Janet

I do research in the areas of policing and the legal governance of crime and justice issues. What’s exciting about those is the newly established ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security at Griffith because it’s brought together a critical mass of scholars who are interested in pursuing the same kinds of research questions as I am and who provide a great body of researchers. Australia, like many other countries around the world since September 11, 2001, has introduced a large number of new laws, regulations and policies aimed at stopping terrorism. What hasn’t happened is any form of effective evaluation or study of how those laws have been implemented and whether they do in fact achieve their objective of stopping terrorism and we’re really keen to build an evidence base around those areas.

Susan

My research is exciting because I am looking at trying to build an evidence base around counter terrorism legislation and preventative measures that have been put into place and I’m doing that in a cross jurisdictional context.

Janet

We really see research students as colleagues who bring something unique and individual to our research projects, rather than being traditional students. A person like Sue, for example, brings to Griffith international experience, having worked in criminal justice in both the UK and Canada, her language abilities means that she will be able to undertake field research in Europe, in places that I certainly couldn’t operate in. So she really brings a great deal of advantages with her as a student at Griffith.

Susan

A student/supervisor relationship is really important because without our supervisors we wouldn’t be doing our research as effectively as we are. They help us in clarifying questions and working through the problem and getting the most out of us to perform better in a scholarly context. Janet helps me very much in my research because she is very much engaged in what we do. She provides valuable feedback and helps get the most out of us in terms of performing in a PhD.

Coming to Griffith was a no-brainer really, considering the world wide reputation of both the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, as well as the ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security and the experts that were associated with those schools. There are both national and international travel opportunities here at Griffith. There are several national conferences that we are encouraged to both participate and attend, and international travel opportunities depending on conferences that might be relevant to your research. We have a very valuable support network throughout Griffith and the Centre of
Excellence. In the Centre of Excellence, for instance, we have a great bunch of scholars who are always willing to help and discuss any research questions that we might have. In terms of our peers, we’ve got a great bunch of fellow PhD students with whom we can regularly get together and feedback on our experiences. Griffith Graduate School has a number of great workshops available to research students and there are several that you can pick and choose from depending on your needs and where you’re at at your PhD. So that can be how to write more effectively as well as how to prepare for your confirmation seminar, for instance.

Janet

I’ve been working at Griffith for ten years now and the great thing about Griffith is that it’s a constantly changing environment, particularly in terms of research. We have new initiatives like the Centre of Excellence, which really makes life here exciting because there are always new challenges and things to explore. As I said, we treat research students as collaborators, we think of them as colleagues rather than students. They join a great team of other scholars. They have the capacity to engage in all sorts of seminars and workshops. We encourage them to travel and to present at conferences and it’s also a place where they can really engage with industry stakeholders. At CEPs we take a great deal of care to make sure that the end users of our research are involved with projects right from the beginning and that gives students a great in with industry when they finish their degree.