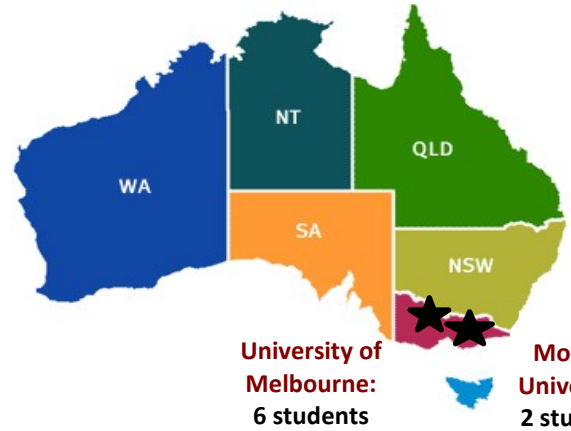


Findings are presented on the Research Abroad Experiences that occurred during the 2013-14 academic year, including participant survey and research mentor interview data.

2013-14 Research Abroad Experience (RAE)

Six graduate students (GS) & two post doctorates (PD) participated in the Research Abroad Experience and were hosted by the University of Melbourne and Monash University in Australia.

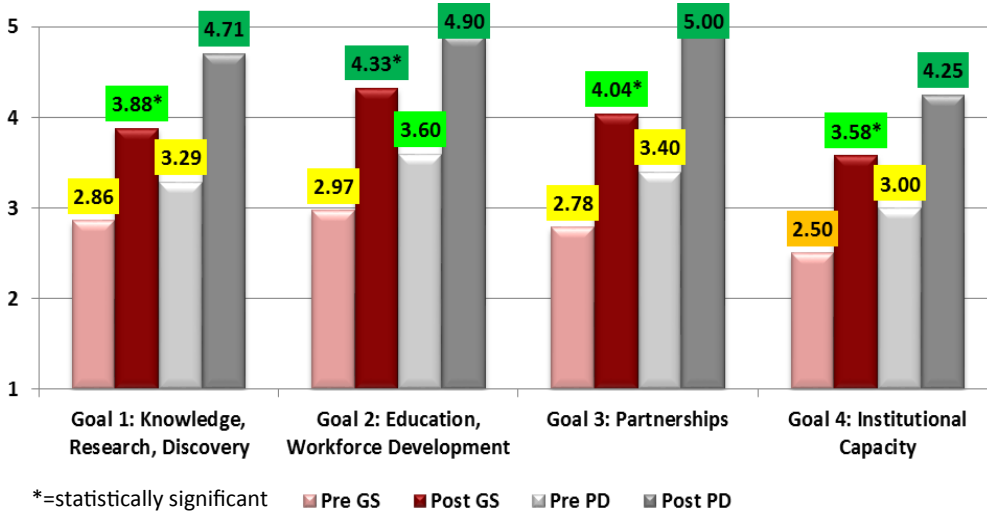


PROJECT GOALS

- Goal 1: Knowledge/Research/Discovery
- Goal 2: Education/Workforce Development
- Goal 3: Partnerships
- Goal 4: Institutional Capacity

Extensive	4.21 – 5.00
Good	3.41 – 4.20
Moderate	2.61 – 3.40
Fair	1.81 – 2.60
Minimal	1.00 – 1.80

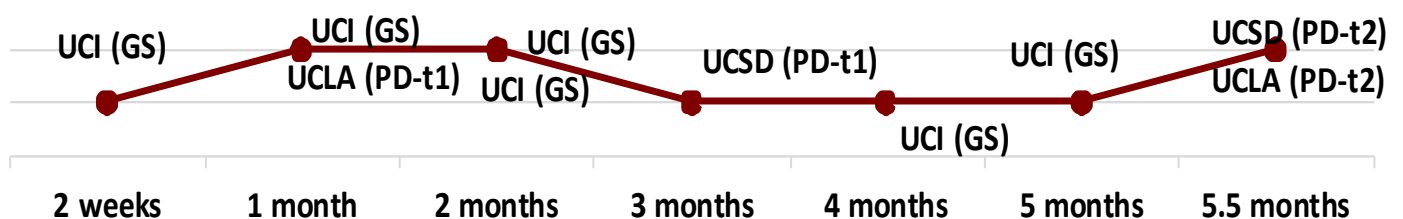
Achievement of project goals by research abroad students



- Graduate students reported statistically significant increases across all goals.
- Overall, both groups had gains after participation.
- Greatest growth experienced in *education & workforce development* for graduate students and *partnerships* for postdocs.

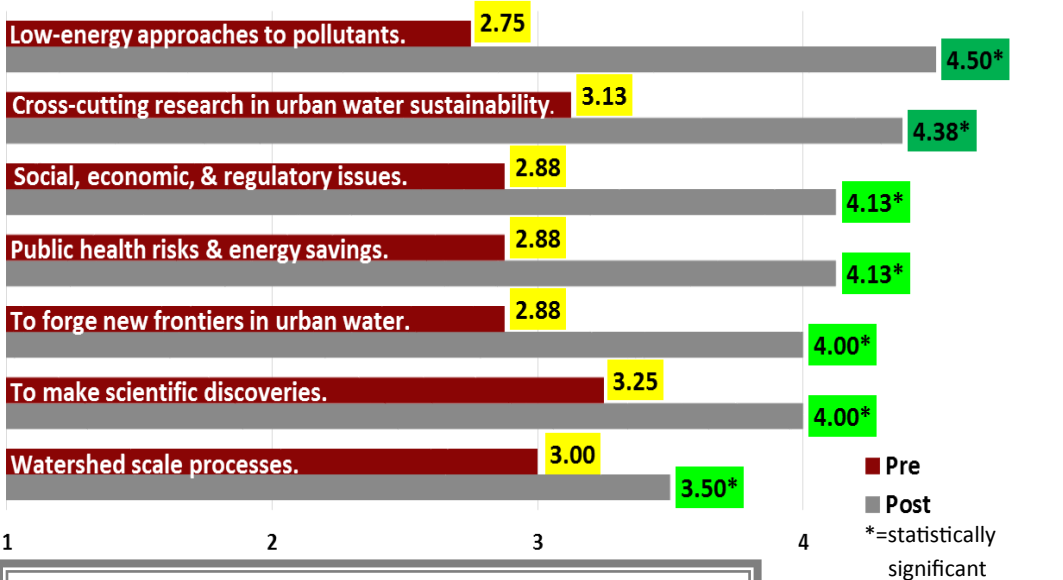


Length of time spent abroad



For those who went abroad more than once, trips are indicated by time 1 (t1) and time 2 (t2).

Participants' familiarity with water sustainability issues before and after participation



Participants rated their knowledge and abilities with regard to water sustainability. There were statistically significant gains in all areas of knowledge/research/discovery (Goal 1).

Extensive	4.21 – 5.00
Good	3.41 – 4.20
Moderate	2.61 – 3.40
Fair	1.81 – 2.60
Minimal	1.00 – 1.80

Quotes from RAE Participants



"It has been a great experience, made possible by a top-notch collaborator. This is the best team of researchers I've ever worked with, both on the Australian and American side."

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to learn about Melbourne's approach to

total water cycle management."

"I had a great and invaluable experience overall."

"I have had a very positive experience with PIRE due to the project directors' management and their assistance with my research (through funding, advising, networking, etc.)."

Mentor Interviews

Research abroad mentors (n=8) were interviewed after their students returned home to assess the students' experience, the hosting institution's experience, and to identify ways to improve the program. Most mentors felt that their students had sufficient research skills, contributed to their own work, and gained confidence and skills. All mentors are willing to host again.

"It's quite a fascinating and enriching experience to be able to work with colleagues from UCI and exchange knowledge in areas of common interest."



Evaluator's Recommendations

Research Abroad Experience

- Plan further in advance and provide more logistical information.
- Appoint someone to help all students with travel plans.
- Ensure all home institution mentors maintain contact with students while they are abroad.
- Conduct a training to prepare participants for the unexpected (e.g. equipment, paperwork, safety training).
- Set up meetings with abroad mentor 1-2 months before travel so the student can build a relationship and plan their research before they leave.
- Host a Q&A to provide participants with information from others who have participated in the past.

Upcoming Evaluation Activities

- Conduct annual post-survey of all PIRE participants.
- Conduct post-survey and pre/post-IDI for graduate students who participate in upcoming research abroad experiences.
- Conduct formative and summative evaluation of UPP Down Under program.
- Conduct formative evaluation of PIRE involvement with the PIREWolf Productions, AISIESS, and Children's Water Education Festival.

