Faculty of Arts and Education
Higher Degree by Research

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

- the provision of funding, data, materials, infrastructure or access to equipment
- the provision of routine technical support, technical advice or technical assistance
- the position or profession of an individual, such as their role as the author’s supervisor or head of department (‘gift authorship’)
- whether the contribution was paid for or voluntary
- the status of an individual who has not made a significant intellectual or scholarly contribution being such that it would elevate the esteem of the research (‘guest authorship’)

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.

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