

## Equivalence of Qualifications Procedures

### 1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE AND COMPLIANCE OBLIGATION SUPPORTED

[Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 – Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2015](#)

Strategic Plan Theme: [Learning and Student Experience](#)

### 2. PROCEDURAL DETAILS

The Threshold Standards require that staff with responsibilities for academic oversight and those in teaching and supervisory roles are appropriately equipped for their role.

2.1. Heads of School will ensure that staff with teaching or supervisory roles in courses or units of study have:

- (a.) A qualification in a relevant discipline at least one level higher than is awarded for the course of study; or
- (b.) Equivalent relevant academic or professional or practice-based experience and expertise.

2.2. Staff who teach specialised components of a course of study, such as experienced practitioners and teachers undergoing training, who may not fully meet the required Standard for teaching or supervision may instead have their teaching guided and overseen by staff who meet the standard ([Higher Education Standards Framework S3.2.3](#)).

2.3. Staff supervising the thesis component of a higher degree by research degree are excluded from the scope of these procedures as they are covered by the [Supervision of Higher Degree by Research Students Policy](#) and [Procedures](#).

#### 2.4. Qualification equivalency process

2.4.1 To assist Heads of School to determine equivalency of qualifications, the staff member will submit an application for the Equivalence of Qualification to be assessed and determined by an Equivalence of Qualification Committee.

2.4.2 An Equivalence of Qualification Committee will be established in each Faculty and comprise the following:

- Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
- Head of School (relevant to the application(s) being considered)
- One other academic staff member or a discipline expert nominated by the Head of School (relevant to the application being considered).

2.4.3 Other Curtin campuses will convene a separate campus/area-based Equivalence of Qualification Committee comprising the same (or equivalent) as outlined in 2.4.2. For offshore teaching partnerships, Equivalence of Qualification will be assessed by the relevant Faculty as per 2.4.2.

2.4.4 The Equivalence of Qualification Committee will assess the application in accordance with the appropriate Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level and the Curtin Equivalence of Qualifications Guidelines. Staff must meet all the required criteria for the course of study in which they are teaching or supervising but not necessarily all to the same degree of depth.

2.4.5 The decision of the Equivalence of Qualification Committee will be provided to the applicant, Head of School and relevant People and Culture area.

2.4.6 Decisions of the Equivalence of Qualification Committee will be academically defensible and documented for reporting, audit, and benchmarking purposes.

2.5. Where there is a highly specialist subject within a discipline, determination of equivalence of qualification may require an alternative approach. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic.

## 2.6. Quality assurance, review and reporting

- 2.6.1. A number of applications will be selected by People and Culture (or equivalent for a campus or partnership), for review by an independent moderator (internal or external) to review the process for best practice and ensure consistency across Faculties.
- 2.6.2. People and Culture will provide an annual report for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic with:
- (a.) The number of applications considered;
  - (b.) The outcome of each application against each AQF award type;
  - (c.) The number of academic staff, the AQF Level in which they are teaching and their qualification, including those with equivalent professional experience approved by the Faculty Equivalence of Qualification Committees.

## 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to responsibilities set out in section 2:

- 3.1 **Pro Vice-Chancellors** are responsible for ensuring an Equivalence of Qualification Committee is established in their relevant Faculty or Campus;
- 3.2 **Heads of School** are responsible for ensuring that staff are appropriately qualified or have an Equivalence of Qualification determined;
- 3.3 The **Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching** is responsible for the operation of the process, advice, quality management and improvement, consistency and fairness; and
- 3.4 The **Director, People and Culture** is responsible for the collection, storage and reporting of staff qualifications and outcomes from the Equivalence of Qualification Committees.

## 4. SCOPE OF PROCEDURES

These procedures apply to all teaching and supervisory staff at all campuses and partnerships, with the exception of those staff supervising the thesis component of a higher degree by research course. See [Supervision of Higher Degree by Research Students Policy](#) and [Procedures](#).

## 5. DEFINITIONS

(Note: Commonly defined terms are located in the [Curtin Common Definitions](#). Any defined terms below are specific to this document)

## 6. SCHEDULES

*Nil*

## 7. RELATED DOCUMENTS/LINKS/FORMS

[Australian Qualifications Framework](#)

[Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\)](#)

[Supervision of Higher Degree by Research \(HDR\) Students policy and procedures](#)

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**REVISION HISTORY**

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New	Approved	05/12/2017	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic	EM1730	Unconditional