



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

Sessional Academics' Experience of Working at Notre Dame

Inna Geoghegan, Alison Casey and Helen Rogers
Learning and Teaching Office &
Notre Dame Study Centre



Who is teaching our students?

- 1990s – 21%
- Late 2000s – 40%
- By 2019 – 60% (up to 80%?)

Extract of ND staff system data August 2018:



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

| School | Sessional Academics | Continuing Academics | % sessional |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| School of Education Fremantle | 104 | 21 | 83% |
| School of Education Sydney | 75 | 17 | 82% |
| School of Medicine Sydney | 25 | 9 | 74% |
| School of Nursing and Midwifery Fremantle | 86 | 31 | 74% |
| School of Arts and Sciences Fremantle | 62 | 24 | 72% |
| School of Physiotherapy Fremantle | 49 | 21 | 70% |
| School of Health Sciences Fremantle | 39 | 17 | 70% |
| School of Philosophy and Theology Fremantle | 19 | 16 | 54% |
| School of Philosophy and Theology Sydney | 14 | 16 | 47% |
| School of Medicine Fremantle | 73 | 84 | 46% |
| School of Nursing Sydney | 15 | 18 | 45% |
| School of Business Fremantle | 12 | 15 | 44% |
| School of Arts and Sciences Sydney | 12 | 21 | 36% |
| School of Business Sydney | 5 | 10 | 33% |
| School of Law Fremantle | 7 | 15 | 32% |
| School of Law Sydney | 2 | 13 | 13% |
| TOTALS | 599 | 348 | 63% |



From TEQSA's Risk Assessment Framework (v 3.2, March 2019):

- Risk Indicator: “Academic staff on casual work contracts”
- “inherent risks around mechanisms for effective integration and engagement”

Research Design



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

BLASST

- 3 guiding principles: quality L&T, sessional staff support, sustainability
- 4 levels: institutional, faculty, department, individual
- 3 criteria: unsustainable, minimum, good practice

Phase 1

- Semi-structured focus groups & individual interviews (maximum variations purposeful sampling)
- Survey development

Phase 2

- Survey pilot
- Online survey roll-out to all sessional staff



The study aims to:

- Provide insights into the sessional experience at ND;
- Investigate their perceived needs;
- Seek to understand ND-centric factors influencing sessional teaching practices;
- Inform benchmarking and development of an institutional framework.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

Calling all ND Sessional Teaching Staff!

The Learning and Teaching Office (LTO) would love to stay connected with all our Notre Dame sessional academics'.

Head over to the Notre Dame Sessional Academics Facebook group and join to become part of this community of Notre Dame staff.

Just search for **Notre Dame Sessional Academics** on Facebook, or go to
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NDAUSSessionalAcademics/>

We hope to:

- Keep you up to date with upcoming events
- Let you know about continuing professional learning (CPL) opportunities
- Share the latest news in the sector regarding learning and teaching
- Let you know about courses and workshops run by the LTO

You can also follow us on Twitter **@LTONotreDameAUS**