

**Draft Standards for Research, Research Training  
and Learning Outcomes (Research Training)**

Monash University Response to Discussion Paper

(10 July 2013)

Monash University is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training). The University welcomes the Higher Education Standards Panel's focus on research and research training and broadly supports the proposed new standards.

Monash concurs with the feedback provided by Group of Eight. Some additional comments are provided below:

***Q1. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Research? If not, why?***

Yes, Monash University broadly supports the proposed standards for Research.

***Q2. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?***

The proposed Research Standards include the following items:

*1.c. research partnerships.*

The University does not believe that this is an appropriate item for academic governance – subject to clarification from TEQSA as to what is envisaged by including this item.

*4. The concept of 'research-active' staff is defined and complied with in the implementation of research policy and practices.*

While the University believes it is appropriate that the responsibility for defining 'research-active' remains with each institution, it is not clear why a standard relating to the definition of research-active and subsequent compliance with the definition needs to be included in the proposed Standards. The University considers that item 2 appropriately covers the qualities required of the supervisors, and if more is deemed necessary, it would be preferable to delete item 4 and include in item 2 "research active" before "staff" in the first line, and it be left to the University to determine whether the necessary qualities are met .

***Q3. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Research Training? If not, why?***

Yes, Monash University broadly supports the proposed standards for Research Training.

***Q4. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?***

The place and status of reference points

As detailed in Monash's response to the draft Standards for Course Design and Learning Outcomes, the University believes that the Reference Points should not be part of the Standards. Furthermore, the University would encourage the strengthening of the definition to ensure they do not become de facto standards.

Research environment

The research environment is a critical dimension of graduate research training. While the standards require a main supervisor to be 'research active' in the relevant field, Monash believes that there should be a stronger link between research training activity and the research strengths of the institution. For this reason, the University would like to see an additional statement about the 'research environment' in relation to research training and, notwithstanding the comments above, the inclusion of ERA outcomes as a Reference Point in the Research Training Standards, as they have been for the draft Research Standards.

***Q5. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Learning Outcomes (Research Training)? If not, why?***

Yes, Monash University broadly supports the proposed standards for Learning Outcomes (Research Training).

***Q6. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the Standards?***

Original Research

The University has noted that there is no explicit reference to original research as a learning outcome and would like to see this included.

***Q7. Do you wish to make any Overall General Comments about the form, study and scope or any other aspects of the proposed set of research-related standards?***

While the suite of standards is still under review, the University strongly supports the Panel's intention to eliminate duplication across Standards and is encouraged by HESP's intention to cross-reference the Learning Outcomes (Research Training) with the Learning Outcomes (Coursework).

Monash University looks forward to receiving the remaining draft standards in 2013.

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