

Higher Education Standards Panel Executive
GPO Box 1672
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

10 July 2013

Dear HESP Executive

The University of Wollongong is pleased to make this response to the Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training), issued by the Higher Education Standards Panel on 28 May 2013. In relation to the consultation questions, we make the following points:

Draft Standards for Research

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

Yes.

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

Regarding point 4. "The concept of 'research active' staff is defined and complied with..." which is linked to Research Training point 3. "Each student is supervised by a principal supervisor who is research-active". We suggest some comment would be useful on whether or not a past record of research student supervision could qualify someone as 'research-active'.

Draft Standards for Research Training

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

Yes

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

No

Draft standards for Learning Outcomes (Research Training)

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

Yes. However we make the following comments:

1. Regarding professional and regulatory standards that some disciplines are required to meet for accreditation purposes, reference should be made to the applicable accreditation standards set by the professional bodies.
2. 4b) “for masters degrees...”. It is unclear if this applies to research masters degrees only or if it also applies to coursework masters degrees that have a research component.

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

Where they sit within the Higher Education Threshold Standards is not stated and needs to be clarified.

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

UOW supports in principle the introduction of research standards; however, we note that these standards are intended to apply to all providers who conduct research. We suggest that a definition of what constitutes research is needed here to avoid potential confusion. We further note that the AQF includes such a definition.

Yours sincerely

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