

Bridging Minds: Australia-France Research Forum

Program

Meeting	AUFRANDE Annual Event
Date	3-4 June 2025
Location	Building 8 - Kaleide Theatre and Megaflex rooms RMIT University, 360 Swanston Street Melbourne, VIC 3000 Australia

About this event

RMIT University is hosting 'Bridging Minds: Australia-France Research Forum', the first AUFRANDE annual event in Australia, organised in close collaboration with AFRAN.

This forum brings together researchers, policy makers and industry experts in STEM and related areas to share insights and foster innovation between France and Australia. With a combination of keynote speeches, interactive workshops, poster sessions and expert panel discussions, this forum is an opportunity for attendees to connect and forge new partnerships, as well as build bridges of knowledge and innovation between Australia and France.

Agenda

Tuesday 3 June	
09:00 - 09:30	Opening Session
09:30 - 10:30	Crossing Borders: Innovating Together in France-Australia Research
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:00 - 11:45	Navigating Research Integrity in the Age of AI
11:45 - 12:00	Introduction to the Scientific Workshops
12:00 - 1:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
1:00 - 2:30	Scientific Workshops: Exploring Franco-Australian Research Synergies
2:30 - 3:00	Conclusion of the Scientific Workshops & Next Steps

Wednesday 4 June	
9:00 - 09:50	Green Pathways: Implementing Sustainable Practices in Research
09:50 - 10:30	Scientific Presentations by the AUFRANDE Doctoral Candidates
10:30 - 10:50	<i>Break</i>
10:50 - 11:30	Scientific Presentations by the AUFRANDE Doctoral Candidates
11:30 - 12:15	Connecting worlds: industry perspectives on global partnerships and careers
12:15 - 12:30	Closing Ceremony and Best Presentation Award
<i>End of the Event</i>	
Afternoon Restricted	Meeting of AUFRANDE Supervisors & Training Workshops for AUFRANDE and REDI Doctoral Candidates

In collaboration with



Detailed program

Tuesday 3 June

Opening Session

9.00 am – 9.30 am

Welcome address

H.E. Pierre-André Imbert, Ambassador of France to Australia

Ms. Fiona Letos, Executive Director Trade, Global Engagement and International Education, Global Victoria

Prof. Catherine Itsiopoulos, Interim Deputy Vice Chancellor of the STEM College & Vice-President, RMIT University

Introduction of the AUFRANDE Program

Dist. Prof. Arnan Mitchell, Distinguished Professor, RMIT University

Session 1: "Crossing Borders: Innovating Together in France-Australia Research"

9.30 am – 10.30 am

Introduction

Dr. Nathalie Simenel-Amar, Science and Technology Officer, Embassy of France in Canberra

Panel discussion

Dr. Jean-Philippe Diguët, Director, IRL Crossing

Prof. Frédéric Hollande, Director, IRL PHANTOM & Vice-President, AFRAN

Prof. Jenny Pringle, Director, ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre for Future Energy Storage Technologies, Deakin University

Prof. Joy Sumner, Co-Director of FACET, Swinburne University of Technology

Moderated by **Prof. Karen Hapgood**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Swinburne University of Technology

Tea Break

Session 2: "Navigating Research Integrity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence"

11.00 am – 11.45 am

Panel discussion

Dr. Daniel Barr, Principal Advisor, Research Integrity, RMIT University

Dr. Mona El-Ayoubi, Senior Educational Development Consultant

Prof. Olaf Maennel, Chair for Cybersecurity, Defence Science and Technology Group, University of Adelaide

Prof. Justin Zobel, Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate & International Research, the University of Melbourne

Moderated by **Dr. Kimberley Coulson**, Strategy and Operations Manager, AFRAN

Introduction to the Scientific Workshops "Exploring Franco-Australian Research Synergies"

11.45 am – 12.00 pm

Prof. Thierry Corrège, Regional Director of the CNRS Representative Office in Oceania & **Assoc. Prof. Yvonne Durandet**, Academic Director WIL, Swinburne University of Technology

Lunch Break

Scientific Workshops "Exploring Franco-Australian Research Synergies"

1.00 pm – 2.30 pm

Physics & engineering

Facilitated by **Assoc. Prof. Yvonne Durandet & Ms. Celia Wong**

Engineering solutions to address environmental sciences

Facilitated by **Prof. Aonghus McNabola & Prof. Thierry Corrège**

Computer sciences applied to engineering

Facilitated by **Prof. Olaf Maennel & Mr. Taha Lamine**

Energy

Facilitated by **Prof. Rey Chin & Dr. Kimberley Coulson**

Conclusions of the Scientific Workshops & Next Steps

2.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Prof. Thierry Corrège, Regional Director of the CNRS Representative Office in Oceania & **Assoc. Prof. Yvonne Durandet**, Academic Director WIL, Swinburne University of Technology



Wednesday 4 June

Session 3: "Green Pathways: Implementing Sustainable Practices in Research"

9.00 am – 9.50 am

Panel discussion

Ms. Mélanie Ducros, Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Officer, Expertise France

Prof. Usha Iyer-Raniga, Professor of Sustainable Built Environment in the School of Property, Construction and Project Management, RMIT University

Prof. Aonghus McNabola, Deputy Dean International of the School of Engineering, RMIT University

Ms. Leonie Paul, REDI PhD candidate, LUT University & RMIT University

Moderated by **Ms. Jessica Davis**, Dual and Joint Degree Coordinator, the University of Sydney

Session 4: Scientific Presentations by the AUFRANDE Doctoral Candidates

9.50 am – 10.25 am

Facilitated by **Ms. Héloïse Bernard**

Felix Pollak, Marta Stentella, Jacek Bursztynowicz, Hamza Nisar, Sebin Xavier, Manish Kumar

Tea Break

10.50 am – 11.30 am

Shahaz Shahul Hameed, Krupamaya Panda, Sebastian Alveteg, Ananthakrishnan Ravindran, Ardianto Wibowo, Taha Lamine

Session 5: "Connecting worlds: industry perspectives on global partnerships and careers"

11.30 am – 12.15 pm

Panel discussion

Prof. Kondo-François Aguey-Zinsou, President and CTO, H2potential & Co-Director, FACES

Dr. Aaron Belbasis, Applied Research Leader, Aurecon

Dr. Sergey Pikuz, Chief Technology Officer, HB11 Energy

Mr. Nishant Shandilya, Country Representative for Australia & New Zealand, EURAXESS Worldwide

Moderated by **Mr. Manish Kumar**, AUFRANDE Doctoral Candidate, ENSAM & UNSW

Closing ceremony and best presentation award

12.15 pm – 12.30 pm

Jury

Assoc. Prof. Yvonne Durandet, Associate Professor, Advanced Manufacturing, Swinburne University of Technology

Mr. Nishant Shandilya, Country Representative for Australia & New Zealand, EURAXESS Worldwide

Dr. Nathalie Simenel-Amar, Science and Technology Officer, Embassy of France in Canberra

Event facilitated by **Ms. Pauline Rasera**, AUFRANDE Project Manager, RMIT Europe