



Media Release

26th July, 2016

Accredited UWA OHS offers options for new graduates

The Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board today announced accreditation of the Graduate Diploma in Work Health and Safety provided by The University of Western Australia.

The UWA program has a strong science base that builds on a strict entry requirement of a bachelor degree in a science discipline or a bachelor degree in any discipline with two years OHS experience.

Pam Pryor, registrar of the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board said that, while the degree accommodates those with experience seeking further development, the strength of the program is that it specifically targets graduates of bachelor programs who aspire to OHS professional roles but who have little or no OHS experience. The practicum offered to students is a vital component of the program and received extremely positive feedback from students, both on its contribution to their learning and as an introduction to employment opportunities.

Professor Tim Ackland, program leader and Head of School commented that course accreditation was a vital step for this program, providing quality assurance for students and some certainty that their graduate qualification would be recognised by industry. The course was purposefully designed to provide a mix of face-to-face and flexible delivery modes, with strong industry engagement and networking opportunities to cater for full time study as well as for those already in employment who wish to gain this qualification part time.

There are now 12 Australian universities with accredited programs including four bachelor programs, 3 graduate diploma and 8 graduate diploma /masters programs.

Go to www.ohseducationaccreditation.org.au

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About the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board

The Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board was established in August 2011 as an auspiced body of the Safety Institute of Australia, the peak body for OHS professionals.

The role of the Accreditation Board is to contribute to work health and safety by facilitating the education of graduates equipped with the knowledge and skills to enter the workplace as effective entry-level OHS professionals. The Board does this through accreditation recognising university-level qualifications that meet established standards.

The vision of the Accreditation Board is that OHS professional education is based on strong scientific and technical concepts, evidenced-informed, delivered by suitably capable persons and so recognised by the profession, government, industry and the community.

The Accreditation Board has broad representation from OHS professionals, OHS academics, OHS professional bodies including the Safety Institute of Australia (SIA), Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene (AIOH), Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia (HFESA), Australian New Zealand Society for Occupational Medicine (ANZSOM) and the Australian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM). It also has representation from the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), employers and regulators. The Board benefits from the membership of an education academic from outside the OHS arena.

The Accreditation Board is also “custodian” of the OHS Body of Knowledge for Generalist OHS Professionals” (www.ohsbok.org.au) being responsible for ensuring its currency and further development. The OHS Body of Knowledge provides a framework for OHS professional education. It also has a key role in the ongoing development of OHS professionals it plays a key role in the translation of OHS research to practice and the dissemination of OHS research to practicing professionals.

The Accreditation Board is involved in an international network developing a global framework for OHS practice and global benchmarks for OHS education and certification of OHS professionals.

Key activities of the Accreditation Board include engagement with OHS educators and OHS researchers on matters related to OHS education, research and the profession and, through the Safety Institute of Australia, ensuring relevance of OHS education to modern, flexible and developing industry practice.

Of 15 universities teaching OHS in Australia 10 have one or more accredited OHS programs, two are currently being assessed and three are not at a stage where accreditation assessment is appropriate. A total of 19 under-graduate and post-graduate programs are accredited.

Information on the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board can be found at the web site, by emailing the registrar at registrar@ohseducationaccreditation.org.au or telephoning on 0411 193 370.