SECTION 2: 2013 Premier’s Commonwealth Bank Vocational Education Scholarship Criteria

Please read the following criteria and base your application on each of the four selection criteria against which the selection panel will assess your application. **Please ensure your response to all of the criteria does not exceed 1000 words.**

1. Rationale

**How does the proposed study:**
- relate to best practice in vocational education and training?
- link to current objectives and/or issues in vocational education and training?
- build on research or work already conducted/existing resources at a local, state and national or international level?

Mark : /15

Enter your response to Rationale below:

In NSW schools Vocational Education and Training (VET) teacher/trainers face many challenges including:
- Industry collaboration on authentic assessment tasks
- Qualifications and how they articulate to further education or employment
- Industry currency
- Ensuring meaningful work placements are provided to all students
- Having the capacity to promote opportunities for students to further develop their skills and qualifications to the workforce
- Understanding Industry requirements- the qualification or skill level

My study tour would focus on the qualification being delivered and how it articulates to further education and/or employment. I will also investigate how industry and business organisations influence the skill level of the qualification being delivered. I will compare our Certification levels with those in the UK and Switzerland.

My proposal will include a visit to Switzerland that is recognised as a leader in VET delivery with over 58% of all students completing a VET course. VET is highly regarded in Switzerland by students, parents, educational facilities and most importantly business. I intend to meet with:
- Representatives of the Swiss Education Department
- Industry groups
- Schools and Professional Education and Training Colleges

I will then visit the UK which has recently undergone educational reforms in VET delivery as a result of ‘The Wolf Report’ (2011). While in the UK I intend to meet with:
- Representatives of the Department of Education UK
- The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation
- Industry groups
- Schools and University Technical Colleges (to be opened 2013-14)

All training providers work towards delivering the skills and knowledge that will equip students with the ability to transition seamlessly into the workforce. If trainers/teachers have a stronger understanding of the skill levels or qualification standards that industry expects they will be better equipped to meet the needs of employers. Teachers will also benefit from better understanding the processes and procedures involved in the development of training packages including the relationships between industry and ITAB’s.
One of the National research priorities as agreed to by The Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment (MCTEE) is Skills and Productivity. This included:

- Supply of skills- shortages and responsiveness of training
- Role of skill sets and qualifications
- Skills market- match between education and training and occupational labour markets.

My study proposal links directly to these identified issues in VET and will build on research that has been completed at a local, State and National Level. My proposal compliments Ms Burling’s (2012 scholarship) study and builds on her focus of industry involvement in providing quality work placements.

My study would benefit students, teachers, ITAB’s and employers by providing information on best practice examples of how VET delivered in schools articulates to:

- Technical/training colleges
- Employment
- Valued skills and qualifications

2. Innovation/Relationship to Vocational Education and Training

In what ways does the proposed study:

- link with and have relevance to particular area/s of vocational education?
- link with current research and VET policy direction?
- introduce and/or contribute to innovative or better practice in vocational education?

Mark : /5

Enter your response to Syllabus/Module relationship below:

- The governing body, ASQA has mandated consultation with industry in all aspects of VET delivery
- The delivery of VET qualifications is relevant to all stakeholders
- Provision of qualifications that are relevant to both the student and employers will improve employability and the regard in which VET delivery in schools is held
- Clearer understanding of career directions and required qualifications will assist in engagement and retention
- Qualifications and articulation to further education or employment is the basis of why we deliver VET qualifications
- Provide a better understanding of why VET is so highly regarded in many European countries
- An understanding of collaboration between schools, educational administrations and business/industry

My research would highlight examples of best practice in articulating secondary students into higher education and or training with strong industry links and support.

3. Scope and feasibility

Does the proposed study have:

- evidence of preliminary preparation e.g. reference to the literature, relevant research?
- evidence of specific preparation e.g. contact with experts in the field, key institutions, conference/course opportunities?
- draft budget including travel and accommodation arrangements?
- study tour itinerary including details of conferences, forums, meetings and visits?

Mark : /5

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<th>Proposed Travel Dates</th>
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<th>Proposed Budget (Expenses)</th>
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<td>Visit Education Departments, Ofqual (UK), Schools and Industry Groups</td>
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Examples of Literature Review:
- Improving Vocational Education & Training, The Case for a New System (NSSC 2013)
- Vocational and Professional Education and Training in Switzerland (2013) - SERI
- Wolf Review of Vocational Education (UK) – Government Response (2011)
- Vocational Education and Training in Switzerland Strengths, Challenges and Recommendations. OECD (2009)

Examples of Websites:
- http://www.edk.ch
- http://www.education.gov.uk
- http://www.training.nsw.gov.au
- http://www.ncver.edu.au

An example of the people I have contacted:
- Emilene Ulrich, Swiss departmental contact
- Dr. Fabio Merlini –Head of Basic Training Division, Head of SFIVET Lugano
- Mr G Haynes, Ministerial and Public Communications Division, UK
- Rosemary Brook, Team leader, VET in schools Senior Pathways Unit
- Janice Martyn, VETnetwork Australia
- Martin Fuller, Project Officer, Skills Strategy Unit
- Rebecca Grooby, Industry Training Advisory Body- Service Skills Australia

Budget Estimates:

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4. Outcomes and benefits of the proposed study to the profession and the learning and teaching of VET in NSW Schools and TAFE NSW Institutes

**How will the proposed study:**
- contribute to the learning outcomes of students, impact on learning and teaching beyond the individual campus?
- contribute to your own professional learning?
- provide teaching/learning resources?
- enrich the body of professional knowledge?

**How will the study outcomes be disseminated:**
- in the short term and longer term?
- through appropriate avenues e.g. education system, professional association publications, conferences and learning networks?

Mark: /15
On the completion of my study tour I will have a stronger understanding of VET delivery in Europe and the working relationship of all VET stakeholders which, as a result, provides all participants with measurable positive outcomes. By identifying best practice examples and providing all invested groups with the relevant information all VET students, trainers and governing bodies will benefit.

VET policy as dictated by ASQA calls for the levels of collaboration that is making VET delivery both successful and so highly regarded in other countries.

A report and a presentation highlighting my findings and conclusions will be disseminated as follows:

- I will present to my school and schools P&C association, Information will be published in the schools newsletter and web page and information will be provided to local Vocational Education teacher networks
- At a Regional level I will provide the Regional Vocational Education Consultants with presentations, information and findings. I will present at the Regional VET Co-ordinators meetings and publish information on the Regional website
- At the State level I will have the opportunity to present information to the staff of the VET directorate at a Senior Pathways Team meeting and will be invited to present my findings at a State VOC ed consultants Professional Development day. Through my continued association and membership of VETnetwork Australia there is an opportunity to publish findings in the VETnetwork newsletter which is a National publication and the VOCAL Journal which is a Bi-annual publication that has a National and International content and subscribers
- During the study tour I will also look to take advantage of social media by keeping a journal via a blog and using Twitter to provide relevant links to people and places of interest.

TOTAL MARKS: /40

Please continue to sections 3, 4 and 5.