Go8 – C9 Research and Academic Leadership Executive Shadowing Program

2014-2015 (Round Two)

Background

The Group of Eight (Go8) welcomed an announcement in 2011 by the then Education Minister Chris Evans of $100,000 for a new leadership executive shadowing program between the Go8 and the Consortium of China Nine Research Universities (C9)*. The funding by the Australian Department acknowledged and supports a highly successful relationship between the Go8 and C9 and affirms the vitality of Australia’s research and academic relationship with China. It is an extension of a Go8-C9 MoU signed by the Vice-Chancellors and Presidents in October 2010.

This program facilitates career development of university research and academic leaders, and deepens research, academic and professional engagement between some of the main research universities in Australia and China, as well as fostering mutually-advantageous activities including staff/student exchanges and joint research projects. It is envisaged that program participants will continue to promote collaboration with Australian/Chinese partners when they return to their home institutions.

Program introduction

The first round of the Go8 – C9 Leadership Executive Shadowing Program commenced in January 2012 and concluded in July 2013. The two-way shadowing program enabled six senior research and research training executives from Go8 universities (Deputy Vice-Chancellors Research and Pro Vice-Chancellors Research/Research Training) to spend two weeks at a C9 institution, and vice versa. The visitors observed the host university’s operations and decision-making processes, and gained insights into research, academic management and leadership issues in the partner nation. Each shadowing pair (consisting of two participants who spent two weeks at each other’s institution) received program funding support of up to AUD $6,000. Click here to view the Go8-C9 shadowing partners list 2012-2013

For the second round of the program (January 2014-June 2015), the Go8 has revised its eligibility criteria to make the scheme also available to Go8/C9 Deans. It offers eight places to Go8/C9 university executives and deans to spend two weeks shadowing their counterparts at a C9 institution, and vice versa. Each two-way shadowing pair (consisting of two participants who spend two weeks at each other’s institution) received program funding support of up to AUD $6,000.

Eligibility of Australian participants

As an Australian participant, you must:

- be employed in a Group of Eight university and hold a full-time position as: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, or Dean of Arts / Business / Engineering / Graduate Studies / Law / Medicine / Science, or their equivalent;
have shown leadership potential in international research and academic collaboration;

have initial contacts with China which are likely to have impact if developed further.

**Responsibilities of participants and shadowing activities**

As an Australian participant, you will need to:

- travel to your partner university in China for a total period of two weeks in the specified travel timeframe (January 2014 – June 2015);
- host your shadowing partner for two weeks in the specified travel timeframe (January 2014 – June 2015);
- work with your shadowing partner to arrange the travel dates and itineraries, proposed program activities, and expectations before you and your partner conduct the two-way visits;
- liaison officer(s) should be nominated by you and your partner to respond to requests and provide program coordination and travel booking assistance;
- complete and sign the program report form, and provide it to the Go8 Office within two weeks of the completion of your two-way shadowing experience. The report will include details of activities undertaken and benefits derived. Participants may also need to respond to follow-up emails from the Go8 office.

**Important dates for Round Two**

Applications for the second round open on 27 August 2013 with a deadline of 11 November 2013.

Applicants will be notified of the outcomes of the selection by 30 November 2013 to enable successful applicants to organise their travel itineraries and visit programs, and undertake their two-way shadowing experiences between January 2014 and June 2015. In other words, the two-way travel for each pair should be completed by 30 June 2015.

Australian Participants are required to submit a joint program report form within two weeks of their completion of the two-way shadowing trips.

**How to apply**

If you are eligible to apply, please:

- complete all the questions on the application form;
- attach your CV; and
- submit an electronic copy to jane.liang@go8.edu.au by 11 November 2013.

**For further enquiries:**

Go8 Secretariat: Jane Liang, Director, China Engagement and Web Management, jane.liang@go8.edu.au and 02 6239 5488

*Note: C9 Institutions include:
Peking University, Tsinghua University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Fudan University, Nanjing University, Zhejiang University, University of Science and Technology of China and Xi’an Jiaotong University.*
Ms Mary Persson, Associate Vice-President (Audit and Analysis), University of Alberta, Edmonton, visited the Go8 Office in August for wide-ranging discussions on policy and financing of higher education teaching and learning, and research. The University of Alberta is a member of the Canadian U15 group of research-intensive universities.

Mary was particularly interested in:

- Efficiency and Effectiveness in Higher Education and individual universities, and Quality Assurance in clinical research;
- Strategic Analysis and Institutional Research, including greater use of data about their own university, and the higher education sector generally, for planning; and
- Administrative integration projects, to deliver efficiencies in university operations.

She is currently working with the Strategic Analysis Office at University of Alberta to enhance information used in planning, decision-making and reporting for senior administrators and executive officers, faculty, staff and students of the University, and for public and private stakeholders.

In Canada, major research funding is predominantly a national government responsibility (although the University of Alberta receives substantial provincial and business-sourced research funding) while teaching and learning is a provincial responsibility. As in Australia, leading Canadian universities are under considerable financial pressure.

Mary also met with senior Financing and Planning/Statistics/Institutional Research colleagues at ANU and University of Queensland.

While in Canberra, she had a meeting with the Academic Relations and Education officials in the High Commission of Canada, to discuss the development of closer relationships between leading Australian and Canadian universities.

Email the author at Alan.Mackay@go8.edu.au
The importance of honeybees for pollination and consequent food production

**Professor Boris Baer**
The University of Western Australia
Future Fellow 2011
Field of Research: Zoology
Project Title: Linking evolutionary and molecular biology to safeguard Australian honeybees

“If bees die out, humankind will die out four years later”: Einstein.

An evolutionary biologist based at The University of Western Australia, ARC Future Fellow Professor Boris Baer, is racing against time to halt the world-wide decline in bee populations which is jeopardising the maintenance of international food supplies.

As Director of the UWA-based Centre for Integrative Bee Research (CIBER), Professor Baer said CIBER’s work was vital because one-third of what we eat is the result of pollination by bees. “The importance of honeybees for pollination and consequent food production is remarkably undervalued,” he said. “To illustrate this: a single honeybee colony can cumulatively fly and transport pollen up to 450,000 kilometres every day, carrying out up to 67.5 million potential pollinations. This is a fundamentally important step in food production.

Honeybee populations are on a worldwide decline and if this continues, we will likely see a steep rise in the cost of even the most basic foods we now take for granted, as more than 80 crops of agricultural interest depend on bee pollination.”

The decline of honeybees, especially in North America and Europe, is mostly caused by the spread of parasites and pathogens. In the United States, more than a third of colonies – almost ten million – have been decimated over the last six years, resulting in increased food prices and problems in securing pollination services.

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“I’m interested in the study of evolutionary processes such as sexual selection or immune responses on the molecular/protein scale,” Professor Baer said. “To do this, I use several social insects, including bees, as model species, and biochemical techniques such as proteomics.”

CIBER – with partners including the Australian bee industry and international collaborators in Europe – aims to intensify basic scientific research into honeybee reproduction, immunity and ecology. The ultimate goal is to better understand honeybees to avoid future dramatic losses of Australian honeybees as is occurring elsewhere.

Aspects of Professor Baer’s research have been published in Science and Nature; most recently a study of the seminal fluid of two species of bees. This knowledge may prove useful in CIBER’s quest to breed strains of bees that are resistant to the diseases that have decimated bee colonies elsewhere.

With his team of researchers, Professor Baer is examining the reproductive cycle of bees, bee blood, bee seminal fluid and responses to infection as well as ways of combating the most common parasites.

Over the last five years, Professor Baer and CIBER have also been involved in the making of a documentary movie, More than Honey, which premiered in Switzerland in 2012. “We were scientific advisors for the film, in which some of our research is featured as well,” Professor Baer said.