AINSE – The Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering

Michelle Durant
Managing Director, AINSE

Biography
Michelle commenced her role as Interim Managing Director of AINSE in April 2016 and was successful in October 2016 in being selected for the Managing Director position. Michelle brings a deep knowledge of the AINSE business, having previously held the role of Business Manager and Scientific Coordinator. Michelle’s appointment enables AINSE to take advantage of her extensive operational experience and utilise her leadership talents.

Michelle has a wide range of experience working within the science and engineering fields both nationally and internationally, including in Japan, USA and Australia. She has a Bachelor of Science from Flinders University and a Bachelor of Financial Administration from the University of New England with extra studies in Japanese and more recently corporate governance. She has worked at the Investigator Science and Technology Centre in Adelaide, The University of California Berkeley, The University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Australian National Maritime Museum, and locally in the Sutherland Shire prior to joining AINSE in 2011.

Michelle has an impressive resume with background experience in corporate governance, financial management, and leadership across the education, research and corporate sectors.

Abstract
The Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE) is an integral organisation for enhancing Australia’s capability in nuclear science and engineering by facilitating world-class research and education. AINSE offers a range of programs and services to its members including generous conference support, inspiring symposiums, honours / postgraduate scholarships and intensive education schools. These benefits aim to foster scientific advancement and promote an effective collaboration between AINSE members and ANSTO.
AINSE has membership from 41 universities, ANSTO, CSIRO, and DSTG and has recently opened up industry and individual membership. The first industry member of AINSE is Theranostics Australia and the first individual member is Dr Adi Paterson.

AINSE has strong connections with students at the undergraduate level through to PhD. Each year a senior undergraduate student from every university is given the opportunity to spend a week at ANSTO at Lucas Heights to attend the AINSE Winter School. The Winter School involves a mixture of lectures, experimental sessions and demonstrations and includes hands-on experience in experiments in: neutron scattering, ion beam accelerators, gamma irradiation, the use of natural radioactivity in environmental studies and using nuclear techniques in soil and ground water studies.

AINSE also connects with students at the honours and PhD level. For the honours scholarship, eligible students from AINSE member institutions are enrolled in an honours or honours equivalent program, and will be conducting research at ANSTO. AINSE honour scholars receive a $5,000 stipend. AINSE currently supports 20 honours students.

At the PhD level AINSE offers awards for postgraduate students whose research projects are associated with nuclear science, or its applications, and are undertaking research at ANSTO. Students are particularly encouraged in fields which are related to the research activities of ANSTO. Research Supplements are the principal form of award and are offered to scholars who are receiving a Research Training Program (RTP) or equivalent scholarship. Students receive travel and accommodation support throughout their PhD and a $7,500 annual stipend. AINSE currently supports over 80 PhD students and in mid-October will be welcoming the new cohort of students to attend a Post Graduate Orientation Week at Lucas Heights.

There are many more benefits for AINSE members ranging from travel and accommodation support for students and academics to visit Lucas through to opportunities for students to undertake overseas internships in France through SAAFE (Scholarship AINSE, ANSTO, and French Embassy) and other international travel scholarships. AINSE was also successful in 2017 to attract funding to hold a Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship school (AINSE WISE School) for first year undergraduate students. This project was funded by the Australian Government and will be held 4-6 December 2017.

AINSE is also playing a key role in the advocacy for carbon ion particle in Australia by taking a delegation to Japan to investigate the benefits of this important treatment. The study tour will provide essential expertise and international connections that will broaden the individual networking with people interested in these facilities.
Overview of AINSE Programs

Michelle Durant
Managing Director – AINSE Limited
AINSE Ltd Membership

- ANSTO
- CSIRO
- DSTG
- Theranostics Australia
- The University of Sydney
- Western Sydney University
- The University of Adelaide
- The University of Wollongong
- Flinders University
- Australian Catholic University
- The University of Auckland
- University of Canterbury
- University of Canberra
- Monash University
- Murdoch University
- The University of Newcastle
- Charles Darwin University
- CQ University
- Charles Sturt University
- Deakin University
- Edith Cowan University
- Federation University
- Griffith University
- James Cook University
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Massey University
- University of Otago
- RMIT University
- University of Tasmania
- University of Technology Sydney
- The University of New South Wales
- The University of Queensland
- Queensland University of Technology
- Southern Cross University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- The University of Melbourne
- The University of New England
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- The University of Western Australia
- Victoria University of Wellington
- The University of Waikato
- The University of South Australia
- Curtin University of Technology
- The Australian National University

Plus individual members
AINSE Winter School

Final year undergraduate students.
Stay at ANSTO – Lucas Heights for 5 days.
Attend tours, science experiments and guest speakers.
AINSE Honours Scholarships

Students are eligible to apply if they are either undertaking work with ANSTO or processing prior data.
AINSE Post Graduate Research Awards

Students must have an Australian Postgraduate award or equivalent. New students are invited to attend an orientation at Lucas Heights.
Residential Student Scholarship

Students must be funded under a Research Training Program (RTP) or equivalent.
Scholarship AINSE ANSTO French Embassy SAAFE

For 4 students each year.

Students from Australia:
2 students from Australia to visit France for 3-6 months.

Students from France:
2 students from France to visit ANSTO for 3-6 months.
Other Opportunities & Information

- Travel and accommodation support to Lucas Heights when successful through the ANSTO portal.
- International conference support.
- Symposiums.
- Regional conference events.
- AINSE/ANSTO networking dinners.

AINSE provides administration support for the Australian ITER forum website:
http://fusion.ainse.edu.au
AINSE Study Tour in Japan
Highlighting the benefits of particle therapy.
Celebration of Nuclear Science Week

Nuclear Science Week (NSW) is an international, broadly observed week-long celebration to focus interest on all aspects of nuclear science.

http://www.nuclearscienceweek.org