

Research Policy

WSB University

– Draft –

Main goal:

This policy sets the research environment within which academic staff and postgraduate research students carry out their research. It also provides an overarching framework for the development and implementation of all research management at WSB University.

Research

Research is original, independent investigation undertaken to contribute to knowledge and understanding and, in the case of some disciplines, cultural innovation or aesthetic refinement. Research typically involves inquiry of an experimental or critical nature driven by hypothesis or intellectual positions capable of rigorous assessment by experts in a given discipline. Research includes work of direct relevance to the specific needs of communities, government, industry and commerce. Research may include: contributions to the intellectual underpinning of subjects and disciplines (for example, dictionaries and scholarly editions) the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved, materials, devices, products, communications or processes the synthesis and analysis of previous Research to the extent that it is new and creative. Research findings must be open to scrutiny or formal evaluation by experts within the field. This may be achieved through various forms of dissemination including, but not limited to, publication, manufacture, construction, public presentation, or provision of confidential reports. Research does not include activities that are part of routine standard practice or outputs that do not embody original Research.

This excludes:

- routine testing
- data-collection
- preparation for teaching where it does not embody original Research
- the legal and administrative aspects of commercialisation activities
- professional activities that do not embody original Research.

Policy Content and Guidelines

Requirement to Undertake Research. Each scholar will carry out independent Research, scholarship and/or creative activities that are appropriate to their discipline. In doing so they will, individually or in collaboration with colleagues:

- supervise Research students;
- broadly disseminate Research results (i.e. through more than one medium or one audience) including through their teaching practices and, where appropriate, protect the results of their Research;
- be active within appropriate professional and discipline communities and external stakeholders;
- contribute to the Research environment and culture of Victoria through activities such as mentoring, engagement in new Research initiatives and strengthening the Research infrastructure;
- participate in initiatives designed to secure financial support for Research activities from external sources (including for example, government funding, industry partnerships and contracts, philanthropic gifts, Research translation and commercialisation opportunities).

The requirement to undertake Research is a career expectation and will be balanced with the other obligations of academic staff including teaching and administrative responsibilities.

Statutory and Ethics Obligations

Academic staff and students are required to carry out their Research in compliance with all the University's obligations under legislation and any ethical and contractual obligations.

Research projects that involve human, including those undertaken as part of a teaching programme, must be approved in advance (see the Human Ethics Policy).

All Academic staff, students, and visitors of the University are required to make themselves aware and follow the contents of the University Health and Safety Policy and the Health and Safety section of the University's website.

Academic staff and students are required to comply with the University's approach to Risk and Risk Management.

Resources in Support of Research

University Research Fund

The general principle governing the allocation of all Research funding in the University is that it is an investment intended to maximise the range of outcomes that the University expects to result from staff and student Research. The Allocations and Investment Subcommittee of the URC allocates grants from this fund. Details are regulated by the scholarship regulations.

All research contracted by an external party is administered by the Office.

The Research Office provides the contract, financial and non-financial management services for the University's grant management process.

Academic staff are expected to comply with the Management of External Research, Consultancy and Related Contracts Policy in the costing and pricing of external Research and consultancy. They may also do Research or consultancy under the Entitlement to Undertake Private Work Policy and are required to report such activity to the dean. Staff doing private work under the entitlement of this policy may manage their funds using the Guidelines for Independent Work. Academic staff are eligible to apply for leave in support of their Research including Research and Study Leave.

Research Planning

Each academic units, is required to develop and implement its own Research plan that is consistent with and delivered according to the University Research Strategy and the University Strategic Plan.

Evaluation and Monitoring of Performance

Staff is required to participate in the external assessment of performance. Staff is required to supply full and accurate details of their Research outputs as required by their Head . This shall be done at least annually. The Research Office will publish an annual list of staff and student publications.