

Quick Guides for Transnational Teachers

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The need for a consistent approach to the assurance of teaching quality in Australia and offshore is frequently highlighted by writers. Badley (2000, p.244) described the capabilities required of globally-competent university teachers to include academic subject knowledge, pedagogic skills, a transformatory and democratic approach to education and an ethnographic stance to education abroad. The *Quick Guide* project sought to acknowledge the complexity of transnational teaching practice by addressing the professional development needs of individual teaching staff in Australia and offshore. Informed by AVCC (2005) Professional Development Framework for Academic Staff Teaching Australian Programmes Offshore, twenty two *Quick Guides* connect complex ideas and theories with contemporary teaching experience. They were designed and developed in an easily accessible, user-friendly format suitable for access as stand-alone resources or in a modularised package for both online and face to face professional development activity. The objective of the *Quick Guides* was not to duplicate the scholarly work readily available electronically, rather to provide an accessible introduction to a topic for all staff that is enhanced by links to electronic resources and further reading. The consistent structure comprises an introduction to the topic, references to examples of good practice and or practical teaching tips, reference and/or links to relevant policy, procedures or existing online resources, and further reading for those interested in extending their knowledge beyond the scope of the *Quick Guide*. Extensive consultation was carried out with teaching and professional staff in Melbourne, Shanghai, Singapore and Vietnam during and after the development. Evaluations confirm that the resources were successful in providing flexible mixed-mode resource delivery to help staff make connections between learning and teaching theory and practice in transnational contexts. Teaching staff value the way the *Quick Guides* present context-specific learning and teaching concepts and ideas through concise explanations, examples, tips and extension resources.