



## The Teaching-Research Nexus

A guide for academics and policy-makers  
in higher education

[www.trnexus.edu.au](http://www.trnexus.edu.au)

### Examples from Australian universities

---

#### Infusing Research into Occasional Guest Lectures

Dr Chris Fluke  
Swinburne University

**Broad discipline area:**

Natural and Physical Sciences

- Astronomy

**Year level:**

- Undergraduate, a student elective for all programs

**TRN strategy:**

- Teach research methods, techniques and skills explicitly within subjects
- Build small-scale research activities into undergraduate assignments

**Teaching and learning context:**

- Oral/research presentations
- Reflective learning

**Brief description of the initiative:**

This academic presents the occasional guest lecture for students at a different university. In these lectures, he will mention examples of his research to the students, where possible. He will also involve his students in active learning tasks during the lecture. This is achieved by presenting the students with data, asking them to plot this data, devise a hypothesis, discuss the results in small groups and present their findings to the rest of the class. While this is a technique often reserved for laboratory work or tutorials, this academic finds it works quite well as a method of helping students develop research skills. The lectures in this subject last for two hours, which allows time to enact these learning tasks. This subject, *Astronomy and Black Holes*, is an elective course available to all students, and has typical enrolment numbers of 20-30.

**For further details:**

Chris Fluke  
Swinburne University  
cfluke@swin.edu.au