



2020 AWARD FOR AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, HEALTH AND RELATED STUDIES

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JACK WANG

The University of Queensland

Jack Wang challenges his students to become citizen scientists in the digital age, who learn through creating, analysing, and communicating scientific findings to the masses. Jack embeds disease outbreak scenarios into his teaching, which are brought to life through interactive classroom discussions, audio-visual stimulus, and hands-on undergraduate research experiences. His students are involved in innovative blended learning activities - they participate in crowd-sourced citizen science research projects to discover novel therapeutics against global pandemics and create videos and podcasts to explain their original findings to the general public.

To deliver individualised feedback for these multimedia-orientated assessment tasks, Jack developed a new learning analytics platform, which identified consistent gaps in students' technological and digital literacy. He is a strong advocate for student digital equity, and serves on an interdisciplinary panel promoting sector-wide support for digital literacy.

To further this cause, in 2015 Jack launched the Communication Ambassador Program - a nationwide initiative providing multimedia and communication training for early-career scientists. Jack's work has been funded by faculty, institutional, and external grants, and disseminated through scholarly publications, invited presentations, and peer-mentoring of academics through Advance HE. Jack Wang is a recognised leader in science education, and has transformed learning for thousands of graduates.