

THE MELBOURNE DECLARATION

APRIL 2007



The world needs an international model of doctoral education, because globalization

- poses new problems for the future and well-being of humanity, and doctoral education is the cornerstone of research and innovation;
- creates challenges that require scientific and technological expertise to be applied in cross-national efforts and informed by global perspectives;
- requires leaders and researchers to collaborate across disciplinary boundaries to advance knowledge and to solve urgent human problems;
- is forging a *global* system of doctoral education in which credits and degrees are increasingly transferable and quality indicators are consistent around the world;
- and because the uneven distribution of intellectual capital deprives many regions of the world of the benefits of the latest expertise and technological innovation, and leaders with global perspectives.

Therefore, we, the members of the Forces and Forms of Change in Doctoral Education Worldwide Network (F & F network), declare our commitment to developing doctoral education that will:

- prepare PhD graduates to be effective leaders of science, society, technology, business and politics within a global context; and
- equip graduates with the skills and understanding to work effectively in international and interdisciplinary contexts, to comprehend international and global trends, and to work in increasingly, large, diverse and far-flung teams.

To this end, the F & F network will promote research on the changing competencies required of PhD holders, develop the knowledge needed to design future-oriented PhD programs, and facilitate availability of up-to-date information on reforms and innovations in doctoral education worldwide, by:

- identifying, sharing and encouraging policies and procedures to
 - foster diversity in doctoral recruitment and retention,
 - promote diverse ways of knowing, and
 - contribute to social equity and sustainability;
- fostering innovative doctoral programs, research projects and interdisciplinary work to promote intellectual risk-taking and creativity in science;
- developing a global framework for doctoral education, beginning with definitions and measures of core competencies and quality; and
- seeking ways to facilitate a more even distribution of intellectual capital across the globe.

This *Melbourne Declaration* is the result of an ongoing comprehensive effort to evaluate doctoral education as a critical force in responding to and shaping trends in globalization. Initiated by the Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education at the University of Washington, Seattle, the F&F network fosters interaction and collaboration among a select group of high-powered doctoral education experts representing key countries and regions.

This second of three workshops on *Forces and Forms of Change in Doctoral Education Worldwide* was held at the University of Melbourne, Australia with 33 participants from 15 countries. The first workshop was held in 2005 in Seattle at the University of Washington with more than 30 doctoral education experts from 14 countries and the third will be held in 2009 in Kassel, Germany.

The Melbourne workshop was organized by the Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education (CIRGE), a research unit of the College of Education and the Graduate School at the University of Washington and the University of Melbourne, with funding from the National Science Foundation and the University of Melbourne.

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