
Research Institutes and Centres Policy

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1. Purpose

- a. Research Institutes and Centres will build the University's research capabilities and strengths and heighten research impact by providing a focal point for industry, community and international engagement in a specific area.
- b. This policy sets out the principles which underpin the establishment and operation of research Institutes and Centres at Flinders University.

2. Scope

- a. This policy applies to any existing or proposed organisational unit within the University whose primary activity is research and whose name includes the word 'Institute' or 'Centre'.
- b. Research Institutes and Centres which receive external research funding are subject to any governance, reporting and compliance provisions that are a condition of the external funding, as well as this policy and other University policies.
- c. This policy does not cover Institutes and Centres established under government programs or by agreement with external funding entities.

3. Definitions

A research Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. is based on an existing or emerging research strength, either within a Research Institute or outside it and comprises a group of researchers, including the Director, who develop a coordinated research programb. must attract external research funding and is expected to have, or have a plan to develop, external partnerships and/or research collaborationsc. is expected to have, or demonstrate the capability to develop a national reputation in the area, andd. may be proposed by a College as an area of strategic research development, provided there is a plan for investment that will result in meeting these expectations.
A research Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. carries out interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary research on a broad but defined themeb. provides a University focus for engagement with major external stakeholders related to that themec. is expected to comprise a higher number of high performing researchers than expected of a Centred. must have strong external partnership engagement and high levels of external research fundinge. is expected to have, or demonstrate the capability to develop an international reputation in the area, andf. may constitute the overarching body for a collection of related research areas (including research Centres), or may have a focus on just one or two specific research areas.

4. Policy statement

4.1. Role

The role of research Institutes and Centres is to:

- a. undertake core research in their focus area
- b. enhance high quality research, research partnership development, impact and, where appropriate, commercialisation opportunities
- c. where possible, facilitate and promote interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary activity in the University
- d. provide high level training for higher degree by research students
- e. provide opportunities for early career researchers
- f. facilitate and promote external collaboration and stakeholder engagement
- g. attract external research income, and
- h. raise the external profile and reputation of the University.

4.2. Establishment and renewal of Institutes and Centres

- a. The title of Institute or Centre must not be used by any University research grouping except in accordance with this policy.

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- b. Academic Senate approval, on the recommendation of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), is required for the:
 - i. establishment and length of term of a new research Institute or Centre,
 - ii. renewal of an Institute or Centre and length of term of the renewal period.
 - c. In addition to satisfying the requirements of this policy, the case for the establishment or renewal of an Institute or Centre must demonstrate the advantage to the University of the inclusion of the word Institute or Centre in the title, for example through enhanced external engagement and/or enhanced ability to attract external research income.
 - d. The approval of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) is required for:
 - i. a change of an Institute or Centre's name
 - ii. a change of an Institute or Centre's advisory board terms of reference or membership, and
 - iii. appointment of an Institute or Centre Director.

4.3. Research expectations

Academic staff members of a research Institute or Centre must carry out research in the Institute's or Centre's research areas and satisfy research performance expectations set by the Director and approved by the Dean (Research) of the host College.

4.4. Relationship to Research Sections

Institutes and Centres are not expected to align with College Research Sections.

4.5. Organisational governance

- a. Every research Institute or Centre must:
 - i. be established as an organisational unit within a College, designated as the host College for the Institute or Centre
 - ii. have a Director (or, where justified by cross-College or interdisciplinary breadth, two Co-Directors) who is a Flinders University academic staff member or academic status holder and is responsible, through the relevant Dean (Research) to the relevant Vice-President and Executive Dean* of the host College, for the operation of the Institute or Centre
 - * Where a Centre is established within an Institute, the Centre Director is responsible to the Institute director for the operations of the Centre.
 - iii. have an Advisory Board whose members can provide advice on setting and achieving the strategic objectives of the Institute or Centre.
- b. University staff who are members of an Institute or Centre will be responsible to the Director of their Institute or Centre for work within the scope of the Institute or Centre's activities, but continue to be accountable to the supervisor of their substantive position in a College or Division.
- c. Research Institutes and Centres will be reviewed in the final year of their term or at a time determined by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). In non-review years, the Institute or Centre must provide a report to Academic Senate via a submission to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

4.6. Funding

The establishment of an Institute or Centre does not give it an entitlement to University funding.

4.7. Courses and research programs

An Institute or Centre cannot deliver undergraduate or postgraduate courses or research training programs in its own right, though its members are expected to engage in teaching and research supervision through their College.

5. Authorities

Delegate	Authority	Limit
Academic Senate	Approve the matters specified in 4.2. a., b. and c.	On recommendation of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)	Approve the matters specified in 4.2. d.	On recommendation of relevant Vice-President and Executive Dean/s

6. Supporting procedures

Supporting procedures are part of this policy and provide additional detail to give practical effect to the policy principles.

[Research Institutes and Centres Procedures](#)

Approval Authority	Academic Senate
Responsible Officer	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Approval Date	20 July 2021
Effective Date	20 July 2021
Review Date*	July 2024
Last amended	
HPRM file number	CF11/1637

* Unless otherwise indicated, this procedure will still apply beyond the review date.

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