Faculty protocols for co-authoring between staff and students

The Faculty of Arts and Education encourages collaborative research and authorship between higher degree by research candidates and staff. Jointly authored publications between staff and students can support students to develop familiarity with disciplinary research and publication requirements, enrich supervision and mentoring experiences, and lead to higher publication outcomes for both staff and students.

Collaborative authorship between staff and students must comply with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, which stipulates that authorship:

‘must be based on substantial contributions in a combination of:

- conception and design of the project
- analysis and interpretation of research data
- drafting significant parts of the work or critically revising it so as to contribute to the interpretation.

The right to authorship is not tied to position or profession and does not depend on whether the contribution was paid for or voluntary. It is not enough to have provided materials or routine technical support, or to have made the measurements on which the publication is based. Substantial intellectual involvement is required.’

Neither the student nor the staff member is obliged to enter into a collaborative authorship arrangement. Collaborative authorship is not a requirement for the completion of a higher degree, and the decision to publish depends on the free consent of all parties.

Section 5.5 of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research states that none of the following contributions, in and of themselves, justifies including a person as an author:

- being head of department, holding other positions of authority, or personal friendship with the authors
- providing a technical contribution but no other intellectual input into the project or publication
- providing routine assistance in some aspects of the project, the acquisition of funding or general supervision of the research team
- providing data that has already been published or materials obtained from third parties, but with no other intellectual input.

If you are an HDR candidate who has been approached by a member of staff about the prospect of co-authoring and you require advice, please contact your supervisor, your school HDR coordinator or your associate head of school, research.