

Developing students' vision and voice in undergraduate and postgraduate auditing and accounting

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Dr Atul Chandra has been a Senior Lecturer in the School of Business and Law at ECU for over 10 years. He teaches undergraduate and postgraduate on campus and on line audit and accounting units related to business risk and ethical decision-making. Dr Chandra's overarching goal is to develop students' vision and voice: their vision of where their chosen profession is heading, and how that might influence future business decisions; and their voice to advocate for ethical business decision-making in their future careers. Atul's approach engages students in predicting the potential impact of real-time events and business decisions on specific businesses.

Ethics approval was obtained to conduct anonymous student surveys about the perceived usefulness of the teaching approach, the extent to which it enhanced understanding of theory, and the extent to which their 'thinking about business' had changed. The project also gathered feedback from alumni about the perceived impact on their careers. Data have not yet been fully analysed.

Preliminary findings indicate that the approach of engaging students in predicting real business decisions, and the likely impacts of those decisions, and then comparing their predictions with what actually happens, deepens student learning and develops their vision. Students also develop their voice by arguing for their position, challenging each other, and also responding to challenges by the lecturer and industry representatives. The presenters will share student feedback, alumni cases and industry perceptions of the impact of this approach on preparedness for future careers, where the quality of their vision and voice are key predictors of success.

The session will end with a discussion about how this approach might be applied in other disciplines.