Document Name
POLICY FOR COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (EXTERNAL)

Document Number
PO-RES-10

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>
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Purpose and Scope

This policy specifies criteria for approval of collaborative and transdisciplinary research activities. It applies to staff and HDR candidates at Excelsia College when their research involves working jointly with researchers or partners from an external institution.

Definitions

Collaborative research: Collaboration has been intrinsic to the research process for the past 50 years, but collaboration per se usually refers to researchers who work within the same discipline, either within an institution or in different institutions ( Responsible Conduct of Research, Collaborative Science, http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu/projects/rcr/rcr_science/foundation/index.html )

Research collaboration refers to “the working together of researchers to achieve the common goal of producing new scientific knowledge” (Katz & Martin, 1997, p 7).

Transdisciplinary Research is defined as research efforts conducted by investigators from different disciplines working jointly to create new conceptual, theoretical, methodological, and translational innovations that integrate and move beyond discipline-specific approaches to address a common problem (Harvard School of Public Health: http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/trec/about-us/definitions/)

Policy Statement

1. Excelsia College supports collaborative and transdisciplinary research locally, nationally and internationally.

2. Collaborative and transdisciplinary research involving Excelsia College and Indiana Wesleyan University faculty is encouraged and will be facilitated by the Director of Research and the Research Committee.

3. All collaborative and transdisciplinary research activity must be approved by the Research Committee with full information provided on the content and processes of the research. The content of the research must be aligned with the priorities of the current Research Plan and demonstrate clear benefits to the development of Excelsia college research. The processes of the proposed research must comply with the Research Code of Conduct.

4. All proposed collaborative and transdisciplinary research with external partners must be based on a signed agreement between the participating institutions and approved by the Research Committee after the receipt of legal advice from a designated expert. This agreement, or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), will cover the following ethical and procedural matters:

   4.1. ownership of intellectual property,
   4.2. confidentiality and copyright,
   4.3. sharing of research costs, including in-kind costs,
   4.4. sharing of commercial returns,
   4.5. responsibility for ethical conduct and research safety, and
   4.6. ownership and location of research data and materials.
5. The duration of the agreement or MOU will be no less than the anticipated period required for completion of the research, including dissemination of information arising from the research activity.

6. In the case of HDR candidates, co-supervisors employed by an institution named in an agreement relating to collaborative or transdisciplinary research must be approved by the Research Committee. All appointments of co-supervisors must comply with PO-RES-07.

References Consulted


UNSW Research Code of Conduct.