Document Name

POLICY FOR ASSESSMENT OF QUALITY IN RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Document Number

PO-RES-14

Document Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Director of Research</th>
<th>November 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authorisation</td>
<td>Academic Board</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication</td>
<td>Issue 1E</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Date</td>
<td>Review of Issue 1E</td>
<td>December 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preamble

At this stage of the development of Excelsia College, research excellence will be assessed at the level of individual researchers and informal research collaborations. It is acknowledged that research excellence is also assessed at levels of formal research groups, concentrations, and institutes by established universities (e.g., see UWS Research Framework), but these levels are not appropriate for smaller, less established university colleges.

Published criteria for the assessment of research quality by staff at Australian universities are limited to acceptance for publication upon peer review (journals, edited books, conference papers etc.), citations of research outputs in other peer-reviewed publications, and the awarding of research funding based on competitive, peer-reviewed processes (see ERA National Report, 2012). These limited criteria are applied to outputs of whole disciplines and are blunt measures of quality of individual research output. For these reasons criteria for evaluating research quality by staff associated with Excelsia College include, but are not limited to, ERA criteria.

Additional criteria for evaluating the quality of research by individuals comprise standards that apply to quantitative and qualitative research such as: methodological quality - quality of data and analysis, and appropriateness of methods to aims of study; theoretical contribution – opening new understandings; communication – clear and accurate; relevance to policy and practice; and adherence to ethical standards (Spencer et al., 2003). These six quality standards reflect four guiding principles of research, namely, that research should be: contributory in advancing wider knowledge or understanding; defensible in design by providing a research strategy which can address the questions posed; rigorous in conduct through the systematic and transparent collection, analysis and interpretation of data; and credible in claim through offering well-founded and plausible arguments about the significance of the data generated. These guiding principles and standards will be applied in the assessment of research proposals and outputs of Excelsia College staff and HDR candidates.

Aim and Scope

This policy specifies processes and standards that will be applied in the assessment of quality of research and scholarship for purposes of evaluating staff outputs determining research active status, ranking grant proposals, and ranking HDR applications. The standards will be applied to Excelsia College staff and HDR candidates.

Policy Statement

1. For the purpose of monitoring research quality, Excelsia College will maintain copies of published or final pre-published research outputs of all staff.

2. The Excelsia College Research Office will assign FOR codes to each output.

3. The Research Office will evaluate research output types against ERA 2015 guidelines for inclusion as eligible research outputs as follows:
3.1. for Research Outputs:

3.1.1. Books—Authored Research
3.1.2. Chapters in Research Books
3.1.3. Journal Articles—Refereed, Scholarly Journals
3.1.4. Conference Publications—Full Paper Refereed
3.1.5. Non-Traditional Research Output Types
   3.1.5.1. Original Creative Works;
   3.1.5.2. Live Performance of Creative Works;
   3.1.5.3. Recorded/Rendered Creative Works; and
   3.1.5.4. Curated or Produced Substantial Public Exhibitions and Events.

4. The Research Office will record collaborative and transdisciplinary research outputs, as well as outputs by staff category (FT, PT, adjunct/other)

5. Research income from grants, industry partners, awards, or the commercialization of research will also be recorded for each staff member.

6. Quality of outputs will be assessed by traditional indicators including journal impact and frequency of citations.

7. In addition, research output quality will be assessed for a sample of staff and student outputs by external peer reviewers using the six quality standards as proposed by Spencer et al. (2003).

8. The Director of Research will provide an annual report to Academic Board on the assessed quality of research outputs by Excelsia College staff. This annual report will include recommendations for improving the quality of research outputs.

Documents Consulted


ERA 2012 Evaluation Handbook  
