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Collaborating Organisation:



INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION CONFERENCE 2019

New Era of Global Collaboration

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Hong Kong Convention
and Exhibition Centre

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The role of universities in supporting international dispute resolution processes

*Michele Ruyters
Associate Dean, Criminology and Justice Studies, RMIT
University*

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The role of Universities in supporting international dispute resolution processes

Re-thinking dispute resolution education in universities

Opportunities to re-think how universities engage in the training of mediation and other dispute resolution specialists



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The role of universities in supporting international dispute resolution processes

Dispute resolution study is typically associated with law schools.

Law degrees in Australia have been described as generalist – the ‘new arts degree’ – because of the portability of legal skills such as problem solving

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The role of universities in supporting international dispute resolution processes

Concern about over-supply of graduates and lack of employment opportunities. In Australia e.g. this is partly due to:

- Increase in number of law schools
- Law schools are relatively profitable

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The role of universities in supporting international dispute resolution processes

Dispute resolution often offered as optional study, or integrated in other teaching that may not be taught by a specialist.

Students' experience of dispute resolution may be limited to litigation contexts

In Australia, only a small number of specialist stand-alone PG qualifications

So there may be a need to re-think how dispute resolution training is situated in universities

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What can universities offer?

Global partnerships between education providers and dispute resolution centres

Multi--institutional and multidisciplinary deliveries/partnered clinics

Nimble, bespoke and flexible curriculum that can address cross-border, linguistic and diversity needs

Situates international dispute resolution within broader academic, professional and educational contexts