GRSC6008 Transferable Skills

Objective:

The objective of this course is to create opportunities for postgraduate students to participate in and reflect on activities based on transferable skills that are important not only for postgraduate study but for life as an effective member of a research community. The course aims to introduce some new approaches to transferable skills as well as to revisit some activities that students may have experienced previously but which are appropriate to reflect on repeatedly over time as the individual grows and develops in new directions.

Content:

This course consists of six sessions that will cover four key transferable skills:

1. Effective communication (3 x 2-hour sessions, including the session/s for a Three-Minute Thesis Presentation)
2. Working with others (2 hours)
3. Understanding yourself and managing emotions (2 hours)
4. Time management (2 hours)

Specifically, the sessions will focus on the above core transferable skills which relate closely to students' current research higher degree studies and their future careers.

Organization:

This is a 12-hour course. Each class will be activity-based with opportunities built in for reflections on the experiences. In addition to contact time, students are required to undertake self-study.

Enrolment:

Transferable Skills course (GRSC6008/GRSC6038) is compulsory for MPhil and 4-year PhD students. Students are advised to take the course in their first year of study. Class size is limited to a maximum of 30 students.

Assessment:

Assessment will consist of two components:

1. A "Three-Minute Thesis" presentation
2. A SWOT Analysis of the individual student's development in relation to the four skills addressed in the course.

Students are encouraged to use inclusive or gender-neutral language in their assignments. Information of inclusive language can be found in resources such as *Nine techniques for achieving gender neutrality* (https://edwardseducationblog.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/the-chicago-manual-of-style-online-5-225_-nine-techniques-for-achieving-gender-neutrality.pdf) and *Stereotypes and biased language* (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/608/05/).

Specific guidelines for these tasks are given in the course book (GS website > Publications & Newsletter > Other Publications). Assessment will be on a pass/fail basis and students will need to complete both tasks to pass the course.

Course Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will be able to

1. identify aspects of effective skills in communication, team work, management of emotions and time management;

2. reflect on the relevance of the transferable skills in relation to their postgraduate studies;

3. analyse their own strengths and weaknesses in relation to the four skill areas above; and

4. apply the four skill areas in the preparation of a thesis presentation.

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