

Scholarly Practice Policy

Approved by: Chief Product and Quality Officer

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1. Purpose

The purpose of the Scholarly Practice Policy ('policy') is to outline the principles for promoting and fostering scholarly practice of both higher education (HE) and vocational education and training (VET) educators at TAFE NSW. It provides a framework for enhancing scholarly engagement, a research culture, and enriching the learning experience for learners.

2. Scope

All current educators at TAFE NSW, including sessional staff and contractors. It applies to both higher and vocational education.

3. Definitions

Scholarly practice /activities refers to the continuous pursuit of new knowledge, critical thinking, and intellectual curiosity. It includes research, evidence-based decision-making, creative problem-solving, and the dissemination of knowledge.

4. Policy

- 4.1 The promotion of scholarly practice of TAFE NSW HE and VET educators is crucial for:
 - 4.1.1. creating a skilled and innovative workforce,
 - 4.1.2. ensuring effective pedagogical practices and relevant curricula,
 - 4.1.3. fostering a culture of intellectual inquiry, and
 - 4.1.4. advancing its reputation as a quality public education provider.
- 4.2. TAFE NSW ensures that its educators are actively engaged in scholarly activities that advance and disseminate knowledge, enrich their teaching, provide positive outcomes for stakeholders and are aligned to strategic priorities.
- 4.3. HE educators are required to remain current with relevant and contemporary evidence-based approaches to teaching and learning within their respective disciplines in accordance with the Higher Education Scholarly Practice Guidelines and the requirements of the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021.
- 4.4. VET educators are required to remain current with relevant and contemporary evidence-based skills and knowledge of their industry as well as best practice in VET learning and teaching in accordance with the Produce or Maintain an Individual Delivery Profile (IDP) Procedures, Maintain and Teacher Qualifications, Currency and Competency Procedures and Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015.

- 4.5. TAFE NSW encourages cooperative scholarly initiatives that bridge the gap between vocational and higher education, including collaboration between educators and industry partners to promote multidisciplinary research and real-world problem-solving.
- 4.6. Equitable access to scholarship opportunities is provided for all educators regardless of their contract type, discipline or level of education.
- 4.7. Adequate funding opportunities and grants for research projects and academic and professional development are made available to support, enable, and recognise scholarly activities.
- 4.8. TAFE NSW supports diversity, equity and inclusion in the scholarly practice agenda, where educators are encouraged to consider a wide range of topics and impacts.
- 4.9. TAFE NSW upholds high ethical standards, including integrity, honesty, and the protection of research.
- 4.10. The publication of research findings and scholarly work in reputable journals and conferences is encouraged and the creation of accessible resources to disseminate knowledge is supported.
- 4.11. All scholarly activity is undertaken in accordance with the Australian Government's Artificial Intelligence Ethics Framework and TAFE NSW Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in Education Policy. All staff undertaking scholarly activity must appropriately acknowledge the use of GenAI where it is utilised and also ensure that prospective dissemination outlets support its use (e.g funding bodies, publishers, etc).
- 4.12. Evidence related to scholarship is systematically collected, stored and analysed to facilitate effective strategic and operational decision-making.
- 4.13. Scholarly outputs are monitored and evaluated regularly to ensure they align with the purpose of this policy and the strategic priorities of TAFE NSW.

5. Responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
Chief Deliver Officer	Overseeing the implementing this policy and for ensuring appropriate support and resources are provided for educators.
The Higher Education Academic Council (HEAC) and the Educational Quality Committee (EQC)	The Higher Education Academic Council (HEAC) for HE and the Educational Quality Committee (EQC) for VET monitor the effectiveness of the policy and its implementation.
Dean's Committee	Approving scholarship funding and grants to all TAFE NSW educators (HE and VET).
Course coordinators, Team Leaders and Head Teachers	Monitor opportunities for scholarly development, based on advice and evidence submitted by the Dean's Committee.
Manager Performance, Standards and Reward	Advising the HEAC and EQC on strategies to continuously improve the quantity and quality of scholarly output from teachers. The Manager Performance, Standards and Awards is also responsible for operationalising and reporting on scholarship activities across the TAFE NSW.
Senior Manager Higher Education Quality and Senior Manager Education Quality and Assurance	Provide advice to the HEAC and EQC on issues pertaining to compliance with the Higher Education Standards Framework, RTO Standards, TEQSA and ASQA expectations.

Position	Responsibility
Educators	Ensuring that they continuously engage with the latest development in disciplinary knowledge, industry trends and learning and teaching practice. They are expected to improve and innovate their course design and teaching practices accordingly and share such innovation in a scholarly manner.

6. Related documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following related documents:

- a. [Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy](#)
- b. [Higher Education Scholarly Practice Guidelines](#)
- c. [Higher Education Free Intellectual Inquiry Policy](#)
- d. [Produce or Maintain an Individual Delivery Profile \(IDP\) Procedures \(VET\)](#)
- e. [Maintain Teacher Qualifications, Currency and Competency Procedures \(VET\)](#)
- f. [Manage Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) and Machine Learning \(ML\) Activities Procedure](#)

7. Contacts

Accountable Officer	Chief Product and Quality Officer
Responsible Officer	Director Educational Quality

8. Document History

No	Effective	Approved by	Amendment
1	19 July 2024	Chief Product and Quality Officer	New