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1 PRELIMINARIES

Commencement

This policy and procedure commence on 1 April 2024

Purpose

This Policy sets out the commitment of the Institute to enhance the student experience by continuous improvement in course delivery and assessment through supporting academic staff members to undertake regular professional development and scholarly activities. The Institute considers that professional development and scholarship is also essential for academic staff career development, and is committed to ensuring that academic staff teaching at the Institute retain currency of practice through regular professional development.

Application

This policy and procedures apply to all academic staff of the Institute.

2 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply in this document:

Item	Definition
Academic Manager	The senior academic to which the staff member reports for academic matters



Item	Definition
Continuing staff	A staff member who is employed on an ongoing basis with no specified end date.
Fixed-term staff	A staff member who is employed for a specified period whose employment contract specifies both start and end dates for employment.
Fractional staff	A staff member who is regularly employed on a part-time basis at a full-time equivalent (FTE) proportion less than 1.0. May be continuing or fixed-term.
Professional development	Activities including formal learning and development opportunities selected to enhance the staff member's professional knowledge, competence, skill, and effectiveness in performing their role and meeting their responsibilities.
Sessional staff	A staff member who is employed on a casual basis.
Scholarship Scholarly activities	Those activities concerned with gaining new or improved understanding, or appreciation and insights into a field of knowledge, or engaging with and keeping up to date with advances in the field. ¹

3 POLICY

3.1 Higher Education Standards.

Section 3.2 of the Higher Education Standard Framework (Threshold Standards) states that all academic staff should:

- hold an appropriate qualification in a relevant discipline,
- have skills in contemporary teaching, learning and assessment principles, and
- participate in continuing scholarship, research and development.

Therefore, engaging in ongoing development is considered an integral element of employment at the Institute in order to extend the capabilities of academic staff, ensure currency of practice, and provide a high-quality learning experience for students.

3.2 Underlying Principles

The principles that underpin professional development at the Institute are summarised below.

They are:

- Professional development is a key component of the annual performance planning and review process for all academic staff (regardless of their employment status).
- The Institute will support all academic staff members to achieve their professional development goals relevant to the Institute.

¹ TEQSA Guidance Note on Scholarship



- An annual budget is allocated to support staff undertake professional development and scholarly activities.
- Priority will be given to those professional development activities that enhance and support the Institute's Strategic Plan and Learning and Teaching Plan.
- For those discipline areas where there is an expectation of professional accreditation, industry experience and/or require a combination of registration, industry or professional skills and/or qualifications, the academic staff must maintain and regularly update their professional qualifications.
- Professional development comprises both participation in development activities and application of the knowledge or skills gained.

3.3 Standards

- 3.3.1. Each full-time academic staff member must complete a minimum of 30 hours of scholarship and professional development each 12 months. To accommodate longer term commitments to professional development, and by agreement with the Academic Manager, a plan may be modified to allow 60 hours over two years with no annual minimum. The Dean may approve further variations to meet individual circumstances.
- 3.3.2. Staff members with fractional employment must complete a pro-rata amount.
- 3.3.3. CPD and scholarly activities is defined as engagement with participation in an activity and application of the knowledge and skills gained. By agreement with the Academic Manager, demonstrated applications of the knowledge and skill gained may be credited on an hour for hour basis.
- 3.3.4. CPD and scholarly activities will be a combination of specific discipline and learning and development focussed on the profession of higher education teaching. A minimum of 15 hours of CPD and scholarly activities should be discipline related and a minimum 15 hours should be profession of teaching and pedagogy related. To meet particular requirements, the annual mixture of types of professional development may be agreed between the staff member and the Academic Manager over a two year period with no annual minimum, but the balance over the two year period remains at 30 hours of each type.
- 3.3.5. The Institute will provide a minimum of 15 hours of development opportunities in the profession of teaching per year. Staff may choose to attend these sessions unless a particular forum/workshop is designated by the Dean as compulsory.
- 3.3.6. Failure to meet the minimum requirements will be dealt with as part of the annual performance review.

3.4 Professional Development for Sessional Staff



3.4.1. Sessional staff are responsible for their own professional development. The Institute will support the development by inviting sessional staff to participate in any Institute organised professional development event.

3.4.2. Sessional staff who wish to continue their employment with the Institute must demonstrate their commitment to and application of professional development activities in both their discipline and in the profession of higher education teaching. The appropriateness of the nature and volume of activities will be assessed by Academic Managers at the point of engagement for a study period.

3.5 Types of activities recognised as Continuing Professional Development

Professional development can take many forms, and thus, a wide range of activities are recognised as continuing professional development. This includes (but is not limited to):

3.5.1. External CPD activities

Type	Description
Formal education	Formal classroom, online and short courses that usually involve some form of assessment. (e.g. Graduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching)
Recognised and structured training	A course, workshop or training that does not form part of a formal award or accreditation process. May include non-assessed courses offered by educational institutions or professional bodies, or attendance at professional events such as professional network forums.
Conferences or seminars	Attendance at an external conference or seminar where the content relates to the staff member's career or profession.
Presentation of papers	Presentation at conferences, symposia and seminars where it extends the staff member's professional knowledge and capabilities. Preparation time is included in CPD hours.
Industry involvement	Activities such as consulting services, industry partnership or supervision in research, industry site visits, or participation in industry committees.
Service to the profession (subject discipline or the education discipline)	Contribution or service related to professional bodies. Activities include being a member of a professional board or committee, participating in a professional forum, advisor board or special interest group, judging or assessing professional excellence awards, acting as an assessor on a state or national accreditation committee, participating in a professional bodies' mentor program,



	writing articles for professional or business magazines or journals, participation in research related to the profession.
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3.5.2. Internal CPD Activities

Type	Description
Workshop or training session	Participation in internal training and development sessions or workshop organised by the Institute (e.g. Moodle training webinar).
Forums or seminars	Attendance at the Institute developed Learning and Teaching Forums, Research and Scholarship Seminars and Academic Matters webinars.
Presentation of papers	Presentation at Learning and Teaching Forums, Research and Scholarship Seminars, and Academic Matters webinars. Preparation time is included in CPD hours.
Committees and projects	Volunteering as a member of a committee (e.g. Learning and Teaching Committee, Research and Scholarship Committee, Course Advisory Committee, Course Review Committee), participating in curriculum development projects, participating in benchmarking projects, engaging with the Academic Enhancement team to embed skill development in courses/units and develop resources.

3.5.3. Personal CPD Activities

Type	Description
Informal self-directed learning	Online training, webinars, reading professional books, journals or articles, participating in discussion groups, web forums, etc.
Developmental relationships	Learning through interaction with others, such as seeking guidance and feedback from colleagues, peer observation of teaching, and mentorship/mentoring.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 The Dean

The Dean in conjunction with the Associate Deans and Heads of Discipline has responsibility for implementing this Policy.



4.2 The Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching)

The Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching) is required to ensure that adequate professional development opportunities are available to all academic staff and are ultimately responsible for ensuring that staff appropriately participate in professional development activities.

4.3 The Head of Discipline

The respective Head of Discipline will ensure that each academic staff member prepares an individual professional development plan annually for review and agreement. The review should confirm the relevance of activities, resource requirements, outcomes, and alignment with the expectations outlined within this Policy.

4.4 Academic Staff

Each academic staff member is responsible for developing and following their own professional development plans, with feedback from their academic manager. Each academic staff member is also responsible for ensuring that their professional development plan is submitted to their line manager when finalised and for updating their professional development activities in the Academic Staff Professional Development Register.

5 PROCEDURES

5.1 Planning

As part of the annual performance planning and review process staff members will prepare a developmental component for discussion with their Academic Manager. This will include:

- development goals (at least one discipline related and at least one learning and teaching related) that support their professional and career development. Goals may be linked to improving an area identified in a previous evaluation or related to the staff member's new responsibilities or future career goals.
- a proposed CPD and scholarship plan to achieve the performance goals and outline the potential support necessary for completion (time, financial resources, support from specific people, etc).

5.2 Operation

5.2.1. Once agreed, the responsibility for engaging in professional development activities throughout the year to meet their performance or development goals will be the responsibility of the staff member. Where specific resources are agreed (eg time, money etc) the Academic Manager will ensure they are provided.

5.2.2. In the event that the agreed resources are not available, the development plan will be revisited.

5.3 Recording

5.3.1 Staff members will record CPD and scholarly activities undertaken in the central Scholarship and CPD register and include:



- Date of activity
- Activity name, description and type (e.g. discipline or learning and teaching related; internal or external)
- Classification of the activity as CPD or one or more of the four types of scholarly activities;
- CPD hours claimed; and
- Evidence as to how the knowledge or skill has been implemented, applied or shared.

5.3.2 In order that the activity is to be included in the staff member's professional development register, the volume and nature of the activity (discipline or pedagogy) must be endorsed by the staff members' Academic Manager.

5.4 Monitoring

5.4.1 Staff members and their Academic Managers will participate in discussions at least every 6 months to evaluate progress towards goals, engagement in CPD and scholarly activities and application of knowledge and skills gained.

5.4.2 The formal annual review of professional development and scholarly activities will be considered in conjunction with the annual performance appraisal.

6 RELATED LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

Institute Documents

Nil

Applicable External Standards and Codes

This policy and procedures support compliance with the following

Standards/Code	Standards/Clauses
Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021	1.4
	1.5

7 FEEDBACK

PIA staff and students may provide feedback about this document by emailing policy@pia.edu.au for such feedback to be incorporated into a future review.

8 POLICY MANAGEMENT

Approval and Review	Details
Approval Authority / Owner (Role)	Academic Board
Administrator / Responsible for Implementing	Dean
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Next Review Date	14 March 2027



Document History

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March 2024	1.2	Retitling