1. **5 STARS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG**

The stars are certainly shining brightly for the University of Wollongong this week. First the announcement on August 2 by the Australian Education Minister Dr Brendan Nelson that UOW is to start a graduate school of medicine in 2006; and now yesterday’s release of the 2005 Good Universities Guide reveals UOW’s outstanding star rating compared to other Australian universities.

In the three key performance-based indicators in the Guide (i.e. the categories of “Status and Standing”, “The Educational Experience” and “Graduate Outcomes”), Wollongong has increased its star ratings from 45 to 49 out of a possible 55 stars. These three categories contain 11 sections each carrying a possible maximum of five stars.

For the past five years, UOW has topped the country for the most stars in “The educational experience” and “Graduate Outcomes”. These categories indicate how the graduates rate their experience at a university, and how they fare in actually getting a job and their starting salaries.

Now UOW has added a new five-star rating for research intensity (from the “Status and Standing” category) to its list of achievements in the Guide. UOW’s five-star rating for research intensity (up from the previous four stars) sees it join an elite group of just eight universities at the top of the rankings in this important category.

UOW’s research ranking is now four stars in “Research Grants” – a major achievement considering the University has yet to establish its medical school which is traditionally the major source of research grants in Australia.

2. **WOLLONGONG’S RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**

The University of Wollongong’s remarkable research record proves size is no barrier to excellence. In fact, the University of Wollongong is one of Australia’s best performing research institutions.
Figures for 2003 indicate total research income will exceed $22 Million, up from $18.8 Million in 2002. The major areas in which the university has increased are in the Australian Competitive Grants (ARC) (up to $11 Million from $8.8 Million) and in Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) income (up to $2.7 Million from $1.8 Million).

The outcomes of the ARC Linkage projects have also been announced. The University was successful in gaining funding for 12 of these linkage projects. Notable industry links in these include:

- The Cancer Council NSW
- SunPower Corporation
- Blue Scope Steel (BHP)

The Centre for Information Security has secured a contract to the value of $270K with the Defence Signal Directorate (DSD) on next generation firewalls and intrusion detection systems. The Faculty of Informatics research team includes Professor Rei Safavi-Naini, Dr. Willy Susilo and Dr. Yi Mu.

Further information about UOW's research strengths can be found at: http://www.uow.edu.au/research/researchmanagement/res-strengths.html

3. UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG ‘NEWS DIRECT’

The University of Wollongong has an exiting Online News broadcast. Get all the latest UOW news and information direct to your email - served fresh every week…

To register for ‘News Direct’ simply click the online registration icon in the bottom right hand corner of the media website and follow the prompts. http://media.uow.edu.au/

4. INTERNATIONAL WEEK AT UOW

International Week was held at the University from August 2 to 8. The week was a celebration of cultural harmony and diversity on campus and in the wider community. Events held across the week aimed to celebrate the international diversity of the University, its staff and students. Details on the activities can be found at: http://www.uow.edu.au/about/internationalweek/

On behalf of the team at Wollongong Uniadvice I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

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