Brazilian Ministry of Education and the Australian Education and Science Counsellor.

This first session set the scene for the remainder of the forum by identifying the many strengths of each system and highlighting some areas of common interest. It became clear that both countries can benefit from improved higher education collaboration through staff and student mobility, research cooperation and industry to university collaboration. There was a general consensus that we have the ability to deliver much more than the sum of parts when we work together, and that while there has been a heavy media focus on the *SWB* program, Australian universities are looking to Brazilian universities for research and research training partnerships and for academic and researcher mobility. Likewise, it was acknowledged that Brazilian universities are on the cusp of internationalisation – something Australian universities have been doing and doing well for decades. Brazilian universities are keen to explore mechanisms to attract more



international students to Brazil. Brazilian universities are also seeking more opportunities to develop joint research and sandwich degree programs particularly at the masters and PhD levels. It is apparent that our objectives are not incompatible. Both governments are seeking to encourage greater two way student mobility and deeper research partnerships around national research priorities. Likewise, universities in both countries are continually working towards becoming truly global institutions producing globally competitive graduates and research networks that span the globe. Universities are seeking strategic partnerships that provide mutual benefit across multiple areas from undergraduates through to industry partners.



The roundtable discussions built on these initial observations and explored precisely how we can achieve improved collaboration. Each table was led by a Chair to facilitate and stimulate discussion, to provide specific questions on each topic and to provide a summary of their table's discussion at the conclusion of each session. The Chairs were Professor Sakkie Pretorius, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Macquarie University; Professor Graeme Wright, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Curtin University; Professor Fabio Alves, Dean of International Affairs at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais; and Professor Lúcia Pacheco, Vice-Chancellor at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina.

Opposite: Professor Paulo de Souza, Deputy Flagship and Science Director CSIRO

Staff and Student Mobility

Professor Joe Chicharo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) at the University of Wollongong (UOW) opened the session with a briefing on UOW's mobility programs. UOW has hundreds of exchange and study abroad programs but acknowledged that UOW hosts many more students than they send to study overseas. There are many barriers to mobility including the obvious language, cultural and financial issues, but there are also many mechanisms in place to work around those barriers such as university and government scholarship programs, courses taught in English, the availability of short courses and group study tours. The opportunities are endless and partnerships can extend to more than two institutions, for example, the highly successful but relatively small scale International Bachelor of Science offered by UOW in partnership with Dublin City University (Ireland) and the University of Colorado (USA). There is a lot of interest and investment in student mobility at the moment from students, universities and governments.

Delegates acknowledged the significance of the *Science without Borders (SWB)* scholarship program. It has opened doors for students and universities alike. Phase two is yet to be implemented and it is expected positive changes will be made including scope for greater Brazilian university involvement and a broadening of eligible fields of study.

Delegates were in agreement that mobility changes lives and the case for supporting mobility is compelling. Australian universities are very good at attracting international students to Australia, but struggle to convince their students to go abroad. We know Australians love to travel and that Australian students love to take time off for a gap year in between school and university, and our challenge is to convince them to undertake part of their Australian degree overseas instead. To this end UA is implementing the Australian Government funded [World Class](#) information and advocacy campaign to improve aspiration for and awareness of opportunities to study overseas. Along with providing students, parents and providers with information about the various scholarship and grant opportunities available, the campaign also explores the vast array of ways to incorporate an international study experience into an Australian degree.

Delegates discussed the perceived challenges for students considering overseas study and agreed that for many students the idea of going to a foreign country to study, particularly when there is a language barrier can be overwhelming. They are potentially leaving behind a job, a partner, stable accommodation to enter an unknown and uncertain environment. In reality it is not just the student investing in the experience but governments and universities as well. If institutions approach mobility with a partner, many of the barriers can be overcome such as uncertainty around accommodation and student support. With

the outbound mobility agendas of both governments are synchronised, we can work together to make mobility mutually beneficial.

The delegates acknowledged that inbound student mobility is still very important for Australian universities as there is still some reliance on international student fees. That said it was important for the Brazilians to learn that this is not the only area of mobility that Australian universities are interested in. Australian universities are committed to what is often referred to as the third wave of internationalisation. This involves the development of engagement strategies that enable universities, their staff and students to fully engage in the global education and research network and for graduates to access global employment opportunities.



Truly global institutions have deep links around the world comprising two way student mobility, joint research and publications as well as staff mobility. Brazilian universities have a long history of sending PhD and Masters students overseas to study resulting in great success, for example, in the fields of oil exploration, agricultural research and aircraft design. However, the concept of creating an internationalised sector is relatively new and there is strong interest in leveraging the *SWB* scholars to develop long-term partnerships with non-traditional partners such as Australia.

While there is potential to leverage the *SWB* program, there needs to be more engagement between host and home institutions. The speed of the implementation process for *SWB* did not allow for an alignment of strengths. Currently the *SWB* scholars are managed through the Brazilian government and education agents and delegates agreed, that for the future, a mapping exercise would be of great benefit. In addition,

information about university areas of strength and existing cooperation would help potential *SWB* students to choose the best host institution for them.

Cotutelles and joint degrees, as with the UOW example, can be trilateral or multilateral and this provides scope to form really interesting and productive relationships. When considering new partnerships, institutions need to consider the pathway from undergraduate study through to postgraduate study and research. There is great value in programs that encourage engagement between undergraduates and research students; welcoming undergraduates into a research and learning environment could encourage them to become a researcher in the future. There is a CNPq program currently in place that provides 30,000 scholarships to support undergraduate placements in research labs to assist and support research students.

Brazilian universities indicated an openness to running short term programs in English in collaboration with an Australian partner to encourage more inbound mobility, Australian students could even be matched to returned *SWB* scholars. Brazilian university community projects could also provide an opportunity for short term mobility opportunities for Australian students. Australian institutions were encouraged to look to the smaller and regional universities in Brazil as potential partners as well as the Brazilian funding agencies for additional support.

Delegates briefly discussed the importance of staff mobility to not only support institutional partnerships but also to encourage greater student mobility. In 2015 Universities Australia managed an executive shadowing program between Australian and Brazilian universities with the aim of increasing collaboration in research. Four senior Brazilian university representatives were brought to Australia for a period of two weeks to strengthen their engagement with the Australian university sector. As part of the program they attended various events organised by Universities Australia and participated in a shadowing program at a host Australian university for the remainder of their time. Feedback from participants was very positive and there was strong support amongst delegates at the forum for a subsequent program involving more universities.



Key messages

- There is clear alignment between the outbound mobility agenda of Australian institutions and the Brazilian institutions' ambition to attract more international students.
 - The objective of mobility should be a collaborative network of researchers and academics, rather than have mobility for mobility's sake, in order to develop long term institutional partnerships.
 - Mobility is about the benefits for individual, institutions and governments – each party is investing in the opportunity. There needs to be mutual benefit in setting up a joint mobility program.
 - To build in the *SWB*, joint degrees and joint research will promote longevity.
 - Partnerships need to be flexible, innovative and offer a range of options from undergraduate to postgraduate, research and internships, including traditional exchanges to short term experiences.
 - There is a need to encourage more staff and academic exchange; researcher mobility is easier and often evolves naturally, student mobility is supported through scholarship programs but staff mobility has a valuable role in progressing individual cooperation and student experiences into institutional partnerships.
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Industry Engagement

To open this session delegates heard from Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive of Universities Australia, on the National Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Strategy – a project initiated by UA in collaboration with the key industry groups in Australia. The comprehensive, national strategy will build the productive capacity of Australia's workforce, improve graduate job prospects and meet the skills needs of employers. Work Integrated Learning is about integrating theory with practical work experience in education. While WIL is well established in many areas, such as health and teaching, it is under-used in many emerging industries – where jobs and future demand may be greatest. Thousands of employers already partner with Australian universities to provide students with WIL experiences, but until now there has never been an overarching national strategy to guide its future growth.

While recognising that Australia has a long way to go in terms of industry engagement and work integrated learning, this strategy demonstrates the very serious commitment by both universities and industry to improve the employability of graduates of Australian universities. Australian universities look to their Brazilian counterparts as the prime example of how to work with industry to provide students with the necessary experience to ensure they are work ready.

Professor Sandoval of the Vale Institute of Technology then provided delegates with an overview of the Brazilian system of science and technology development including an explanation of the multiple avenues of funding and support available through federal and state governments in Brazil.

Professor Sandoval provided insight into Vale, one of the largest mining companies in the world, operating in over 30 countries including Australia and employing, over 195 million on people worldwide. While the company was privatised in 1997, the Brazilian Government retains a substantial share.

To operate efficiently, Vale recognises the need to invest in research and development and in that vein created a decentralised network of research and development centres in Brazil including the Mineral Development Centre, the Ferrous Technology Centre, the Vale Base Metals Technology Centre and the Business Units. Vale also houses the Vale Logistics Development Centre, the largest facility in Brazil dedicated to logistics training and research.

Vale has agreements in place with the Brazilian state based funding agencies to encourage research projects in eco-efficient and biodiversity macro-areas; mining; energy and ferrous processes for the steel industry. The funds are used for equipment, scholarships, building and infrastructure for labs.

In 2009 Vale established the Vale Institute of Technology (ITV), a non-profit, research and postgraduate training institute. The ITV has two streams of research based in two separate locations: the Institute of Technology Vale - Sustainable Development in Belém (Pará); and the Institute of Technology Vale – Mining in Ouro Preto (Minas Gerais). Since 2013, the ITVs have offered a professional masters degree recognized by CAPES. The course is the first of its kind to be offered by an institute linked to a mining company. The ITV provides scholarships for between 12 and 24 months to support young talented researchers, funding for the scholarships is provided tax free by the National Council of Technological and Scientific Development in Brazil (CNPq) to cover living expenses.



Vale's research and development investment is not limited to Brazil. In December 2010, Vale signed an agreement with the University of Queensland (UQ) to set up a laboratory specialising in geosciences and technologies for developing coal mines. In September 2012, Vale entered into an industrial partnership with the University of Queensland (UQ) to establish a geomicrobiology knowledge centre. The laboratory's main objective is to stimulate research about microbial communities and microbiology-based metal extraction processes.

The Vale Technology Committee, coordinated by the Technology and Innovation Department and with membership comprised of the Business Unit Directors, integrates the Vale technological strategy to ensure the efforts of all Business Units are used effectively to leverage the company's future growth aligned the Vale's strategic plan.

Delegates agreed that the relationship between universities and industry is about knowledge transfer not just technology. It is about producing top quality research and

sharing the results. It is not just about business but rather how the innovation can change society.

In Australia, 70 per cent of all research is done in universities and industry engagement is not strong across the Australian education sector. Some cities are more conducive to industry engagement: for example universities in Sydney have direct access to Australian Technology Park - a hub of industry innovation and technology.

In Brazil, industry engagement is part of the university culture – it is expected that students will complete an industry placement as part of their study. For some universities this is to gain insight into the working world and general experience but there is no expectation of training per se, often there is no credit for placement but it is a compulsory component of their study. At universities with a community engagement focus, students participate in community projects as part of their course. Recently there has been some concern in Brazil that the internship culture has developed into one of cheap labour but new laws will soon be in place to protect the rights of interns.

University industry engagement in Brazil is not limited to internships but extends to research collaboration. Some states in Brazil have a requirement that a percentage of resource revenue is invested in research and this often occurs through a university partner. Delegates noted that the [Cooperative Research Centre](#) program in Australia provides incentive for collaboration between university and industry and once established, the relationships are likely to continue beyond the funding period.



Delegates acknowledged that Intellectual Property is another issue that has an important role in industry collaboration; it can either help or hinder engagement. UNSW shared one example of successful industry engagement which enables the university to access international companies through international university partners. To attract the business partners, UNSW provides companies with free access to UNSW Intellectual Property for a specified period of time, and with appropriate acknowledgment of the university, in order to develop new applications that can benefit the broader community.

Opposite: His Excellency Patrick Lawless, Ambassador to Brazil, Australian Embassy



Key messages

- Establishing internship programs can encourage better research collaboration with industry partners.
 - Universities can encourage the placement of PhD students into industry which will naturally open doors to research cooperation.
 - Universities can map areas of strength and priorities just as you would when searching for a university partner.
 - International collaboration with industry can be achieved through multinational companies and through international university partners.
 - There are multiple avenues to engagement – WIL, clinical placements, cooperative or sandwich programs, professional short courses, industry funded research, trilateral relationships for example.
 - Look to alternative funding opportunities in each country such as state funding agencies.
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Research Showcase

In this session, Professor Glenn Wightwick Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Technology, Sydney and Professor Tony O'Donnell Dean of Sciences at the University of Western Australia (UWA), presented on successful models for university research partnerships with industry and with other universities.

Professor Wightwick described university-industry partnerships between the University of Melbourne and IBM, the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and the Roads and Traffic Authority and the partnership between UTS and Agilent Technologies.

In the first instance, the University of Melbourne sought a partnership with IBM specifically, based on that company's strong history of investment in research and the perception that IBM supported a similar research culture to the university. A new joint research facility was established for IBM and University of Melbourne researchers to undertake joint research, produce joint publications and share teaching responsibilities. This partnership has grown over the past decade to include several research labs in Australia and also in Brazil, today supporting around 150 people. Further, the relationship has evolved beyond the two original partners and is now open to other universities, research organisations and companies. This is a great example of how building a fluid and flexible partnership based on common interests and a common research culture can lead to very successful and fruitful collaboration.

The second example demonstrated industry attempting to solve a problem by seeking out a university partner, in this case UTS. This relationship is not about publications and citations, rather working together, using university research and technology to implement practical, real world solutions. The success of the initial joint project has led to the development of further tools and applications and the exploration of additional opportunities for collaboration.

The UTS Agilent Technologies partnership has been ongoing for over a decade and, in brief, provides UTS with access to Agilent's highly sophisticated instruments with the intent of developing new applications. Agilent also provides UTS with technical support, research funding, scholarships and internship opportunities. There is also scope to run courses for industry workers at the UTS facility. This relationship demonstrates the importance of flexibility to meet the changing needs of each partner and why a meaningful partnership will be comprehensive and extend beyond one single project or research contract.

Professor O'Donnell briefed delegates on UWA's collaboration with Brazilian institutions. Specifically, Professor O'Donnell highlighted how the *SWB* program has enabled UWA to develop new relationships with Brazilian institutions. UWA currently has over 400 *SWB*

undergraduates, over 20 sandwich PhD *SWB* students and ten full PhD *SWB* students. UWA makes a concerted effort to stay connected to their *SWB* alumni through the locally engaged UWA staff member and with frequent trips to Brazil. It is the PhD students that will nurture research relationships into the future.

The primary reason UWA has identified Brazilian universities as potential research partners are common research priorities including energy, minerals, engineering and ecology. To facilitate greater engagement with Brazil, UWA undertook an internal mapping exercise to identify existing academic links with Brazilian institutions in the knowledge that long-term research partnerships are often not built by institutions but by individuals.

UWA has been able to cultivate meaningful relationships with the *SWB* home institutions, with UWA academic staff teaching undergraduates in Brazil, through the sharing of internationalisation strategies and of course with joint research.



Key messages

- Take the time to understand what drives success for your prospective partner. There needs to be mutual benefit for both parties and a long term strategic view of the relationship, not one project or one research contract.
 - To be successful, institutions need to be fully engaged and fully committed which means being flexible and open to new ideas with frequent visits and exchange of knowledge between staff, academics and researchers.
 - Research impact is critical to industry engagement; we need to look beyond citations and publications.
 - Look beyond the top ranked institutions to the smaller and regional institutions that are looking to improve research outcomes – there could be matched research interests and complementary strengths and infrastructure.
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Research and Research Training

In this session delegates heard from Dr Ren Yi, Director of International Research Training Partnerships at Macquarie University. Dr Ren provided an overview of Macquarie University's Strategic Research Framework including five research priorities, 14 research themes and 69 key research streams. Dr Ren described Macquarie's four key research objectives:

1. to accelerate world leading research performance;
2. to prepare world ready HDR candidates;
3. to engage as a world-recognised research collaborator; and
4. to deliver research with a world-changing impact.

Macquarie recognises that they can't tackle all of the world's problems so they identify their strengths and then identify partners with similar strengths and interests. The success of Macquarie's international engagement stems from the development of joint and cotutelle degrees. Dr Ren described Macquarie's cotutelle and joint PhD programs which are often developed for individual students on a case by case basis. The joint degree is the preferred option but when that is not possible then a cotutelle is developed, the main difference being a single joint examination and a single joint testamur for the former and two examinations and two testamurs for the latter. A joint degree program requires a formal agreement between institutions but a cotutelle arrangement does not.

Joint degrees and cotutelles are very complex to establish and manage but well worth the effort. They can deepen and strengthen research relationships at an institutional level, foster a higher level of cooperation between researchers through co-supervision and make the institution more attractive to potential candidates.

At present, the majority of Macquarie's joint degrees and cotutelle programs take place with partners in Europe and China but there is an increasing focus on Latin America. Macquarie has seen a significant increase in the number of joint research publications with Brazilian institutions over the past five years, with collaboration concentrated to a number of key strategic partners. At the Forum, Macquarie announced a new scholarship program providing five full PhD scholarships per year to Brazilian students; this will cover airfares, tuition fees, and a stipend.

Following Dr Ren's presentation, there was discussion about the importance of creating short term mobility opportunities for postgraduate students. Much like undergraduate programs, there is value in experiencing life and education in another country without necessarily undertaking a course or degree. This too could encourage future research collaboration between institutions.

It was agreed amongst delegates that the most successful research partnerships often evolve out of individual relationships but need an institutional agreement to broaden the engagement across the institution. It can be difficult to move beyond a collaboration between two researchers to an institutional MOU and programs like *SWB* can play an important role by allowing home institutions to direct students to particular host institutions to grow the relationship. Often there is a disconnect between the international and research offices in universities. It would be helpful for institutions to have access to information about university research strengths and capabilities to ensure strategic partnerships are pursued. Institutions can also use internships and short term programs to connect students and researchers.

Institutionalising a collaboration will result in better integration and better support. Delegates noted that universities in the USA are very good at providing support for visiting scholars.



Key Messages

- To achieve the greatest impact institutions need to partner and access broader expertise.
 - Joint supervision removes the competition between countries for the best talent.
 - We need better visibility of strengths and capabilities and to map existing links and joint publications so that universities can look beyond rankings and centres of excellence to seek strategic partnerships.
 - Universities can look at alternative funding opportunities e.g. state based agencies and industry.
 - *SWB* will inevitably have to come to an end so we need to consider how to use this opportunity to build stronger and more meaningful relationships into the future.
 - Investing in postgraduate study requires significant investment from institutions; joint PhDs mean joint investment and mutual benefit.
 - Consider emerging/aspirational areas and capabilities; write the DNA of “new science”.
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Opposite: Niclas Jönsson, Counsellor (Education & Science) Latin America, Australian Embassy



The Way Forward

The Brazil Australia Higher Education Forum provided an opportunity to build on the success of the Brazil Australia Executive Shadowing Program by using the participants as spokespeople to promote the potential for improved higher education engagement between our two countries. UA was delighted that so many Australians demonstrated their commitment to this ambition by travelling to Brasilia to participate in the Forum. Equally, UA was impressed by the number of Brazilian universities represented and the presence of the Brazilian Ministry of Education and primary funding agencies.

Initial impressions from the group suggested that there was little knowledge or understanding of the respective countries or education systems beyond the stereotypes. The delegates immediately expressed appreciation for the opportunity to begin to break down some of the barriers to collaboration by dispelling some of the myths – particularly for the Australians to communicate to the Brazilians that we are serious about cooperation with Brazilian institutions and that the *SWB* is just one mechanism that can support the development of new partnerships but by no means an end in itself.

Institutions from both countries took the opportunity to showcase their strengths and to share ideas about how to work together to meet their respective governments' higher education agendas and their own institutional aspirations.

Common Themes

- Institutions and governments in Brazil and Australia share many common ambitions for higher education specifically around mobility, internationalisation and research priorities; we need to ensure better visibility of these commonalities.
- Networking opportunities and discussion forums are immensely helpful for breaking down barriers and establishing new and maintaining existing relationships; Partnerships need to be nurtured with face-to-face meetings.
- Partnerships, between universities or with industry, need to be strategic, flexible and multifaceted with a long term view.
- Cooperation needs to be of mutual benefit and requires a mutual commitment and investment.
- There is scope to improve two way staff and student mobility between Australia and Brazil.
- There is scope to build on links established through mobility programs such as *Endeavour* and *SWB* to build long-term research partnerships.
- Research collaboration often begins with individuals but can be institutionalised with support of an overarching MOU.
- There is scope to develop more trilateral relationships either between institutions or institutions and industry.

Actions

1. The Australian Department of Education and Training and UA to release a joint communiqué.
2. The Council of Rectors for Brazilian Universities (CRUB) and Universities Australia (UA) to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding to promote and support improved higher education engagement between Australia and Brazil.
3. UA and CRUB to establish a joint working group on Australia Brazil Higher Education Engagement to explore opportunities to facilitate greater collaboration between the two countries and maintain the positive momentum established during the Forum. This could include a shadowing program similar to the COALAR funded pilot program managed by UA in 2015.
4. UA and CRUB, with their respective member universities, to undertake a mapping exercise to identify existing collaborations including joint publications.
5. UA and CRUB to undertake a research mapping exercise to identify areas of research strength in their respective countries as well as areas of new or emerging science that are of common interest. This work will build on the existing research quality frameworks (Excellence in Research for Australia and the equivalent CAPES Triennial Evaluation) and the national research priorities of each country.
6. UA and CRUB to develop a best practice document showcasing successful joint degree and cotutelle models, also highlighting the challenges of setting up and managing such programs.
7. The Australian Government, with support from UA and CRUB, to convene the second Brazil Australia Higher Education Forum in Brazil in 2016.
8. Universities in Brazil and Australia are encouraged to use the momentum created by the Forum and visit potential partners in person to establish a strong base for building cooperation.

Appendix I: Delegates

Name	Position	Institution
Ainslie Moore	Director International Policy	Universities Australia
Amanda Olimpio de Menezes	Programs General Coordinator	Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (Capes)
Annabel Turner	International Development Manager	University of Western Australia
Belinda Robinson	Chief Executive	Universities Australia
Carla Furlan	Education Manager	Australian Embassy
Chris McKenna	Director International Development	University of New South Wales
Cindy Eliana Veloso Aros	Programs and Agreements Coordinator	Mackenzie
Creomar de Souza	International Relations Advisor	Universidade Católica de Brasília
Daniel Quintana Sperb	Graduation Director	Unilasalle
Denise Abreu e Lima	Director of Language Without Borders Program	Ministry of Education - Brazil
Dilvo Ilvo Ristoff	Director of Policy and Graduation Programs	Ministry of Education - Brazil
Eiiti Sato	Director of International Affairs	Universidade de Brasília - UNB
Erik Lithander	Pro Vice-Chancellor International and Outreach	Australian National University
Fabio Silva jr.	Dean of International Affairs	Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
Fernanda Figueiredo Torres Povoa	Executive Secretary	Conselho de Reitores de Universidades Brasileiras - CRUB
Filipe Girardi	International Advisor	Ministry of Education - Brazil
Glenn Wightwick	Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research)	University of Technology, Sydney
Graeme Wright	Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Development	Curtin University
Guie Hartney	Regional Director	Macquarie University
Iraní Rupolo	Chancellor	Centro Universitário Franciscano - UNIFRA
Israel Gottschalk	Economic Consultant	Ministry of Education - Brazil
Ivan Camargo	Chancellor	Universidade de Brasília - UNB
Joe Chicharo	Deputy Vice-Chancellor(International)	University of Wollongong
John Finlay-Jones	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)	Edith Cowan University
José Celso Freire Junior	Associate Provost for International Affairs	Universidade Estadual Paulista "Júlio de Mesquita Filho"

Julia Menezes	Administrative Agent	Ministry of Education - Brazil
Juliana Santini	Language Without Borders Program	Ministry of Education - Brazil
Karen Dodd	Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic and Partnerships	La Trobe University
Keely Dreghorn	Policy Analyst	Universities Australia
Lilian Pinho	Educational Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Brazil
Luana Medeiros	General Coordinator	Ministry of Education - Brazil
Lúcia Helena Martins Pacheco	Deputy Vice Chancellor	Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
Luis Afonso	Senior Lecturer Marine Sciences	Deakin University
Marcelo Farina	International Agreement Coordinator	Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
Mariza Lima	Special Advisor	Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq)
Niclas Jönsson	Counsellor (Education & Science) Latin America	Australian Embassy
Patrick Lawless	Australian Ambassador to Brazil	Australian Embassy
Patricia Kayser Vargas	Research and Post-Graduation Deputy Director	Unilasalle
Patricia Monteiro	Education Manager	Austrade
Paulo de Souza	Deputy Flagship and Science Director	CSIRO
Paulo Fossatti	Chancellor	Unilasalle
Priscilla Trevisan	Regional Director	Group of Eight
Ren Yi	Director Research Training and International Research Training Partnerships	Macquarie University
Rodrigo Lemos	Head of International Affairs	Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre - UFCSPA
Sakkie Pretorius	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)	Macquarie University
Sandoval Carneiro	General Manager of Partnerships and Resources	Instituto Tecnológico Vale
Sheila Lunter	Consul and Trade Commissioner	AUSTRADE
Talita Nascimento	Coordinator	Ministry of Education - Brazil
Tony O'Donnell	Dean of Sciences	University of Western Australia
Vitor Alevato do Amaral	International Affairs Coordinator	Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

Appendix 2: Joint Communiqué

Inaugural Brazil - Australia Higher Education Forum

- The first Brazil - Australia Higher Education Forum took place in Brasilia on 9-10 June 2015. The Forum was a joint initiative of the Brazilian Council of Chancellors and Universities Australia, supported by the Education Office at the Australian Embassy in Brazil.
- The Forum brought together representatives from 10 Brazilian universities and 10 Australian universities, as well as representatives from the Brazilian Ministry of Education, CAPES, CNPq, FAUBAI, the National Association of Catholic Education, VALE, the Australian Department of Education and Training, the Australian Trade Commission and CSIRO.
- The Forum was convened to explore opportunities to further advance and deepen, higher education and research engagement between Brazil and Australia. It was developed in recognition of the low levels of formal engagement between the two countries, acknowledging the considerable potential for collaboration in areas of joint and complementary strength and interest.
- The Forum provided a vehicle for participants to explore opportunities for institutional cooperation; collaborative research projects; and student, academic and staff exchanges. Discussions focused on three main themes; Mobility, Industry Engagement, and Research and Research Training.
- The Forum facilitated a number of institution to institution initiatives including the announcement by Macquarie University of five cotutelle and joint Phd scholarships annually for Brazilian partners.
- Discussions were wide-ranging and the participation enthusiastic. The momentum generated will drive further engagement between universities, peak bodies and governments of both countries.
- The Forum agreed a number of actions to further the bi-lateral higher education and research relationship:
 - mapping current bi-lateral research and education activity including co-authored publications;
 - mapping joint strategic research priorities and capability including areas of existing and potential or emerging research alignment;
 - producing guides for developing models for joint degrees;
 - supporting the development of key strategic partnerships;
 - identifying and providing information about support mechanisms for bi-lateral collaboration; and
 - hosting a second forum in 2016.

- These actions will be reflected in a joint work plan and Memorandum of Understanding to be developed between the Brazilian Council of Chancellors and Universities Australia.
- The outcomes of the Forum will be summarised in an outcomes report, to be produced in English and Portuguese.

Brasilia, 10 June 2015



