



The Teaching-Research Nexus

A guide for academics and policy-makers
in higher education

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Examples from Australian universities

Opportunities for Research Linked Learning in Undergraduate Political Science Subjects

Associate Professor Philomena Murray
The University of Melbourne

Broad discipline area:

Arts and Humanities

- Political Science

Year level:

- Second/Third year undergraduate

TRN strategy:

- Draw on personal research as you design and teach courses
- Design learning activities around contemporary research issues
- Build small scale research activities into undergraduate assignments
- Encourage students to feel part of the research culture of the department

Teaching and learning context:

- Large group lectures
- Assignment (Assessment)
- Research activity
- Inquiry based learning

Brief description of the initiative:

This Associate Professor gives her students opportunities to be involved in research in a variety of ways. For example, she ensures that her own and others' recent research is discussed in lectures, and that students are made aware of the changing nature of knowledge that results from continued research. These students are also given other opportunities to learn about the current research in the discipline through being invited to the seminars that are held weekly by the Contemporary Europe Research Centre.

In the students' assessment this lecturer will provide students with the task of using primary materials to write their essays. For example, a student may choose to write an essay in the form of a speech given by a member of the European Union parliament or as a minister at a meeting of the European Union or the president of the European Commission. This Associate Professor uses these initiatives in *European Integration: Politics of the European Union*, which is taken in the second or third year of the Bachelor of Arts (Political Science), with typical enrolment numbers of 230.

“They’re actually carrying out research without even being consciously aware of it perhaps.”

For further details:

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