



The Third Degree

Corporate Profile

October 2021

About | The Third Degree

The Premise | The Third Degree

The Third Degree is a research and higher education consultancy. We provide a support ecosystem for research students & professional development, as well as strategic solutions for Universities seeking to extend current capabilities.

We support postgraduate research students with access to experts and resources, giving students and emerging researchers enhanced avenues for personal and professional development.

We support Universities and industry learning providers with ensuring their programmes and delivery remain current and relevant. This includes programme audit services, programme design and delivery, and professional development training for educators.

Expertise

The Third Degree is a collective of global senior academics across disciplines. At the heart of our expertise is a genuine student-centric approach to developing researchers and educators. Underpinning this is a world class understanding of traditional and modern methodologies, stakeholder outreach initiatives for research dissemination and communication, and successful careers as researchers and educators.

The focal point for The Third Degree is to elevate education outcomes. We partner with Universities to provide resources and expertise at students' fingertips, and to ensure Universities are delivering research-based programmes that meet the needs of tomorrow. Our expertise can be embedded into existing University structures to complement their offerings, and to extend existing capabilities in delivering quality outcomes.

Our capabilities currently extend into departments associated with Arts & Social Science, Education, and Business Faculties. Our associates hold advanced degrees in their discipline area, are strong industry and service contributors, and have excelled in delivering scholarly and student-focussed outcomes throughout their career.

Promise to Clients

Exceptional Value

Our clients say that we add value to their research journey by bringing our experience from both academia and industry to the fore; helping each of them to strengthen their grasp of methodology and communication in research. Our clients are the subject matter experts; we support their development through sharing an in-depth awareness of the application and transferability of diverse research methodologies and the communication of research

Real Life Settings

As researchers and educators with deep content knowledge and diversity of understanding, we also have the gift for applying and communicating research into real-life settings and understand the way that technology, business, and marketing work, and how that can add value to your research outputs and career development.

Diverse Roles

You can engage with us as consultants, advisors, Devil's advocates, speakers, or professional mentors.

Academic Director | Dr Craig J Selby

PhD (Economics), MA (Development Economics), PGDipTertiaryTeaching (Leadership, Educational Systems Planning & Auditing), BA (Geography), DipWine, TTC



Craig is a qualitative and historic researcher. He has been involved in tertiary education and management since 1993, and has lectured and supervised research students at Universities and Polytechnics in several Asia-Pacific countries. He has also designed and facilitated teacher training and academic development in New Zealand and Malaysia.

He is multi-disciplinary in outlook; his undergraduate degree in socio-economic geography, masters in economic development, and doctoral work in economics and globalisation. He holds additional postgraduate qualifications in tertiary teaching and learning, and has a keen interest in educational management and facilitation development.

Craig's career started in learning support, which is why he chooses to be first and foremost a teacher and a mentor.

He is the Principal and co-founder of The Third Degree. He oversees the academic quality and direction of the platform, contributes to educator development and early career academic development programmes, as well as facilitating signature training (Pivoting Research, Historical Research, Supervision Agreements, Copyright & Your Thesis).

Services | The Third Degree

Research Support for PostGraduate Students

Research students at all stages need support. This might be advice on methodological approaches and structures, editing of written work, ways to negotiate difficult situations with supervisors, or guidance on analysis and data presentation software such as R, SPSS, or ArcGIS. The Third Degree's Associates are here to work alongside students, providing the support needed to continue research, and to develop as research professionals.

Be it a small question regarding the structure of a survey question or running a focus group, approaches to prioritising and organising a literature review, or the need to learn how to analyse and interpret data via recognisable software, we are proud to be your trusted de facto research partner.

Our team of senior academic consultants is available to guide and support you through your research journey. Each are well-respected and published academics in their own right, having held positions of responsibility within internationally-acclaimed universities and research institutions, and understand the journey that you are undertaking, as well as the responsibilities that ride on a quality supervisor or advisor.

Weekly Research Webinar Series

The Third Degree is committed to hosting and making freely available to students globally our weekly webinar series. These webinars explore topics of relevance to postgraduate students. Held (almost) every Wednesday (8pm GMT + 8), our webinars highlight issues related to the postgraduate research journey; from supervisor relationship development to proposal writing, understanding research methodologies, editing academic writing, to defending your thesis. There is a short Q&A opportunity afterwards, so feel free to come armed with questions. Not only an excellent opportunity to gain advice and clarification from our experts, they offer excellent networking students for research students (and academics) to meet and connect with each other.

Weekly Wednesday
WEBiNAR



Additional Learning Experiences

Bootcamps

Our monthly Bootcamps are a more serious affair. These bootcamp webinars are designed as small group (10 pax max), interactive online development experiences, to help you work through a specific issue related to your research journey. During the full day bootcamp we will workshop various activities, discuss best practice approaches, outline core concepts and perspectives to embed them, and hear from guest speakers about their experience and viewpoints. We charge a nominal fee for these bootcamps, and you will walk away with loads of new ideas and confidence, an interactive e-book covering the day's discussion, and a certificate of attendance. Bootcamps will commence January 2022.

Special Interest Sessions

When special guest speakers or panelists are available to facilitate a session on a special interest topic, eg; a latest methodological development, issues of researcher mental health, new software, etc, we will facilitate an online special interest session. These are ad hoc in timing, and based upon current developments in the industry and availability of guest speakers.

Curated By Request

We are always happy to run paid sessions on select topics by request for either universities or groups of students. Let us know your requirements, and we'll curate a programme tailor-made to your specific learning objectives.

The Third Degree | Platform

The Third Degree's online platform is the heart of its' outreach and service provision for research students.

A specifically-curated on-demand resource and academic platform for postgraduate students, accessed by subscription, provides videographic, text-based, and infographic resources for research students covering all aspects of their candidature and journey. Offering twelve modules, ranging from Research Proposals, Qualitative & Quantitative Methodologies, Writing, Supervisor Relations, and Preparing for the Viva, with over one thousand five hundred videos, the platform also facilitates real-time connectivity with our academics for individual consultations and guidance, as well as the opportunity to network with students in similar positions.

The Third Degree resource platform has just undergone beta-testing with two modules, and the remaining ten modules will be live by January 2022. Each module is coordinated by an experienced academic for content curation, who is in turn supported by other specialist academics for consultations and ongoing content development and extension.



Early Career Academic Development

The Third Degree offers comprehensive support and development opportunities to help progress our clients' early career academics.

Academics are central to the success of all universities for researching and teaching.

The Third Degree's development programme is available to institutions to support researchers' progression, nurture supervisory and collaborative research skills, and help academics to build a highly successful and fulfilling career here.

This training programme, delivered remotely, face-to-face, or in blended mode, has been curated by several exceptional educators, each of whom have held senior faculty positions.

Designed for Universities that lack substantive internal development support, not only does The Third Degree team deliver the programme, but our academics work with key departmental leaders to develop internal professional growth opportunities for continued delivery and success of the programme.

We provide a structured development programme for early career academics to support them in progressing. This takes the form of a set of achievement milestones, which clearly outline expectations throughout the development period. These milestones are mapped to our extensive development offer so it's clear what support is available at each stage.

Programme Audit, Development, & Accreditation

Every higher education institution must comply with the commitment to satisfy the needs of and expectations generated by society. In the context of a knowledge society and the increasing internationalisation of university programmes, the quality assurance of different programmes on the various levels of the higher education continuum is an inescapable challenge.

Ensuring that each and every programme on offer exceeds the mandated minimum standards is essential. The Third Degree offers programme audit services to evaluate programme resources, delivery, and growth against national-standard benchmarks; as well as providing guidance and action plans for remedial action should improvement be required.

The Third Degree also offers programme development and accreditation services to new universities, enabling measured but realistic growth in programme offerings, whilst ensuring quality resourcing, delivery, and continuity.



AUDIT

Consultancy

Universities are reacting with determination and creativity to the new challenges they face. Budget deficits have mushroomed following sudden declines in endowment values, deep cuts in education funding and limits on tuition increases.

Competition in the global job market is making new programmes, new training and new models of instruction essential in order for students to obtain gainful employment after graduation. And amidst a fluctuating student population, universities are harnessing new technologies, such as e-learning, as a way to reach even more students.

These pressures place core academic missions of teaching, research and outreach at risk.

To help bring the focus back to schools' core missions, The Third Degree assists departments, faculties, and institutions get back on the path to success:

- We are working to redesign the university model to make higher education a reality for more students globally.
- We closely examine school operations and organisations to determine which administrative support functions, and redundancies, are diverting scarce resources away from higher education's core purpose.
- We are finding ways to rationalise traditionally decentralised and highly complex organisation structures with widely disparate service levels and unworkable spans of control.

What To Expect

High-Impact Learning

The Third Degree Capability Building programmes are customised to achieve specific objectives, with content tailored by industry, university and role. Participants understand exactly how the training connects to their journey.

Subject Mastery

We start by providing a strong foundation, layer on more complex concepts and reinforce learning with reflective exercises to maximise retention.

An Interactive Experience

We don't just lecture. Our experts use a variety of delivery methods and creative approaches, including simulations, gaming and small-group learning, to keep programmes relatable, engaging and fun.

Energy and Inspiration

Feedback consistently demonstrates that researchers and academics who participate in The Third Degree programmes are more engaged and feel reinvigorated and supported as they sharpen their skills.

@ Work | The Third Degree

Testimonials

Dr Craig J Selby, I want to thank you again for the great session yesterday. The information you provided about being confident and knowledgeable in your research area as you communicate with others who are already established in the field was very helpful. In fact, I applied it today during a meeting with a professor on my committee and the meeting went splendidly.

Jimmonique (Post webinar message, Defending Your Research Proposal)

These are all very complex topics and you miraculously manage to make them look so simple. It's a gift. Your lectures are well structured, concise, and full of useful but also simple examples that are easy to understand. Great for researchers' self-confidence.

... And I really like your sense of humour.

Anita (Email)

I found it really interesting – who knew there was so much to it!! Certainly more complex than I'd appreciated.

You're fast becoming my research guru.

Debbie (Email)

Thankyou Dr Craig for such a wonderful presentation. It's really educative and transforming.

Idris (Writing Survey Questions)

Thanks a lot for the insights! One of the top-notch methodology tips I've ever taken.

DongSeob (Writing About Research Methodology)

I found this presentation beautifully articulated and wide ranging ... some of the random advice and personal development advice are pure gold!

Frank (Becoming a Strong Researcher)

Thank you Dr Craig ... you have got me working.

Sonia (Curating a Digital Profile for Emerging Researchers)

Thanks for the insightful sharing!

Osama (Becoming a Strong Researcher)

MOU's & Traction

The Third Degree is developing strong connections with higher education bodies and universities in South East Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. These connections enable us reach more students through our platform, support emerging researchers and early career academics, and provide strategic solutions to universities.



Traction

October 2020 to October 2021

- # 1863 | Students engaged for consultancy.
- # 59 | Free weekly webinars conducted.
- # 6275 | Students engaged through weekly webinars.
- # 1 | Pilot programme completed.
- # 32 | Paid training engagements.
- # 7 | Guest lectures given.
- # 37 | Academics provisionally onboarded as content contributors.
- # 6 | MOU's activated.



Management Team



Farrell Tan | Chief Executive Officer

Founding Director, Orchan Consulting Asia. Marketer, Strategist and Corporate Trainer. Business partner with Craig for over ten (10) years; 15 years in decision-making positions.

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Nik Lim | Sales & Technology Director

Former CEO/CDO of Fortune-500 linked multinational Agency, 2019 Paypal Incubator winner, 25 years experience in digitalisation of businesses.

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Dr Craig J Selby | Academic Director

Tertiary Principal & Academic Director; University Educator and Researcher; developer of postgraduate research methodology programmes; 25+ years in tertiary education; 20+ years in decision-making positions; 15 years in Malaysia.

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Advisory Board



Associate Professor Willie Smith

Former Head of School, Environment, University of Auckland. Academic roles in the United Kingdom, Africa, North America, and New Zealand. *Qualitative Research Advisor.*



Dr Vighneswaran Vithiatharan

Political Economist, Transformation Specialist. Senior Vice-President (Perintis Akal Sdn Bhd), Subject Matter Expert Speaker (London Speaker Bureau Asia). *Industry Advisor.*



Barbara Morgan

Tertiary College Principal, Teacher Trainer, Adult Educator, English Language Specialist, Communications & Writing Specialist. *Communication & Writing Advisor.*



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Thank you