



Policy Document Administrator	Director of Teaching and Learning
Document Approver	Academic Board
Responsible Body/Person	Academic Board
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Superseded documents	
Related documents	AUT Strategic Plan Research and Scholarship Policy
Related HE Standards	3.1-3.3, 4.1-4.2
Student Lifecycle Stage/s	N/A

1. PURPOSE

To identify the scope of the AUT's Research and Scholarship Networks (R&SNs) and outline the procedures for their functioning.

2. DEFINITIONS

Definitions for any words in **Bold** in this document can be found in the [Policy Glossary](#). The first instance of each defined term has been outlined in bold.

3. SCOPE

The policy applies to current and future R&SN members from Affiliated Colleges.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The Australian University of Theology is committed to engaging with current research and scholarship in its area of focus. It affirms that learning, teaching and research in Christian Studies, Ministry and Theology can be enhanced by academic staff working collaboratively together. This policy creates a formal structure (R&SNs) alongside the many informal networks of collaboration that exist among academic staff across the AUT, based on the main AUT **Fields of Study** or Departments. R&SNs are groups of academic staff from Affiliated Colleges who, generally, teach and research in the same field (or closely related fields, of the same Department) to form a network of researchers and scholars.

5. PRINCIPLES

Terms of Reference



- 5.1 Membership of R&SNs is available to all **academic staff** from **Affiliated Colleges**.
- 5.2 Academic staff who teach in more than one Field may participate in more than one R&SN.
- 5.3 R&SNs generally meet virtually approximately two or three times per annum.
- 5.4 Each R&SN has its own Convenor, appointed by the Vice-Chancellor on a one-year contract basis (renewable), who reports to the Vice-Chancellor via the relevant **Head of Department**.
- 5.6 R&SN Convenors set the workplans for their R&SN for the relevant year with input from members where appropriate.
- 5.7 The Convenor may provide email newsletters to members on recent developments in teaching, scholarship and research within the Field, and maintain ongoing informal contact with members on recent developments.
- 5.8 The Head of Department and Convenors meet with each R&SN at least once per year, typically around the time of the annual AUT PD Conference.
- 5.9 The Head of Department and Convenor together make recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor from the outcomes of each R&SN, as appropriate.

Key responsibilities

- 5.11 R&SNs provide opportunities for members to:
 - 5.11.1 Identify current advances in research, scholarship and pedagogy.
 - 5.11.2 Discuss, critique, and evaluate current scholarship and research.
 - 5.11.3 Disseminate information to Affiliated Colleges of current advances in research and scholarship e.g. in publications – books, journal articles, websites, podcasts, or through new methods and practices.
 - 5.11.4 Consider how current scholarship and research may inform and shape more effective pedagogy and practice within their fields.
 - 5.11.5 Disseminate their own research and scholarship, and have this critiqued and assessed by peers.
 - 5.11.6 Present findings to the AUT's Annual Departmental Meetings.
 - 5.11.7 Suggest ways to the Head of Department, and through the Head of Department to other key AUT bodies and personnel, as appropriate, that current research and scholarship may be incorporated into courses and units to improve student learning and enhance teaching.



5.11.8 Assist with reviewing and updating units in the R&SN Field with current scholarship and research informing learning outcomes, assessment types, bibliographies.

5.11.9 Suggest priorities and projects for cross-consortium research and scholarship.

5.11.10 Develop collaborative research and scholarship projects within and beyond the AUT consortium.

6. RELATED LEGISLATION

[Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2021](#)

7. VERSION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Changes made
1	Academic Board	22 October 2021	22 October 2021	Initial
2	Academic Board	20 October 2023	20 October 2023	Updates to definitions and legislation; modifications to terms of reference.
3	Vice-Chancellor	June 2025	June 2025	New policy format, minor editorial updates to implement university status.
4	Academic Board	6 March 2026	6 March 2026	Minor clarifications on practices; editorial updates.

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