

# Guidance on the use of the Research Active Definition

The Research Active definition is generally used for purposes including, but not limited to:

1. Qualification for OSP
2. Qualification to be on the supervision register
3. Qualification for some internal research funding
4. A standard for external examiners of research theses.

**It should be noted that the Research Active definition is a minimum common standard.** Faculties are free to have different standards for faculty internal use, and are encouraged to use and refer to higher standards of research activity and productivity as appropriate for their own purposes.

## Research Active Definition

A 'Research Active' individual pursues research on an ongoing basis, as a major focus of their academic activity. 'Research' is defined in accordance with the most recent [ERA submission guidelines](#).

To be regarded by Macquarie University as "research active" a staff member must be a contributor or co-contributor to at least five peer-reviewed (weighted) research outputs in the past five years that satisfy the requirements for the following ERA Research Output classifications as relevant for the appropriate disciplines:

- Research book (weighted 5)
- Chapter in research book (weighted 1)
- Refereed journal article (weighted 1)
- Refereed conference paper (weighted 1)
- Original creative works (major work weighted 5, minor work weighted 1)
- Live performance of creative works (major work weighted 5, minor work weighted 1)
- Recorded/rendered creative works (major work weighted 5, minor work weighted 1)
- Curated or Produced Substantial Public Exhibitions and Events
- External research report (weighted 1)

and/or the following ERA Applied Measures:

- Plant Breeder's Rights (weighted 1)
- Patents (weighted 1)
- Registered designs (weighted 1).
- NHMRC endorsed guidelines (weighted 1)

Where staff do not meet the requirements of the abovementioned criteria, because they:

- have recently (in the past five years) begun to engage in research,
- are early career researchers, or
- have had a significant break in their research career (including, for example, parental leave, carer's leave, or because they have been working in an industry where publication is not supported)

then the definition defaults to an output equivalent to an average of one weighted output point per year.

The output count is not weighted for the number of contributors. For example, for a journal article with three authors, each author scores 1 weighted point.

Research Activity requirements are proportional for staff employed at 0.4 FTE or greater. Staff employed at less than 0.4 FTE may be recognised as Research Active by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Research on the recommendation of the relevant Associate Dean Research.