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Course arms IT graduates for job hunt

Jennifer Foreshew
•Jobs

WITH IT jobs hard to find, a Queensland scheme will help 6000 IT graduates prepare for their first job hunt.

Developed by specialist graduate consultancy Graduate Programs Australia, the Education to Employment (e2e) program has the support of Queensland IT minister Paul Lucas, universities, TAFE Queensland and peak industry bodies, including the Australian Computer Society.

The project will offer graduates work preparation and awareness, along with links to industry and employers.

Plans are under way to take the e2e program to NSW and Victoria. The ACS is also looking at the feasibility of making it a national project.

Graduate Programs Australia managing director Brandon Thompson said campus careers services often lacked the funds or resources to adequately prepare graduates for the job market.

“The post-graduation employment prospects of IT graduates are only fair to



Skills: Consultant Brad Wilson and Mr Thompson talk to Minister Paul Lucas

Picture: Lyndon Mechtissen

average.” Mr Thompson said. “Preparing graduates for employment is an institution’s responsibility under the notion of complete education and many campuses quite simply do not do that.”

The two-and-a-half hour e2e program will provide contemporary, practical and usable information, through real-life examples and interactive workshops with graduates, on key issues in finding work.

“We go through different employment opportunities

such as graduate development programs, graduate recruitment programs, everyday recruitment contracts, traineeships, vacation work, and we look at the characteristics of each,” Mr Thompson said.

The project, funded by the

Queensland Department of Innovation and Information Technology, will involve 900 hi-tech employers and 6000 graduates over a nine-week period in 12 locations, ranging from Cairns and Mt Isa in the north to Toowoomba in the south.

ACS Queensland marketing and membership manager Nikki Curtis said it was critical IT graduates were encouraged and supported in the current jobs slump.

“It is not just a matter of walking out of university and into a job any more,” Ms Curtis said. “You need to be more proactive, you need to learn more networking skills, how to market yourself and these workshops and industry networking opportunities are reflecting that.”

Graduate Programs Australia has also developed a web-based version of the program, called e2e.Net, which will be marketed to tertiary and vocational education and training providers.

 **LINKS**

www.graduateprograms.com.au

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