

# 2020 NCSEHE EQUITY FELLOW

National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education



## MR DAVID ECKSTEIN

Swinburne University of Technology

### CONTACT DETAILS

Email: [deckstein@swin.edu.au](mailto:deckstein@swin.edu.au)

Phone: (03) 9214 8350

Twitter: [@DavidREckstein](https://twitter.com/DavidREckstein)

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Meaningful jobs for graduates with disability: From luck to business as usual

“Students with disability are more likely to be unemployed after completing university than graduates without disability. Also, students with disability that are employed are more likely to end up with work that does not use their skills or education (2018 Graduate Outcomes Survey). They also make up only two per cent of students taking part in employers’ graduate programs (AAGE Graduate Survey, 2019) which are important employment pathways.

There is little argument that more Australian universities need to offer targeted careers support for students with disability to help address this inequity. However it is not necessarily a straightforward thing to provide. Resource constraints and different operational contexts affect institutional ability to follow through on their desire to provide tailored services.

This Fellowship project aims to add disability to the national conversation about student employment by identifying best practice initiatives and developing open-access tools and guidelines for all universities to use. A key project deliverable will be the creation of a national community of practice and an annual summit to help universities develop institutionally-specific strategies and support programs. Doing so will also help universities prepare to meet future funding-linked student-employment targets. Both students with disability and universities stand to benefit. It’s a potential win-win!

This Fellowship represents a remarkable opportunity to collaborate at scale and interrogate different approaches to helping students with disability get meaningful work after graduation. It’s a chance to understand more about why particular approaches suit some contexts better than others, and what will realistically characterise future best practice in this fundamental aspect of student success.”

---

*The NCSEHE Equity Fellows Program is supported through the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education with funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Education.*



**NCSEHE**

National Centre for Student  
Equity in Higher Education



**Curtin University**