

Curriculum Vitae

Jason Watson PhD BEng (Hons) FHEA MIET MACS

A *Strategic Thinker* with an excellent mix of people, planning, and organisational skills. A *Leader*, used to dealing with unknowns, who can deliver difficult outcomes by inspiring others and taking calculated risks. An *Innovator* with demonstrated success, vision, and entrepreneurship in Teaching, Research, Service, and Business Development

Personal Details

Full name:	Dr Jason Arthur Watson
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Key points of my track record

- As *Assistant Dean (International)* in the Faculty of Information Technology (FIT) at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) I have demonstrated a successful track record directing a significant and complex portfolio and with effecting positive cultural change. Under my leadership FIT has established multiple transnational courses, widened its market, increased International enrolments, and enhanced its International Pathways. Importantly, International business is now much higher up on the agenda of FIT academics who are achieving greater outcomes in this area.
- As a *Researcher and Scholar* I have established a track record exploring how technology innovation can enhance learning environments and business settings with a focus on: E-learning; Multicultural Education; E-commerce, E-business and Web 2.0. I have published several articles in these fields as well as successfully instigated and directed several research projects as principle investigator. I have achieved more than \$1.1Million AUD in funding to date.
- As a *Senior Lecturer* I demonstrate 10 years of success at teaching postgraduate and undergraduate courses to a diverse body of students and have been identified as an exemplar (Teaching Fellow) to disseminate good pedagogical approaches throughout the institution. I have led the development of new degree courses and underpinned them by obtaining significant sponsorship from industry.

Current Position

Assistant Dean International
Faculty of Information Technology

Queensland University of Technology
(October 2006 onwards)

Previous Positions

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Information Technology

Queensland University of Technology
(June 2003 to October 2006)

Senior Lecturer
School of Computing and Engineering

The University of Huddersfield
(February 1999 to June 2003)

Senior Training Systems Engineer
and Teaching Company Associate

VEGA Group PLC
(November 1996 to February 1999)

Project Engineer
Automation and Integration

Scomag Limited
(July 1992 to September 1993)

Assistant Electronic Engineer
Undergraduate Industrial Training

Michelin Tyres PLC
(April 1991 to October 1991)

Academic Qualifications

Doctor of Philosophy
Monitoring of Computer-Based Training over Computer Networks

University of Huddersfield
(1996-2000)

- *Research objective:*
To enhance computer based training through the application of sophisticated monitoring and scheduling functions via the Internet.

Bachelor of Engineering (Hons)
Electronic and Information Engineering
Upper Second, 1st Class Project

University of Huddersfield
(1990-1996)

- *Honours Project:*
A reading aid for the blind using multi-font optical character recognition combined with unlimited vocabulary text to speech synthesis. This project was created in C++.

BTEC Ordinary National Diploma
Engineering and Technology
Achieved the best results on the course: faculty prize-winner

Blackpool and Fylde College
(1987-1989)

Awards

- Vice-Chancellors Outstanding Performance Fund 2008 for Leadership in International Development.
- Teaching Fellowship Sabbatical 2005-2006 for excellence in Teaching Innovation
- University of Huddersfield Merit Increment award for excellence 2003.
- Teaching Company Scheme Excellence Certificate for stimulating collaborative research and development projects between Higher Education and Industry 2002.
- North West Lancashire Engineering Employers Association: Best Student on a BTEC National Diploma in Technology 1990.

Service and Leadership

I have acted in several leadership roles both as Assistant Dean International at Queensland University of Technology, Australia, and as Senior Lecturer at Huddersfield University, United Kingdom. Here are some of the key aspects of my activities:

Leadership as A/Dean International, Faculty of IT, Queensland University of Technology

As Assistant Dean, International in the Faculty of Information Technology (FIT) I provide strategic leadership in the Faculty's international development arena identifying, promoting and building opportunities for student recruitment and for enhancing the Faculty's international reputation. This includes growing international linkages for the Faculty, including research partnerships and joint educational opportunities, and growth in student enrolments both onshore and through international partnerships. As a member of the Dean's Executive Group I am responsible for achieving the Faculty's strategic goals and key performance indicators relevant to international engagement.

Since my appointment I have demonstrated a successful track record directing a significant and complex portfolio and with effecting positive cultural change. Under my leadership FIT has established multiple transnational courses, widened its market, increased International enrolments, and enhanced its International Pathways. Importantly, International business is now much higher up on the agenda of FIT academics who are achieving greater outcomes in this area.

Achievements since October 2006 include:

Recruitment:

- International acceptances demonstrating an upward trend for the first time since 2002
- Reduced dependency on traditional reducing markets: new initiatives have led to significant increases in the Middle East, Taiwan and also China and India.
- Deploying initiatives to maintain and develop our existing markets e.g. establishment of a 2 years from Diploma to MIT "Fast Track Masters" aimed at revitalising our Singaporean market.
- Establishment of key strategic projects in collaboration with Business and Engineering designed to increase our engagement with key markets.
- Substantial Increase of staff participation in international recruitment: working with staff to target specific geographic markets.
- Significantly redeveloped scholarships for high achieving international students: sustainable, simplified, multipurpose, and aimed at attracting and retaining.
- Established new ventures to increase conversion e.g. Student Ambassador Telephone Conversion Campaign.

International Linkages:

- Established new dual programs with peer (or peer +) institutions at the undergraduate and postgraduate level e.g. UBAYA, UGM, LIKMI (Indonesia), Wuhan (China), III (Taiwan). Forthcoming include: ICU (Korea), BINUS (Indonesia).
- Developed curriculum licensing agreement with APIIT (Malaysia) – final draft currently being considered by APIIT.
- Built, maintained, and established close relationships with feeder institutions e.g. articulation agreements have been tripled.
- Built international research relationships that have led to an increased PhD enrolments e.g. in particular with Malaysian universities such as UCTI, UTeM, UTiM, UNITEN. Also developing strategic research projects including Cotutelle arrangements with Tongji (China) aimed at cohort recruitment..

International Student Support and Internationalisation:

- Assisted with development of new degrees to ensure attractiveness internationally and their suitability for international students.
- Established 2 year double degree route (MIT + MENG) between IT and Engineering. Currently being trialled.
- Created international postgraduate IT Pathway Option to assist students from a non-English speaking background.

Leadership at institutional level:

- Represented QUT in international settings
- Established strong collaboration with Faculty of Business and Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering.
- Established template agreements used throughout the university (e.g. Faculty of Science, Faculty of Business) for the purpose of establishing articulation and dual programs.
- Contributed to QUT direction through International Leaders Forum and disseminated good practice through interfaculty workshops.

Note: I should recognise that these achievements are shared by the professionals and academics who work for (or with) me as well as the QUT International office.

Service as Senior Lecturer, School of Engineering, The University of Huddersfield

As a Senior Lecturer at Huddersfield University in the UK I held several leadership and coordination roles. Here are some of my key activities:

- Developed the first undergraduate E-commerce and Multimedia degree course in the UK. I instigated collaboration between the Dept. of Electronic Engineering and the Dept. of Marketing, produced key documentation, and led the development team. The course was successfully validated in June 2000 and is continuing to attract a good number of students. As course leader I was responsible for its strategy and direction until I left Huddersfield in 2003.
- Underpinned the new course with industry relevance by obtaining significant industry sponsorship:
 - **£250,000** worth of software from ClearCommerce Limited (payment processing and fraud detection software).
 - **£16,500** of hardware to host the above software
 - A three year **£40,000** student sponsorship programme with Sun Microsystems to assist with course promotion and student motivation.
- Been a key contributor to the strategic direction of several new courses and participated in course validation panels (acting on both sides of the fence).
- Contributed to the quality mechanisms in place at Huddersfield University e.g. moderation and course accreditation.
- Led the marketing strategy of new courses whilst at Huddersfield University.
- Mentored junior staff in the development their research interests and teaching approaches.

Research

As a *Researcher* and *Scholar* I have established a track record exploring how technology innovation can enhance learning environments and business settings with a focus on: E-learning; Multicultural Education; E-commerce, E-business and Web 2.0. I have published several articles in these fields as well as successfully instigated and directed several research projects as principle investigator. I have achieved more than **\$1.1 Million AUD** in total funding to date.

Funds from INTERNAL Sources - \$354,000 AUD total

This list only includes grants that I instigated and where I am the principle investigator.

2005: University large T&L grant, QUT, \$273,600 (\$150,00 cash, \$123,600 in-kind)
For supporting explorative learning by providing collaborative problem centred e-learning environments. This project has been established as a collaboration between IT and the Faculties of Health and Education.

2004: CITI Seeding grant and Teaching and Learning Small Grant (50:50), \$10,000
For developing a Collaborative Problem Based Constructivist Online Learning Environment.

2003: Learning and Teaching Innovation, Huddersfield University, £29,350
For developing a collaborative adaptive learning environment

Funds obtained from EXTERNAL Granting Agencies - \$776,400 AUD total

This list only includes grants that I instigated and where I am the principle investigator.

2002: TCS Scheme, DTI/EPSRC and industry Partner, approx £90,000
Linkage between Huddersfield University and TFE Ltd. For developing a flexible mode e-Learning framework and an Intelligent Tutoring System.

2001: TCS Scheme, DTI/EPSRC and industry Partner, approx £90,000
Linkage between Huddersfield University and NTP Information Solutions Limited. For developing pay-per-view training services over the Internet. This project received recognition for excellence from the DTI/EPSRC.

2001: EPSRC grant GR/R46281/01, £49,369
An additional area of activity, whilst at Huddersfield University, was in Electronics. As a member of the Electronic and Communications Research Group I was successful in accessing £49,369 from the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council to support research in Built in Self Test of Analogue Circuits.

2000: TCS Scheme, DTI/EPSRC and industry Partner, approx £90,000
Linkage between Huddersfield University and NTP Information Solutions Limited. For developing a Learning Management System and an Intelligent Tutoring System.

Other research activities include:

- Regional Editor - Australia, New Zealand and Asia-Pacific for the journal Campus-Wide Information Systems
- Reviewer for the Journal of Information Technology Education (JITE) and the International Journal of Learning Technology (IJLT)
- Currently supervising 2 PhD students as Principal and 1 PhD student as Associate.

Note: Exchange rate used is 2.4 AUD to 1 UKP

List of Publications

- S. Hrastinski, J. Watson "Designing and Evaluating an Online Role Play in Conflict Management" *Submitted* to the Proceedings of the 2008 International Academy for Information Management Conference, Paris, France, Dec. 12-13, 2008
- S. L. Edwards, J. Watson, A. Farrell, R. Nash "Delivering on the E-Learning promise: A Case for a learning environment that enables Collaborative Online Problem Solving (COPS)" *Journal of Learning Design*, Vol 2, Issue 1, 2007
- J. Watson, P. K. Ahmed, G. Hardaker "Creating domain independent adaptive e-learning systems using the sharable content object reference model" *Journal of Campus-Wide Information Systems*, ISSN 1065-0741, Emerald Publishing, Volume 24, Number 1, 2007
- S. L. Edwards, J. Watson, R. Nash, A. Farrell "Supporting Explorative Learning by Providing Collaborative Online Problem Solving (COPS) Environments" refereed proceedings of the OLT – 2005 Beyond Delivery Conference, 27th September 2005, Brisbane, Australia. (Invited to extend for submission to the *Journal of Learning Design*)
- J. Watson, G. Hardaker "Steps towards Personalised Learner Management System [Lms]: SCORM Implementation", *Journal of Campus-Wide Information Systems*, Emerald Publishing, Volume 22 Issue 2.
- J. Watson, P. Ahmed "Learning in the Age of Global Information Technology: Development of a Generic Architecture for an Advanced Learning Management System", *Journal of Campus-Wide Information Systems*, Emerald Publishing, Volume 21 Issue 1.
- I. Clements, Z. Xu, J. Watson "Extending SCORM Metadata Layers for Enhancing On-line Interactive Learning", refereed proceedings of the ECEL 2003 2nd European Conference On e-Learning, 6-7 November 2003, Glasgow, United Kingdom.
- I. Clements, J. Watson, Z. Xu "Solutions to Improve Retention in Virtual Learning Environments", refereed proceedings of the ITTE 2003 Annual Conference of the Association of Information Technology for Teacher Education, 21-23 July 2003, Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds, United Kingdom.
- J. Kuisma, J. Watson "Scheduling And Monitoring Dynamic Learning Objects On The Web", refereed proceedings of the ED-MEDIA 2002 International Conference, 24-29 June 2002, Denver Colorado, United States.
- J. Watson, David Taylor, Stephen Lockwood, "Visualisation of Data from an Intranet Training Systems using Virtual Reality Modelling Language (VRML)", refereed proceedings of the International Conference on Information Visualisation 1999, London, United Kingdom.
- D. Wood, J. Watson, "Factors Limiting the Proliferation of E-learning within Small to Medium Sized Enterprises", proceedings of the E-Learn 2002 International Conference, organised by the Association for the Advancement of Computers in Education, to be held 15-19 October 2002, Montreal, Canada.
- J. Watson, N. Axelos, D. Taylor, A. Platts, "Built-In-Self-Test of Analogue Circuits using Optimised Fault Sets and Transient Response Testing", proceedings of the Eighth IEEE International On-Line Testing Workshop (IOLTW 2002), held 8-10 July 2002, in Isle of Bendor, France.

Teaching

I demonstrate more than 10 years of success at teaching postgraduate and undergraduate courses to a diverse body of students and have been identified as an exemplar (Teaching Fellow) to disseminate good pedagogical approaches throughout the institution. I have led the development of new degree courses and underpinned them by obtaining significant sponsorship from industry.

Here are some key points outlining my teaching experience:

- I am a **Fellow of The Higher Education Academy** the United Kingdom body responsible for enhancing learning and teaching in higher education (similar to the Carrick Institute in Australia).
- I was recognised for teaching excellence at QUT by my appointment as a **University Teaching Fellow 2005-2006**. This led to me providing consultancy on learning innovation and teaching strategies around the university.
- I have established several **inter-faculty T&L projects** (large and small) that have increased our capability to deploy learning activities that enhance student motivation and engagement.
- I take the quality of my teaching extremely seriously. The methodology that I use to ensure constant improvement in my teaching approach closely follows the Kolb's model of experimental learning. In other words: I am **constantly fine-tuning my approach** and undertaking a process of continuous updating and learning from experience.
- I am experienced at **Research Supervision** having successfully supervised 2 MPhil to completion, 1 PhD past confirmation (completing soon) and 2 PhD past Stage 2.
- **Teaching innovation** goes hand in hand with my research expertise e.g. I instigated and directed a project that developed an innovative Multi Domain **Intelligent Tutoring System** that can deliver an e-Learning experience individually tailored to student requirements based on their profile, performance and needs.
- I have coordinated and written **complex units** combining both technical and graduate capabilities and demonstrated a track record of success in this area.
- As **Course Leader** at Huddersfield University I ensured proper support for learners and a high rate of student retention.

References

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