

Externally Funded Research - Procedures

1. Purpose of procedures

1.1 The procedures outline the requirements of staff to ensure that the externally funded research that occurs at the University is high quality and impactful. Also, to ensure the University is equipped to grow research income.

2. Scope and application

2.1 These procedures should be read in conjunction with the Externally Funding Research – Academic Policy.

2.2 These procedures apply to all staff who engage in research activity under the auspices of the University

2.3 When undertaking externally funded research, researchers must comply with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, other relevant state and national legislation, and relevant policies and procedures, regardless of the funding source.

2.4 These procedures do not apply to internally funded research projects – instead refer to the Externally Unfunded Research – Guidelines.

3. Definitions

Please refer to the University's Glossary of Terms for policies and procedures. Terms and definitions identified below are specific to these procedures and are critical to its effectiveness.

Contract research: research project funded by an external organisation (not resulting from a competitive application scheme).

Cost Centre Manager: defined as per the Glossary of terms for policy and procedures

Externally funded research: research projects funded by organisations external to the University.

Grant funded research: research project funded from competitive research funding schemes.

Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC): The Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) controls the collection of higher education research data and is designed to ensure the Australian Government's research block grants are allocated in a fair and transparent way and to support the policy intent of the funding.

Research: as defined in the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.

Researcher: all staff, HDR students, adjunct and conjoint appointments, visiting academics, and research fellows who engage in research activity under the auspices of the University.

Research Master: the University's research project approval system.

Research Professional: external website detailing competitive research funding opportunities.

4. External research funding opportunities

4.1 The Office of Research provides information to relevant staff regarding competitive research grant opportunities; this information is disseminated in a timely manner to support staff with planning their workload.

4.2 The University also maintains an ongoing subscription to Research Professional, an online database of funding opportunities. Staff can access information directly from the Research Professional website.

APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

DESIGNATED OFFICER

Director, Office of Research

FIRST APPROVED

12 February 2010

LAST AMENDED

9 November 2021

REVIEW DATE

25 March 2025

STATUS

Active

4.3 Researchers may also receive contract research opportunities from organisations via their consulting or engagement work.

5. Authority for externally funded research

5.1 Researcher responsibilities

5.1.1 Researchers are required to enter the details of proposed, externally funded research projects into a Research Project Request in the Research Master system. This initiates the University's approval process.

5.1.2 Researchers must submit Research Project Requests for competitive grant applications (non-Australian Research Council (ARC) and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)) at least 3 weeks prior to the external funding scheme closing date, to enable sufficient time for review, approval and submission.

5.1.3 For ARC and NHMRC applications (and other major grant schemes, as determined by the Office of Research), Researchers are required to adhere to the internal timeline authorised by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) and published by the Office of Research

5.1.4 The Research Project Request requires the Researcher to upload an application for research funding according to the specific grant scheme guidelines, or a research proposal prepared in consultation with an external organisation for Contract Research.

5.1.5 Researchers upload a project budget as part of the Research Project Request, using the Research Budget Calculator. The project budget should be prepared in consultation with the Research Finance Team.

5.2 Cost Centre Manager responsibilities

5.2.1 The Research Project Request is reviewed by the Researcher's Cost Centre Manager who considers the feasibility of the proposal and compliance with HERDC specifications.

5.2.2 The Cost Centre Manager may provide suggestions to the Researcher to improve/revise the project.

5.2.3 The Cost Centre Manager endorses the Research Project Request and will ensure that any risks and financial liability are appropriately mitigated and within the University's stated risk appetite.

5.2.4 The Cost Centre Manager may delegate their responsibilities in accordance with the University's Policies and Procedures.

5.3 Office of Research responsibilities

5.3.1 The Office of Research receives the Research Project Request via the Research Master system. The request is reviewed for compliance with HERDC specifications, compliance with grant scheme guidelines (if applicable), grantsmanship (if applicable) and the University's internal requirements.

5.3.2 The Research Project Request is recommended for review to the Director, Office of Research and final approval is granted by the Director, Office of Research if appropriate.

5.3.3 For grant funded research scheme applications, once final approval has been granted, the Office of Research works with the Researcher to ensure timely submission to the funding organisation, clearly indicating that the institutional contact for the application is the Director, Office of Research.

5.3.4 For Contract Research, the Office of Research works in partnership with the Researcher for the timely submission of the approved research project to the external organisation, clearly indicating that the institutional contact for the project is the Director, Office of Research.

6. Management of externally funded research projects

6.1 Research Project Agreements

6.1.1 The Office of Research liaises with the external/funding organisation on behalf of the University to negotiate an appropriate funding Agreement to govern the research project; this is done in consultation with the Research Legal Officer, the Researcher, and the Researcher's Cost Centre Manager.

6.1.2 When the terms of the Agreement have been agreed upon, the Office of Research seeks certification from the Researcher's Cost Centre Manager and facilitates the Agreement signing process. The Office of Research refers to the Delegations Schedule to ascertain the appropriate Officer of the University authorised to sign the document, depending upon the value of the contract.

6.1.3 The Office of Research prepares a hard copy of the Agreement, a memorandum detailing relevant information/recommendations for the appropriate University delegate, and invites them to review and sign the document.

6.2.4 When the funding Agreement has been signed on behalf of the University, the Office of Research submits the signed copy to the funding/external organisation for execution.

6.2 Research Project Establishment

6.2.1 After the Agreement has been executed, the Office of Research enters the project/Agreement details into the Research Master system, and completes the necessary project commencement administration:

- (a) a request is sent to Information Management Services to create a new project file in the University's record management system. Once the new project file is created, the Office of Research arranges for the hard/electronic copies of the Agreement to be filed appropriately;
- (b) a handover to the Research Finance team is undertaken to ensure the Research Finance Team assume post-award administrative responsibility for the project;
- (c) a project commencement email is sent to the Researcher within seven days. The email contains relevant project information including a project account code and the Researcher's project/Agreement responsibilities, including intellectual property considerations of students (if required) and other non-University staff;
- (d) reminder emails regarding project milestones are scheduled to be sent to the Researcher at timely intervals; and
- (e) a timely reminder email regarding the project completion is also scheduled.

6.3 Research Project Management

6.3.1 The Researcher:

- (a) complies with the terms of the funding Agreement;
- (b) ensures ethics approvals are obtained (if required);
- (c) ensures the research project is delivered on time, and within budget;
- (d) if necessary, the Researcher informs the Office of Research that a variation to the funding Agreement is required and obtains approval from their Cost Centre Manager for this to occur; and
- (e) the Researcher notifies the Research Finance Team in writing when the research project has been completed.

6.3.2 The Researcher's Cost Centre Manager supports the Researcher to comply with the terms of the funding Agreement and deliver the project.

6.3.3 The Research Finance Team:

- (a) ensures invoices are sent to the funding organisation according to the Agreement payment schedule;
- (b) works with the Researcher to ensure expenditure occurs according to the project budget; and
- (c) provides regular and timely project financial reports to the Researcher and School Administrator.

6.3.4 If required, the Office of Research works with the funding/external organisation to negotiate an appropriate Variation Agreement, in consultation with the Research Legal Officer and Researcher.

END

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Conflict of Interest - Governing Policy
- Enterprise Risk Management - Governing Policy
- Externally Funded Research - Academic Policy
- Externally Funded Research - Procedures
- Financial Management Practices - Operational Policy
- Fraud and Corruption Control - Governing Policy
- Intellectual Property - Governing Policy
- Intellectual Property: Commercialisation - Procedures
- Intellectual Property: Student IP - Procedures
- Management of Contracts and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) - Governing Policy
- Managing and Investigating Breaches of Responsible Research Conduct - Procedures
- Resolution of Complaints (Staff) - Guidelines
- Staff Code of Conduct - Governing Policy
- University Consultancy Work - Operational Policy
- University Consultancy Work - Procedures

LINKED DOCUMENTS

- Externally Funded Research - Academic Policy