



Contract Cheating in Research

Associate Professor Cath Ellis

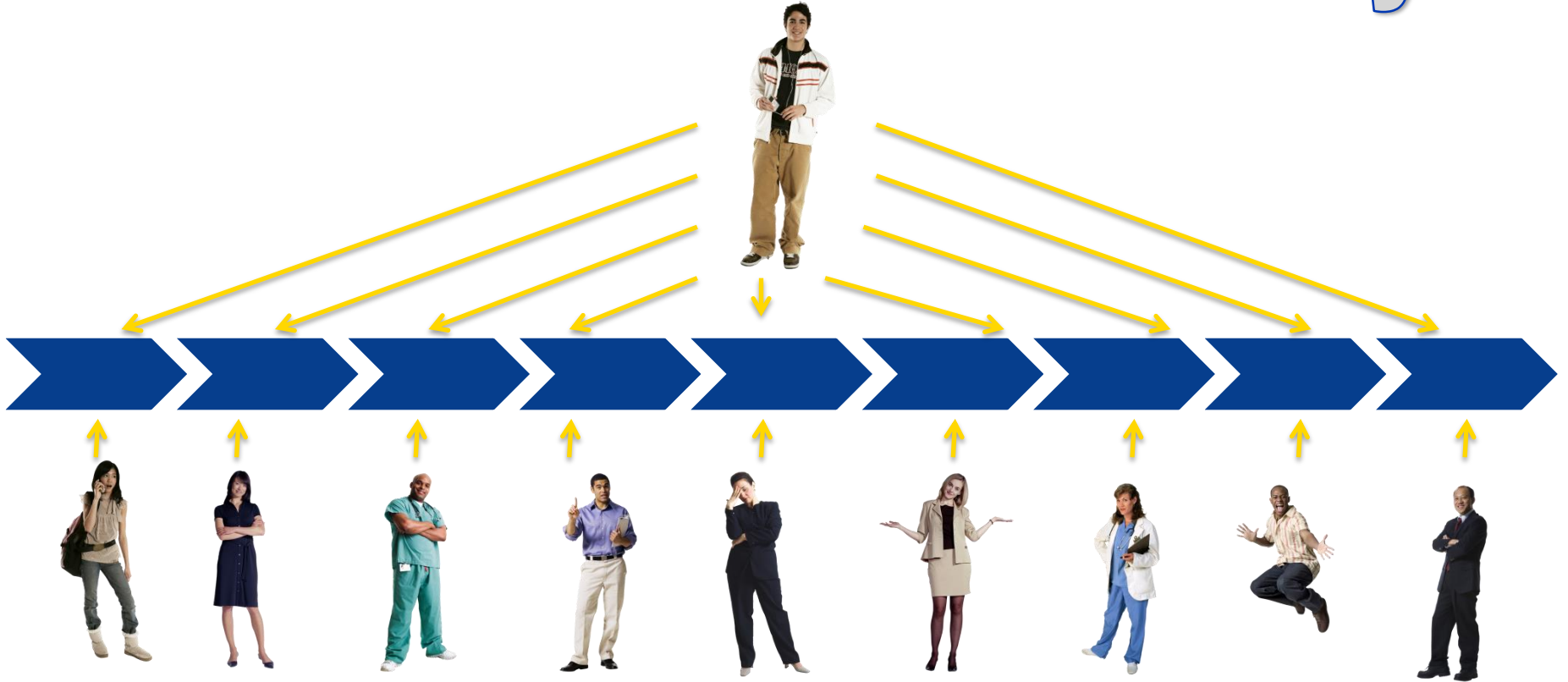
Associate Dean (Education), Arts & Social Sciences

Ms Bronwyn Greene

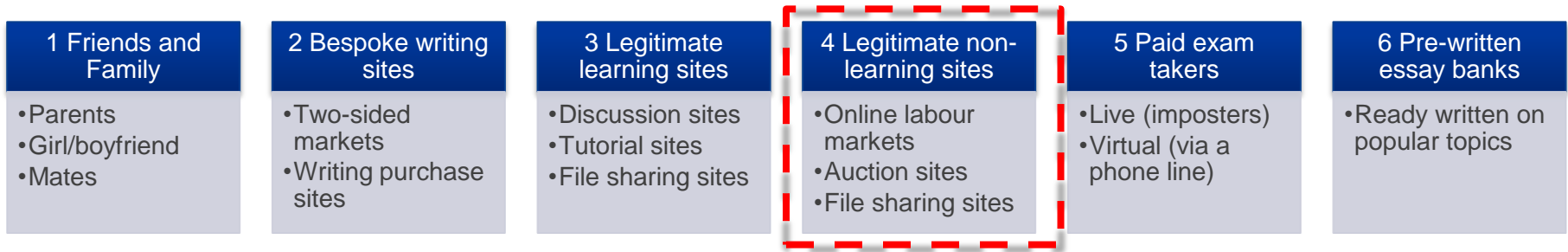
Director, UNSW Integrity

A student procures a third party (who knows about and benefits from the transaction) to produce academic work (usually but not always assessable work) on their behalf and then submits it to an educational institution as if it were their own work.

PhD/MRes Candidacy



Segments of Contract Cheating Problem



PhD Case Study

Anonymous tip off

Advertisement
posted on US
freelancer site

Hi

I am a PhD student in the area of [REDACTED], and my thesis title is about [REDACTED] and now I [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] want a professional writer to help me in writing the entire thesis.

I need full time commitment and full professional writer in the thesis area.

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE A BID IF YOU ARE NOT IN THE [REDACTED] AND IF YOU ARE NOT EXPERTS IN THE THESIS WRITING.

Thanks

PhD Case Study

About the Client

(4.32) 14 reviews

Australia

██████████ 02:06 AM

97 Jobs Posted

49% Hire Rate, 14 Open Jobs

\$2,348 Total Spent

62 Hires, 2 Active

\$9.63/hr Avg Hourly Rate

Paid

16 Hours

Member Since May 26, 2014

About the Client

★★★★☆ (3.71) 31 reviews

Australia

██████████ 06:12 AM

114 Jobs Posted

53% Hire Rate, 1 Open Job

\$7k+ Total Spent

84 Hires, 0 Active

\$8.54/hr Avg Hourly Rate

Paid

19 Hours

Member Since May 26, 2014

PhD Case Study



PhD Case Study

Anonymous tip off

Advertisement posted on US freelancer site

Investigation commenced with sequestering evidence

Computer, emails, lab books & physical materials

170 evidence items logged

Procurements

37 different freelancers used

22 professionals within research field

59 different names found in metadata

Across 11 Countries

Included fabricated & falsified data

Contracted Outputs

4 PhD Thesis Chapters

4 Annual Progress Review Reports

1 published book chapter

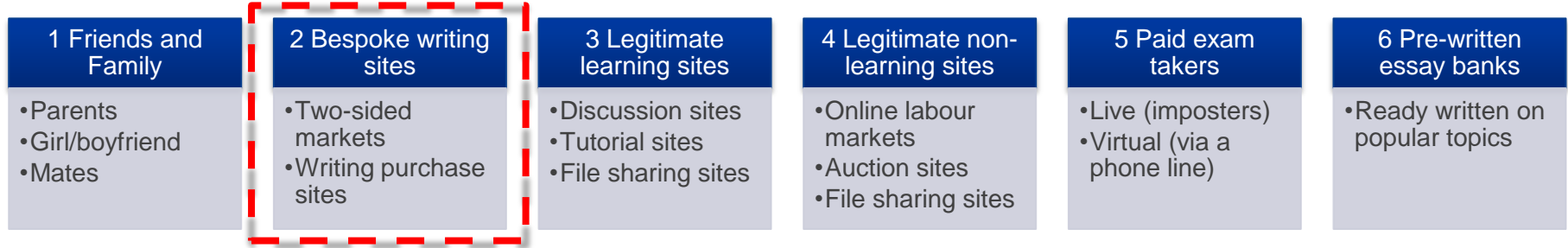
4 submitted journal manuscripts

2 Conference Presentations

3 published conference papers



Segments of Contract Cheating Problem



Writing purchase sites

Custom Paper Details

Topic: *

Subject area: *

Type of document:

Number of pages/words:
approx 275 words per page

Spacing: Single spaced

Urgency: Written by Top 10 Writers \$2.95/page

Academic Level: Choose Urgency First

Number of sources/references: VIP support: \$9.95

Style:

Currency:

Total (Kindly select "Type of Doc", "Urgency" and "Academic Level" accordingly)

Preferred language style:

Track ID
(Optional- so you can track your orders)

Order description: *
(type your instructions here)

If you have additional files, you will upload them at 'Manage Orders' section.

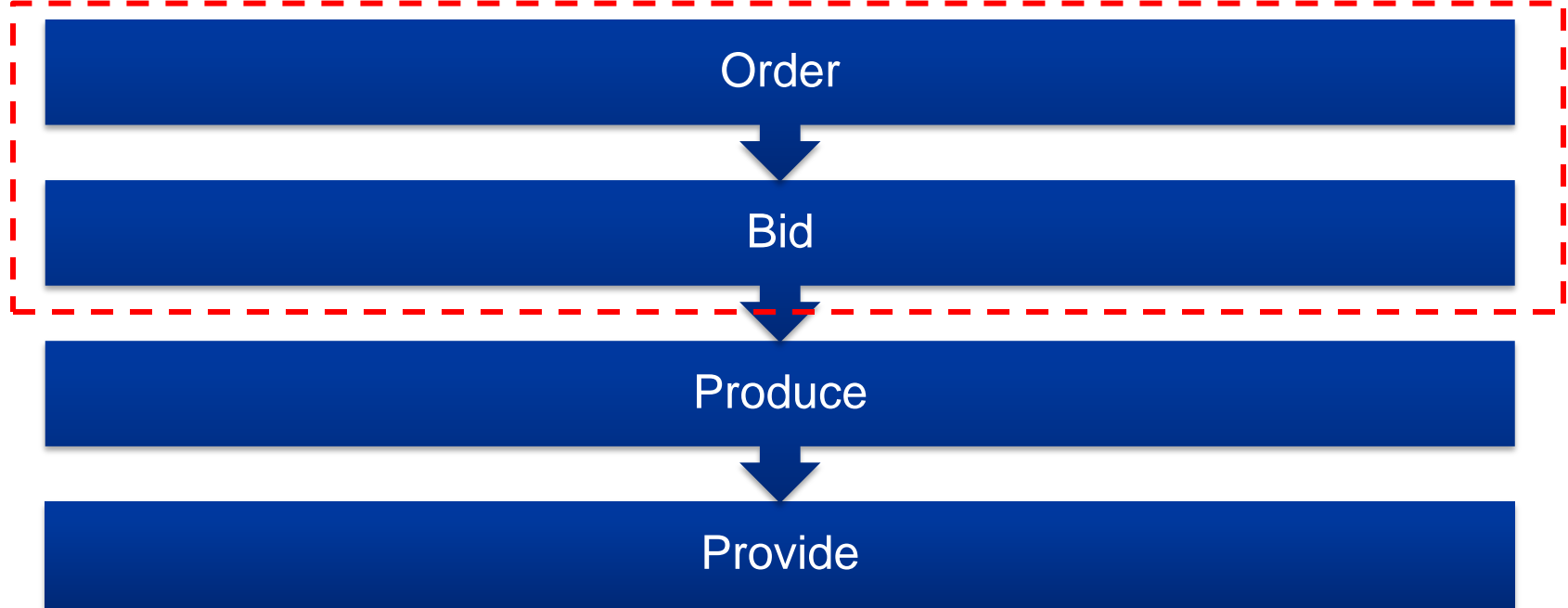
Night calls allowed:

Preferred writer's ID:

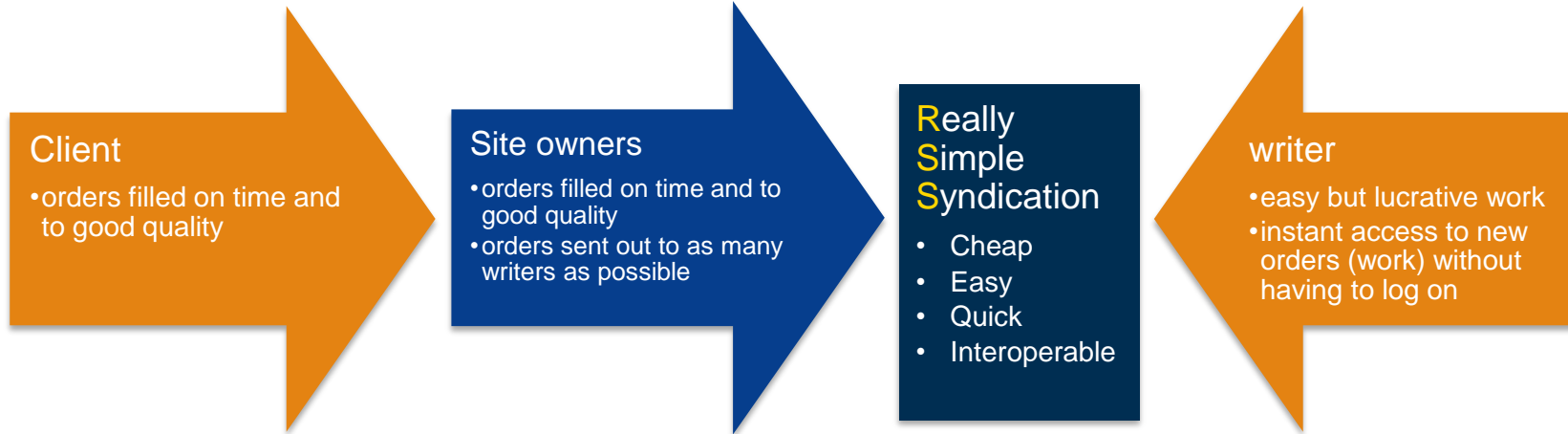
Terms and Conditions: I accept terms and conditions
 I do not accept



How it works



WIIFM?



What we know about these RSS orders

WE KNOW

That someone (a student) has been motivated to place this order

Roughly when the order was placed (but not precisely)

That money has been committed for the work to be done

WE DON'T KNOW

Who has placed the order or where they are studying

How much it cost

Whether or not the order has been filled

Whether or not the work has been submitted at an institution for assessment

Method

Harvested orders from 260 feeds, $n \Rightarrow 500,000$

Word search: eg. 'doctoral', 'dissertation', 'masters', 'research'

Selected a representative sample

Organised into a timeline of typical PhD activities

Proposal



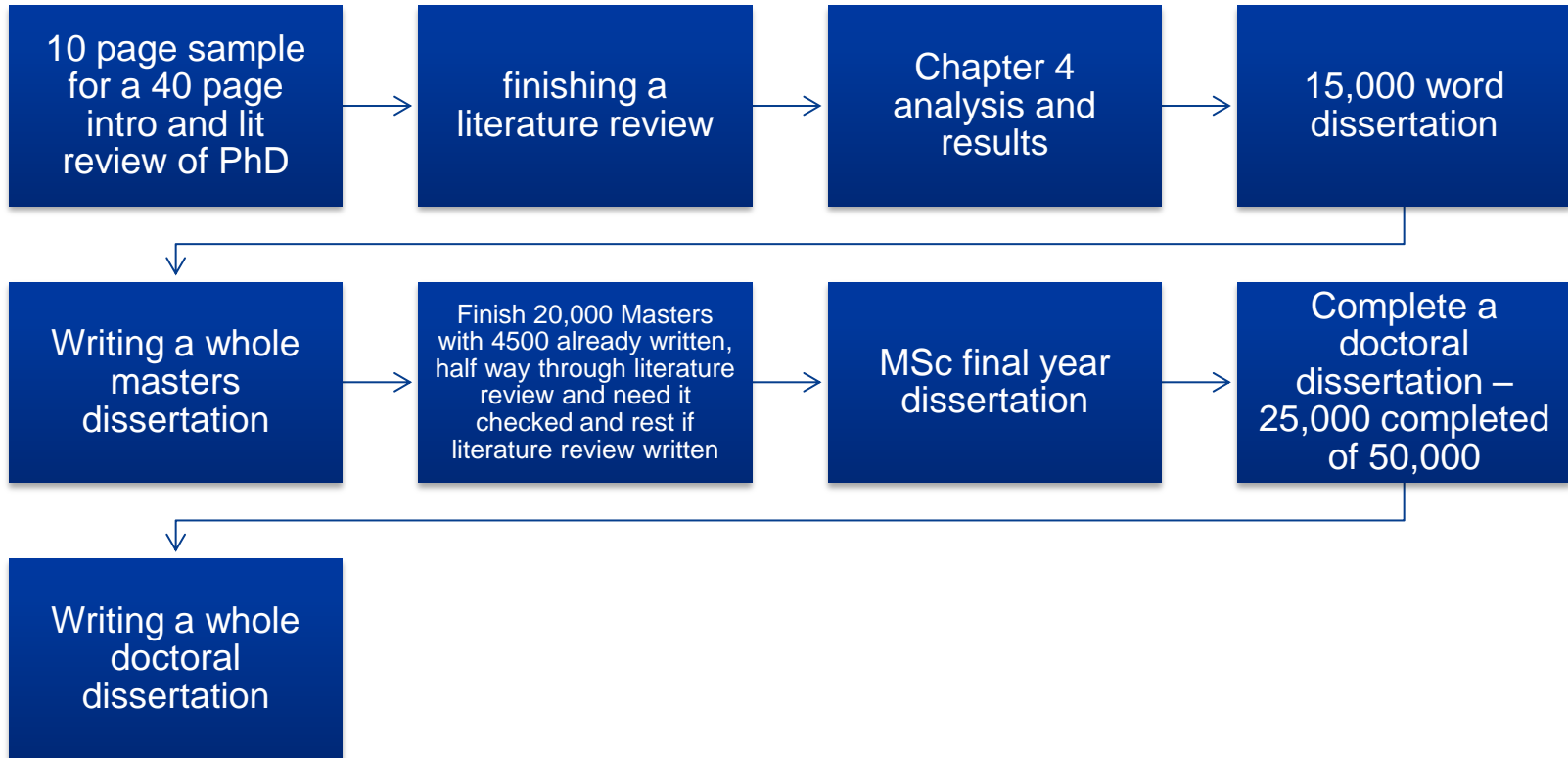
Research Training



Research project...



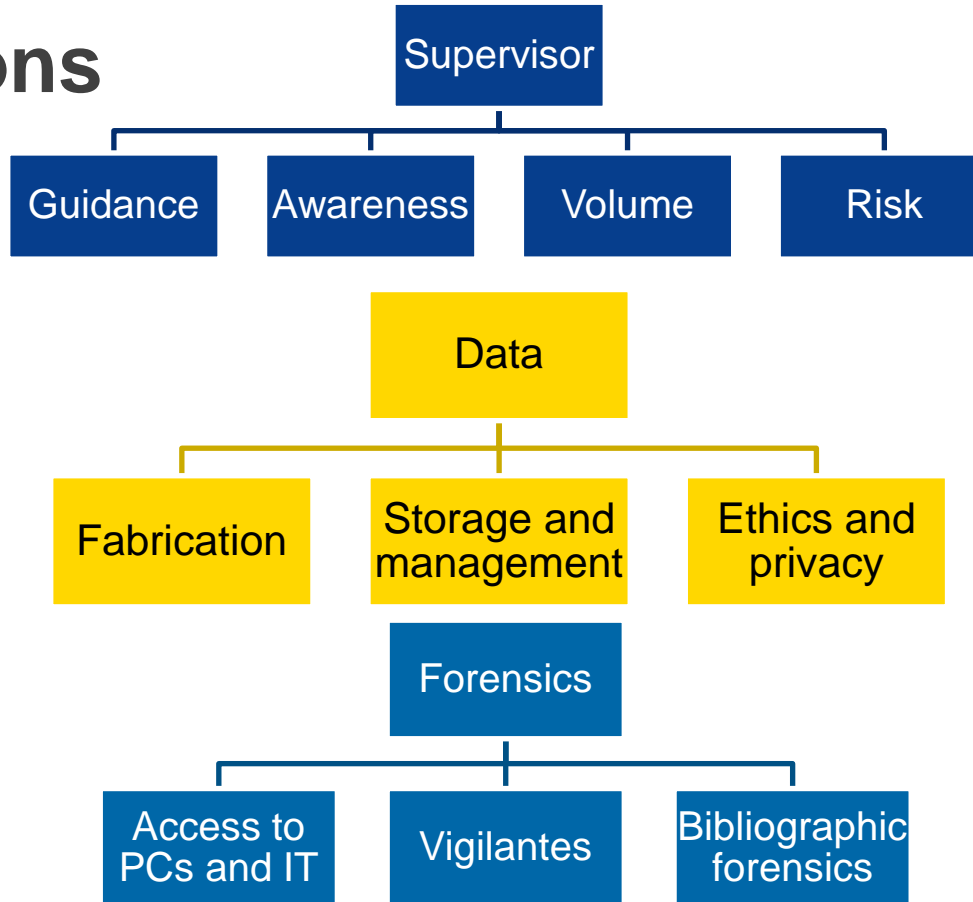
Research project continued...



But wait, there's more...

**Nominating
research mentor
for an award**

Conclusions



Take aways

