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## RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2024

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**Institution:** Federation University

**Title:** Nurturing laboratory skills for industry

**Abstract:** The launch of Federation University as Australia's first co-operative university connects students to industry as a core part of their degree. There are a significant number of first in family student enrolments and mature-aged students enrolled in the 3rd year Food Microbiology unit. This unit is core or elective depending on the Science degree a student is enrolled in.

As students will eventually need to undertake placement in industry, it is essential for students to be equipped with professional and laboratory skills prior to undertaking their placement. As such, this unit has face-to-face laboratory sessions designed for students to conduct microbiological methods aligned with the NATA accredited microbiological testing methods which is both nationally and internationally recognised. Students are trained to be competent in their laboratory skills during these sessions. Upon completion of this unit, competent students often go on to undertake a microbiology research component to enhance their skills, after which they do a workplace experience in an industrial setting. This was also reflected in student feedback.

The impact of nurturing our students with the necessary skills and placing them in the industry establishes positive relationships between academia and industry and provides students with easier job opportunities upon graduation.