

ATN to launch PhD training centre

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The Australian Technology Network (ATN) is launching a doctoral training centre that will focus on mathematics in a bid to arm researchers with relevant industry skills.

The PhD programs will have an industry context and be four years long. They will cover content that complements the researcher's primary focus, including intensive short courses and a seminar series.

The deputy vice-chancellor of research at the University of Technology, Sydney, Attila Brungs, said the additional focus would be on three main areas.

These are workplace skills, such as project management, innovation, and communication; advanced researcher skills, including different research methodologies and building networks, and advanced knowledge skills, such as cross-disciplinary collaboration.

"It's all about making sure we develop you as a researcher," Professor Brungs said.

She said the development of communication skills was particularly important.

The centre will host 20 to 25 PhD students a year, with the aim of a third to a half being funded by industry. Potential industry partners include the *Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)* and the *Australian Bureau of Statistics*.

The ATN is also negotiating with small to medium enterprises.

Federal Innovation Minister Kim Carr welcomed the ATN's move, which coincides with the federal government's development of a strategy to meet research workforce needs to 2020. "This centre recognises that collaboration between universities, businesses and students is vital," Senator Carr said.

"It is the only way we can meet the growing demand for skills while opening secure career paths for researchers".

The demand for doctorates in the area of mathematics is projected to rise by 37 per cent from 2011-2020.

The Australian Financial Review

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