

Definition of 'Research Active' Staff at UNSW

(Excerpts from DVC Research Briefing Document 14 August 2007)

BACKGROUND

The use of the term "Research-Active" has been used by UNSW since 2000, and has more recently been used as a key performance indicator which has been reported to DEST and used as a key budget driver and measure for allocating resources within UNSW.

COMMENTS

Last year the Committee on Research bedded down the following definition of Research Active staff:

1. Three (3) publications over the last three (3) years.

Publications in this respect must satisfy the requirements set by, and reported to, DEST in the HERDC collection (Category A1, B1, C1, E1), or a combination of at least three (3) refereed designs, patents, creative works or major exhibitions as defined by DEST (Category H, I, J1).

For staff employed 0.5 FTE but below 1.0FTE, only 2 research outputs will be required.

OR

- 2a. At least one (1) DEST publication as defined above in the last one (1) year.

AND EITHER

- 2b. Supervised to successful completion at least one (1) research higher degree student in the past four (4) years as defined and reported to DEST.

or

Received at least one (1) external grant of more than \$5000 from a competitive grant scheme or industry in the past three (3) years, as defined and reported to DEST.

ANOMALOUS CASES

The Steering Committee will consider anomalous cases, where the following defining principles are met:

1. where the "research output" meets the definition of "research" which has the following attributes:
 - a. is the result of substantial scholarly activity
 - b. it involves original work (ie not a compilation of existing works)
 - c. its veracity, validity, or scholarly quality has been tested through a peer review process or similar process involving an assessment or review of the research output in its entirety by an independent qualified expert/s, or by satisfying the commercial publisher processes
 - d. it contributes to increasing the stock of knowledge
 - e. it is in a form that enables dissemination of knowledge.

For an item to be considered as “research output” it must fall into one of the following three categories:

- a. it can satisfy the requirements set by, and reported to DEST in the HERDC collection under the following categories:
 - i. Books (A1)¹
 - ii. Book Chapters (B1)
 - iii. Journal Articles (C1)
 - iv. Conference publications (E1)
- b. It can be a refereed design, patent, creative work or major exhibition as defined by the following DEST categories:
 - i. Technical Drawing, design or working model (H)
 - ii. Patents (I)
 - iii. Major Exhibition, written or recorded work (J1)
- c. It can be a “research output” which satisfies the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), on a case-by-case basis and after taking into account the practices of the discipline concerned that is:
 - i. A scholarly article published in a journal which is appropriate for the publication of scholarly work in the discipline concerned, and which has undergone independent peer review;
 - ii. A book which has been published by a commercial publisher or in a format/venue which is recognised within the discipline, as appropriate for the publication of a scholarly output
 - iii. Some other form of research output which has been disseminated in a format/venue which is recognised within the discipline as appropriate for the publication of scholarly output.

Examples of anomalous cases may include staff who have taken more than 6 months leave (ie Maternity leave, and other special leave) during the collection period. Sabbatical leave will not be considered an anomalous case.

All claims for anomalous cases need to be explained and documented and/or verified.

Supplementary FASS Definition

The University does not assign any status to staff who have been employed at UNSW for less than three years. These staff are neither ‘research active’ nor ‘research inactive’. In order to assign a ‘research active’ status to these staff for the FASS internal use, it is recommended that the following criteria should apply:

Early career academic (ECA) employed for two years or less	Exempt
Non-ECA staff employed for two years or less	Same as UNSW criteria – evidence required.

¹ 1 Book will be equivalent to 5 research outputs