

NON-TRADITIONAL RESEARCH OUTPUT

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Related Documents (explicitly cross-referenced)	Research Output Attribution Policy Research Active in the SCD Policy Research and Scholarship Data Collection Policy Research Policy Policy on Register of Supervisors in the SCD
Higher Education Standards (2021)	Section 1.5 (Qualifications and Certification) Section 3.2 (Staffing) Section 4.1 and 4.2 (Research and Research Training) Section 5.2 (Academic and Research Integrity) Section 5.3 (Monitoring, Review & Improvement) Section 5.4 (Delivery with Other Parties) Section 6.3 (Academic Governance) Section 7.3 (Information Management)
National Code (2018)	Standard 1 (Marketing information and practices) Standard 4 (Education agents) Standard 14 (Staff capability, educational resources)

1. Policy Purpose

The recognition of non-traditional research output (NTRO) is now common practice in Australian higher education. This policy supports the reporting of non-traditional research outputs for the annual collection of research outputs and the College's Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) submissions.

2. Scope

The policy is for SCD faculty—any person accredited to teach within SCD—who wish to record NTROs towards their research profile and research-active status.

3. Definitions

3.1 Non-Traditional Research Output

The Australian Research Council (ARC) distinguishes between what it calls 'traditional outputs'—scholarly books or monographs, chapters in scholarly books, scholarly articles in refereed journals, and refereed conference papers—and 'non-traditional research outputs,' which comprise a wide variety of other outputs that differ in their form and mode of production and are classified differently for administrative purposes. NTROs may include anything from highly experimental works of creative art—music or visual art, for example, creative writing, dance or design—through to scholarly editions and translations, ethnographic recordings, website creation, and commissioned reports for government or non-government bodies.

3.2 Research

Research is defined in the same way as it is for traditional outputs as the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way, so as to generate new concepts, methodologies, and understandings in the relevant discipline area(s), for end-users and for communities. This might include the synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative in itself and/or leads to new and creative outcomes.

3.3 Authorship

While authorship conventions vary across disciplines, the minimum requirement is a significant intellectual or scholarly contribution involving at least one of the following:

- conception and design of the project or output
- contribution of knowledge
- analysis and interpretation of research data or of the eligibility or suitability of potential subjects of research
- drafting significant parts of the work or critically revising it so as to contribute to its interpretation.

3.4 NTRO Portfolios

A portfolio is a collection of non-traditional research outputs from the same underlying research endeavour that together have coherent research content satisfying the definition of research. The main criteria for a particular portfolio are that the publications:

- form a coherent body of work, and
- derive from the same underlying research endeavour, which may be broadly or narrowly defined, as long as all publications are related to it.

4. Policy Statement

4.1 ERA Eligibility

For creative works to be considered eligible and generate index points they must meet the ERA definition for research through attaining each of the following elements:

- (a) Must be: an original creative work; a live performance of a creative work or creative works; recorded/rendered creative works; curated or produced substantial public exhibitions and events, or portfolio of creative output;
- (b) Publicly available, e.g. through exhibition, performance or publication;
- (c) Rationale—a justification must be provided for the research, and the significance of the contribution must be clarified through a Creative Works Research Statement;
- (d) Reach—the work must have an audience or readership;
- (e) Peer review—all creative works must have been commissioned, competitively selected, or be able to otherwise provide evidence of external peer review.
- (f) Additionally, the claimant must be the author or creator of the research.

According to the ARC, institutions must provide digital documentation of any original creative works submitted for ERA peer review, as well as associated research statements. These must be available via the institution's digital repository.

4.2 Research Significance

Research significance needs to be demonstrated by evidence of research excellence, including peer recognition. Indices of research excellence would include locations/venues of public presentation agreed to be distinguished by discipline peers, including museums, galleries, theatres, conferences, festivals, media organisations, competitions, and commissioners. In the case of collaborative and crossdisciplinary projects, this may also include the involvement of distinguished personnel in a leading role (as actor, performer, director, artist, designer, architect, etc.).

The following forms of dissemination are generally not considered as meeting the requirements for an eligible creative work outlet:

- Self-published works, for example, publication of a selection of an artist's or designer's work on their internet homepage, or through publishers which require payment for publication of the work.
- Exhibition in studio, domestic settings, private spaces, or by artist-run initiatives, unless the research statement provides a strong argument for the impact and significance of the works and rationale for the location used.
- Web versions of conventional exhibitions, and web-based exhibitions with no curatorial component.

4.3 Peer Review Evidence

Creators of creative works are required to provide evidence of peer review, commissioning or competitive selection of their work. This may take the form of:

- a statement explaining the selection process, including the names of the selection panel
- an authorised copy of the written submission that accompanied the commission bid, if one was required; and/or a copy of the criteria set by the commissioning agent or organisation
- an authorised copy of the official comments provided by the commissioning agent/panel to the successful recipient
- evidence of peer review in the form of a published commentary and/or detailed statements by qualified experts who had access to the output

Peer review may also be evidenced by the following, and this may also provide support for allocation of a relevant level weighting where there is a new outlet or the outlet has not yet established a reputation:

- Independent substantial representations, critical or scholarly essays, articles, conference papers, or reviews of the creative work written by experts/peers in the field and published (in print or online) in either:
 - academic journals or professional publications
 - by commercial publishers
 - by commercial or not-for-profit bodies
- Involvement of highly distinguished personnel in a leading role (as actor, performer, director, artist, designer, architect, etc.)
- Invitation to perform/exhibit at heritage or historical sites, provided that the event is well documented and evidence is shown of editorial endorsement by a professional curator or festival director
- the commissioning or funding of the work / exhibition / performance by a competitive and / or peer-review process
- awards, prizes, honours, short-listings, etc., judged by a panel of peers.

4.4 Authorship

Credited authors of research outputs are all those, and only those, who have made a significant intellectual or scholarly contribution to the research and its output and have agreed to be listed as an author. An individual author is directly responsible for the accuracy and integrity of their contribution to the output, while all listed authors are collectively accountable for the whole research output.

For NTROs, joint authorship comprised of distinct contributions is common. In line with ethical research practices, there should be prior agreement on assigning authorship and acknowledging contributors. This should involve consultation with all contributors and cultural and intellectual property rights holders.

To count as a research output, an internal Sydney College of Divinity author—the designer, writer, composer, creator, performer, curator, or other kind of author—must be credited with a sole, lead or significant role in the production of the publicly available work. When an internal author is credited with responsibility for a specific and substantial part or aspect of a work rather than for the whole work, that part or aspect of the work may be claimed as a research output.

4.5 NTRO Portfolios

As a portfolio is not a distinct type of NTRO but a collection of NTROs, each individual component NTRO of a portfolio should align with the definition of the NTRO type and contribute towards the overall research contribution and research significance of the portfolio as a whole.

An individual NTRO should be considered for inclusion in a portfolio when it:

- results from the development of a particular creative research idea that produces a series (which may involve iterations) or range of related non-traditional outputs over a period of one or more years
- is part of a coherent research endeavour but not substantial enough to stand alone as an output, e.g., a single program note in a printed performance program, a single short poem, a short critical review of an exhibition, architectural design or performance or an annual survey report for an external body.

Portfolios count as one output for Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) and for the annual collection. Portfolios can only contain NTROs. Traditional outputs (journal articles, books, chapters, conference papers) and other types of output (such as newspaper articles, reference works, edited books, conference abstracts, etc.) cannot be included.

4.6 Assessment of Research

The SCD Research Committee will oversee the assessment of NTROs, with appropriate expertise consulted as necessary. For the sake of transparency, the Research Committee will utilise a list of criteria against which NTROs can be measured.

5. Implications of this policy

NTROs will be added to faculty members' research profile as appropriate. As such, NTROs will contribute to faculty research active status and ability to supervise research students.

6. Related Procedures/ Guidance Notes

The SCD Research Committee oversees the assessment of NTROs, with appropriate expertise consulted as necessary. The Research Committee has responsibility to supply a rubric to facilitate NTRO ERA submissions.