

SYNERGISTIC CONNECTIONS BETWEEN TEACHING-RESEARCH NEXUS AND GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This paper is a case study from Monash University where the teaching-research nexus has been used to engage students and fulfil the generic attributes of Monash graduates. The strong synergistic connection between teaching and research is already proven. Units that teach new topics, provide teachers with personal engagement, connect developments in research with curricula is perceived to be current and intellectually stimulating by the student. This paper illustrates further interrelationships with Monash graduate attributes. Student Project Cases, a unit in the second year medical curriculum is an interdisciplinary teamwork activity, where students research current literature to present a written document and an oral presentation on a medical disease. The topic was "Human papillomavirus and cervical cancer", the research area of the teacher. Topic objectives were aligned with Monash graduate attributes and designed to engage students in global concerns, develop ethical values, learn cross-cultural sensitivities to disease prevention, develop research skills and communicate findings in a team to peers. Student feedback indicated high motivation, engagement and excitement in being included in a community of scholars. Such students are critical, creative, responsible and effective global citizens, a hallmark of true Monash graduates.

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