

## RESEARCH OUTPUT ATTRIBUTION POLICY

<b>Approved</b>	Academic Board/Council
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<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Director of Research
<b>Author(s) and Role(s) from most recent</b>	D. Speed (Dean)
<b>Related Documents (explicitly cross-referenced)</b>	<i>ERA 2015 Submission Guidelines</i> <i>Research and Professional Activities Reports, Research Active in the SCD Policy</i>
<b>Higher Education Standards (2021)</b>	4.1, 6.3.1c
<b>National Code (2018) (if directly relevant)</b>	

### Preamble

In the lead-up to submission of its application for AUS status, SCD has been advised that it will need to demonstrate research output at ERA level 3. This will involve counting SCD's research outputs fully in line with normal university requirements. Academic staff employed either in the Office of the Dean or in one of its teaching bodies may have some form of external affiliation also with a non-SCD institution. It is therefore necessary to establish a policy for research output attribution for SCD academic staff with external affiliations.

There are two main kinds of external affiliation: honorary positions and external employment.

1. Historically, SCD has had no access to the public research funding enjoyed by Australian universities (and it is uncertain whether such access will be assigned in the future). Up to the point of gaining Self-Accrediting Authority, it was supporting evidence of SCD's general academic and specifically research capacity that some of its academic staff held honorary positions in universities. Such universities have, in turn, been able to count the research output of these people in their reporting to Government in relation to their receipt of public funding (HERDC). Holding an honorary position in a university may actually depend on that university's being able to count the research output of such people.

In the lead-up to submission of its application for AUS status, SCD has been advised that it will need to demonstrate research output at ERA level 3. It should therefore prioritize the need to count its research output like a university over the desirability of university affiliations as a measure of prestige.

2. Some academic staff within SCD may be employed both within SCD and also by a non-SCD provider. That provider may be either completely separate from SCD or a second, external entity

of an SCD teaching body, in which academic staff are employed for both SCD work and work related to the second entity.

## Policy

1. Research in SCD is understood as defined in the *ERA 2015 Submission Guidelines*, thus: ‘For the purposes of ERA, research is defined as the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies, inventions and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative.’
2. The eligibility of individuals to have their research output included is to be determined in line the *ERA 2015 Submission Guidelines*, which provide ultimate determination in regard to provisions 5 to 9 below.
3. SCD has for many years based its approach to measuring research for internal quality assurance purposes on current university policy and procedure, including use of the HERDC categories of research output. This may be seen, for instance, in its annual *Research and Professional Activities Reports*, *Research Active in the SCD Policy*, and Application Form for Promotion. This specific policy therefore builds on existing SCD policy, which has, to date, assumed all the research outputs of its full-time and part-time academic staff to be ‘unofficially’ attributable to SCD as a non-recipient of public research funding. It addresses the expectation that its research outputs are to be measured as if for external reporting purposes, as if it were a university, in order to present the case that it should be recognized as a university (AUS).
4. This policy refers to research outputs for 2017 and following.
5. This policy applies to all academic staff employed within the Office of the Dean and appearing on the SCD Faculty Register. In the case of academic staff employed by SCD Member Institutions, the policy should be applied as related to the obligation within the Memorandum of Understanding to observe SCD policy and procedure (**The Member Institution**, point 3).
6. The *minimum* research output attribution to be made available to SCD is the percentage of the total output in any one year that corresponds with the person’s full-time-equivalent (FTE) employment within SCD. For example:
  - for a person employed full-time (1.0 FTE) by the SCD or its Member Institution the entire research output is to be attributed to SCD;
  - for a person employed half-time (0.5 FTE) by the SCD or its Member Institution half the research output is to be attributed to SCD;
  - for a person employed two days a week (0.4 FTE) by the SCD or its Member Institution two-fifths of the research output is to be attributed to SCD.
7. All full-time and part-time academic staff are covered by the provision at point 5 above.
8. Sessional academic staff are included insofar as they appear on the Faculty Register (point 4 above), but the way in which their research output is measured will vary from person to person. Although sessional employment per unit may be deemed equivalent to pro-rata part-time employment within the SCD entity, such measurement may vary in relation to any other employment undertaken by the person:

- (a) Sessional academic staff may have no other employment within the academic world. Insofar as their only academic employment is within SCD, their research output will be attributed wholly to SCD.
  - (b) Sessional academic staff may be otherwise employed, or have another affiliation, within in the external academic world in a context where their research output is not subject to formal counting. Insofar as their only countable academic employment is within SCD, their research output may be attributed to SCD in full or *at least* in notional proportion to their employment within SCD, by negotiation.
  - (c) Sessional academic staff may be otherwise employed part-time, or have another affiliation, within the external academic world in a context where their research output is subject to formal counting and undertake occasional employment within SCD within the notional remainder of full-time employment. In this case, a proportion of their research output corresponding to that notional remainder of full-time employment should be attributed to SCD.
  - (d) Sessional academic staff may be otherwise employed full-time within the external academic world in a context where their research output is subject to formal counting and undertake occasional employment within SCD as extra work beyond normal full-time employment. In this case, there is no obligation to attribute any of their research output to SCD but a proportion may be attributed by negotiation.
9. If a precise attribution is difficult due to such factors as the nature of the publication(s) or the technology involved in counting by the other institution, an appropriate attribution should nevertheless be negotiated for SCD by the person concerned. If the other attribution relates to an honorary position, SCD should be prioritized over the other institution.