

MEDIA RELEASE

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: CHIEFS OF STAFF; NEWS DIRECTORS



From Hobart to Hangzhou: UTAS graduations in China

There's a UTAS graduation ceremony on this weekend, but not as you know it.

Instead of graduates walking down the aisle at the University Centre in Sandy Bay or in Launceston's Albert Hall they'll be walking onstage at the Pingfeng campus of the Zhejiang University - in Hangzhou.

Hangzhou is the capital and largest city of Zhejiang Province in Eastern China.

The ceremony tomorrow (**Saturday, 6 July 2013**) is being held for candidates graduating with Computer Science degrees through a partnership with the International College of the Zhejiang University of Technology (ZUT). At the completion of four years of study in China, students receive degrees from both UTAS and ZUT.

This year there are 77 students expected to attend the ceremony and receive a Bachelor of Computing. This will be the eighth cohort of students to graduate from the Hangzhou program.

There will also be 339 students graduating on **Monday 8 July** with degrees from UTAS and the AIEN institute of Shanghai Ocean University (SOU) in the Bachelor of Information Systems, Bachelor of Business, and Bachelor of Management.

The University of Tasmania runs joint international programs with ZUT in Hangzhou and SOU to deliver Australian courses in management, computer science and information systems. The partnership has been operating successfully since 2002.

UTAS Chancellor Mr Michael Field AC, who will be attending the graduations in China, said that the university was delighted to be part of the international endeavour.

"The University of Tasmania and the University Council appreciate very strongly the advantages of having this international dimension to our university and have worked hard to advance it."

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said: "For nearly 1000 years universities have been places where scholars from different nations have joined together to form learning communities. Indeed, universities have been truly international institutions from the time they began."

“The benefits of these international exchanges have been incalculable, resulting in the transfer of knowledge and cultural practices from one society to another, and a growth in international understanding.”

Graduation ceremonies will be conducted in both English and Chinese and attended by the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor.

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