

## **IHEA Congratulates Australia's First University College - Avondale University College**

The announcement today that Avondale College has been admitted as a University College is an historic event for Avondale College and Australian independent higher education.

Admission to University College status recognises Avondale's high-quality teaching and research.

Avondale is one of Australia's oldest colleges with a history tracing back to 1892. The College began preparing students for degrees through partner and affiliation programs in the 1950's and commenced its own degree programs in 1974. Avondale has been offering doctoral research programs for 13 years.

Avondale was the first independent higher education provider to be awarded self-accrediting status by the national regulator, TEQSA.

Today Avondale College becomes the first higher education provider admitted to the University College category in Australia and the first provider to achieve any category change since the formation of TEQSA in 2011.

To achieve University College status, Avondale was required to demonstrate sustained scholarship that informs teaching and learning in all fields in which courses of study are offered.

Avondale College is a highly valued, founding member of IHEA, having been part of COPHE-IHEA for two decades. Twenty years ago Avondale's then President, Dr Geoff Madigan, was part of the team that formed COPHE following advice from Minister David Kemp. Today Avondale's President, Professor Ray Roennfeldt, serves a Director on the IHEA Board, providing leadership to the independent higher education sector.

IHEA membership is widely recognised a badge of quality. This recognition is built on a membership model that sets a high entrance bar for admission and adherence to a Code of Good Practice that includes a commitment to scholarship, cycles of review, ethical leadership and high-quality student experience.

Avondale College's membership of IHEA showcases the quality of IHEA's member institutions.

The University College category in Australia is a high-value category that provides clear transparency to students and the Australian community that the institution is degree conferring and recognised for its university level teaching and research. The term University College status is recognised internationally and provides important status recognition in international education markets.

Admission to University College required Avondale to demonstrate the College:

- has realistic and achievable plans to meet all the criteria for an "Australian University" Category within five years of its approval to use the title "Australian University College"
- delivers undergraduate and postgraduate courses of study that meet the Higher Education Standards Framework across a range of broad fields of study (including Masters Degrees (Coursework) in at least three broad fields of study and Masters Degrees (Research) and Doctoral Degrees (Research) in at least one of the broad fields of study it offers)
- undertakes research that leads to the creation of new knowledge and original creative endeavour at least in those broad fields of study in which Masters Degrees (Research) and Doctoral Degrees (Research) are offered

- demonstrates sustained scholarship that informs teaching and learning in all fields in which courses of study are offered
- demonstrates commitment to the systematic advancement and dissemination of knowledge
- demonstrates engagement with its local and regional communities and a commitment to social responsibility
- has systematic, well developed internal processes for quality assurance and the maintenance of academic standards and academic integrity.

Avondale University College is a highly valued member of IHEA and we congratulate them for their successful admission as Australia's first University College.