|  | **INSTITUTE** | **CENTRES** | | | | | **RESEARCH NETWORKS** | |
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|  | **Research institute** | **Research centre** | **Academic centre** | **Central research platform** | **Externally-funded research centres** | **Affiliate centres** | **Transdisciplinary impact research network** | **Capability research network** |
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| **Definition** | A major organisational grouping with a longer-term multi-disciplinary research goal. It must have significant linkages with industry, government or other external organisations. An institute must have a high external profile within the community. It conducts world leading research with impact beyond academia. It is envisaged that the University would have relatively few such entities and that use of the term signals a major strategic focus of the University. | Coalition of high quality researchers who intend to focus their activities on a specific area of at least national significance. Centres should involve strong partnerships with other universities, government, business or publicly funded research organisations. | Academic centres are established as a focus for specialised types of academic activity. Although certain types of research and development may be carried out in Academic Centres, research is neither their primary rationale nor their central activity. The range of functions and possible forms of academic centres is intended to be wide. They may undertake multi-disciplinary teaching and/or community service activities that involve significant cooperation across school and/or faculty boundaries. | Central research platforms house technology research platforms (physically or virtually) for use by internal and external users (including industry) to enable leading research. | Externally-funded research centres (or nodes of centres) are externally supported by a time-limited single large external grant and managed according to rules of that scheme. [Examples include: NHMRC Centres of Research Excellence, ARC Centres of Excellence, Cooperative Research Centres, Industrial Transformation Research Centres/Hubs]. | Affiliate centres are those where the University has agreed to recognise a joint mission with one or more organisations through a formal relationship. Participation in affiliate centres requires careful evaluation of the associated benefits and risks.  [Examples of affiliate organisations include: hospitals, research organisations, industry, government and institutional partners]. | A mechanism to bring together different research capabilities and disciplines from across UQ to co-design research directions with relevant external partners. May be instigated by either a “top-down” identification of a need/opportunity, or a “bottom-up” proposal from a group of staff.  Develops strong links with major external partners with whom co-design of research with direct societal impact will proceed. | Capability research networks would be expected to mostly come from “bottom-up” identification of opportunities from the UQ academic community and must be able to articulate a direct societal impact and clearly articulated path towards major external funding. |
| **Purpose** | To conduct world-leading research with impact beyond academia and provide research training for HDR and research focussed staff. | To conduct world-leading research and provide research training as per home school.  May play a role in teaching and community activities. | They may facilitate the building of strong links between various external agencies and a number of academic (and in some cases administrative) elements within the University. | To facilitate world-leading research and provide training of professional research staff (expert technicians), of users, and of the broader university (in terms of capabilities of instrumentation).  Expert advisory service to users. | Community awareness of a major area of strength based on involvement in nationally recognised schemes that support centres. | The purpose and scope of activities involving affiliates may take a number of forms and these are defined through the terms of an affiliate agreement. | To target external larger-scale funding opportunities not accessible by individual groups or disciplines, in collaboration with the co-design external partners. | Designed for research capacity mapping, internal/UQ collaboration and external awareness of UQ’s capability. Targets external larger-scale funding opportunities not accessible by individual groups. |
| **Scope of research** | A research paradigm that is broad and multi-disciplinary, focusing on multiple aspects of a research question or problem, manifesting in multiple research programs. | Focus of expertise on single research area or topic resulting in a single research program, focussed across multiple university organisational units. | N/A | Research focusses on cutting edge application of the infrastructure as well as facility/technique improvement and development. | In accordance with the requirements of the funding provider. | Established through an affiliate agreement. | Transdisciplinary approaches required to address problems. Focus (and name) that the external community recognises as an area of substantial need. | Research with demonstrated societal benefit and pathway to impact. Focus (and name) may be along a traditional discipline line that cuts across current UQ organisational unit boundaries. |
| **Life span** | Intended to be long-term | Specific lifespan | Specific lifespan | Lifespan consistent with the ongoing requirement for the facility. | Lifespan is directly related to the length of the external grant. | Established through an affiliate agreement, but intended to have a specific lifespan. | Specific lifespan | Specific lifespan |
| **Scale (must be met at establishment)** | | | | | | | | |
| **Academic staff****[[1]](#footnote-1)** | Typically academic staff of:  >70 FTE (STEMM)  >35 FTE (non-STEMM) | Typically academic of:  >10 FTE (STEMM)  >8 FTE (Non-STEMM) | Typically >13 FTE academic staff | Limited numbers of academics employed by the centre. | Varies dependent on the nature of the external grant. | Established through an affiliate agreement. | Typically > 30 UQ academics and >3 research groups. | Typically > 30 UQ academics and >3 research groups. |
| **Academic staff FTE** | STEMM  Level D & E – at least 10 FTE +  Level B & C – at least 20 FTE  Non-STEMM  Level D & E – at least 5 FTE +  Level B & C – at least 15 FTE | STEMM  Level D & E – at least 3 FTE +  Level B & C – at least 10 FTE  Non-STEMM  Level D & E – at least 1 FTE +  Level B & C – at least 7 FTE | Typically:  Level D & E – at least 3 FTE +  Level B & C – at least 10 FTE | Dependent on requirements. | Varies based on the funding source. | Established through an affiliate agreement. | N/A | N/A |
| **External research income[[2]](#footnote-2)** | Typically external research income of:  >$15M per annum (STEMM)  >$5M per annum (non-STEMM) | Typically external research income of:  >$1M p.a. for two consecutive years (STEMM)  >$200K p.a. for two consecutive years (non-STEMM) | N/A | N/A | The external centre grant would generally provide UQ with research income of at least equivalent to the requirements of a research centre. | N/A | Must have a clearly articulated path towards major external funding. | Must have/develop an articulated plan that targets external larger-scale funding opportunities not accessible by individual groups. |
| **Governance** | | | | | | | | |
| **Organisational location (Host)** | Generally reporting to a member of the Vice-Chancellor’s Executive, but is at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor. | Generally reporting within a faculty or institute, but is at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor. | Generally reporting within a faculty or the Senior Executive, but is at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor. | Generally reporting to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research Infrastructure), but is at the discretion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). | Report to a school or institute. | Generally reporting to a member of the Vice-Chancellor’s Executive, but is at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor. | Reporting through the Global Change Institute | Reporting through the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). |
| **Advisory board** | External advisory board (with membership external to UQ), approved by the Vice-Chancellor. | May establish an internal advisory board, approved by the Host. | May establish an internal advisory board, approved by the Host. | Internal advisory board, approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). Advisory board must have representatives from at least three faculties/institutes. | In accordance with the requirements of the funding provider. | Established through an affiliate agreement. There must be a suitable structure to enable adequate oversight of the relationship. | Advisory board (with external partner participation, GCI Director, convenor, plus other UQ staff as required) approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). | Across organisational unit steering group. |
| **Management** | Management committee must be established and have representatives from the wider University community. Structure to be approved by host leader. | Management is under the direction of the host. | Management is under the direction of the host. | Management is under the direction of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). A user group will be established to provide advice on the needs of the facility. | In accordance with the requirements of the funding provider. | Established through an affiliate agreement. There must be a suitable structure to enable adequate oversight of the relationship. | Management is under the direction of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and host (GCI). | Management is under the direction of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and host Executive Dean/Institute Director. |
| **Lead** | Full-time | May be part-time. FTE proportion to be determined by the Executive Dean/Institute Director. | May be part-time. FTE proportion to be determined by the Executive Dean/Institute Director. | May have an academic lead/director (full or part-time) and an operational manager (full-time). | In accordance with the requirements of the funding provider. | Established through an affiliate agreement. There must be a suitable structure to enable adequate oversight of the relationship, but this may not include a director. | Supported by a convenor, whose position is funded and based in a school/centre/ institute. | Supported by a convenor whose position is funded and based in a school/ centre/institute. |
| **Delegations** | Generally equated to an Executive Dean, but at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor. | Maximally equated to Head of School, but typically at a lower level of delegation. Changes at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor. | Maximally equated to Head of School, but typically at a lower level of delegation. Changes at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor. | Generally equated to a central unit director, but at the discretion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). | Limited to delegations associated with chief investigators on research grants. | Established through an affiliate agreement. | N/A | N/A |
| **Operations** | | | | | | | | |
| **Operational budget** | Directly receives university operational support.  Has an independent cost centre. Funding is at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor. | A component of the host operational budget, at the discretion of the host. Funds provided from the host budget must be negotiated on a stable arrangement.  Direct receipt of external research income.  Has a cost centre within the host. | A component of the host operational budget, at the discretion of the host. Funds provided from the host budget must be negotiated on a stable arrangement.  Has a cost centre within the host. | Supported through user fees (external and internal, expected to cover about 30% of the operational costs) and an allocation from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). Operating budget would generally exceed $500K p.a.  Has a cost centre within the DVCR’s portfolio. | Expected to be fully supported by the funding agreed through their external bid, which may include the external funding and a co-contribution from the University (if agreed during the external application phase). | Established through an affiliate agreement. | Budget allocation from the GCI (50K p.a.), spending approved by GCI Director.  In-kind support from GCI for design facilitation, administration, space. | Budget allocation from the DVCR (10K p.a.) plus from host faculty/institute (10k p.a.), spending approved by host ADR/DDR. |
| **Research block grants** | Direct receipt of Commonwealth Research Block Grants plus external research income. | Received at the discretion of the host. | N/A | Ineligible to receive. | Received at the discretion of the host. | Established through an affiliate agreement. | N/A | N/A |
| **Academic salaries** | To be funded from the budget of the Institute. | To be funded from the budget of the Centre. | To be funded from the budget of the Centre. | Limited appointments may be funded. | In accordance with the requirements of the funding provider. | Established through an affiliate agreement. | To be funded from the budget of the employing unit. | To be funded from the budget of the employing unit. |
| **HDR supervision** | Students may enrol through an Institute, on approval of a case. | Students are to enrol through cognate school or faculty. | N/A | Students are to enrol through cognate school or faculty. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Annual reports** | At the discretion of the host. | At the discretion of the host. | At the discretion of the host. | At the discretion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). | In accordance with the requirements of the funding provider. | Established through an affiliate agreement. | Short annual report required by 30 June each year. | Short annual report required by 30 June each year. |
| **Review frequency** | Every five year.  Vice-Chancellor can request review at any time. | Dependent on agreed lifespan.  Held every five years, but at least 1 year prior to the conclusion of its current term.  Vice-Chancellor or Executive Dean/Institute Director can request review at any time. | Dependent on agreed lifespan.  Held every five years, but at least one year prior to the conclusion of its current term.  Vice-Chancellor or Executive Dean/Institute Director can request review at any time. | Every five years.  Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) can request review at any time.  A review committee will be formed for this task. | N/A | Dependent on agreed lifespan.  Held at least every five years, but also at least one year prior to the conclusion of its current term. The structure of the review will be established in the affiliate agreement.  Vice-Chancellor can request review at any time. | Success reviewed annually by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Director of GCI | Success reviewed annually by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and host. |
| **Closure / discontinuation** | May occur following a review if accepted by the Senate. | May occur following a review if accepted by the Vice-Chancellor. | May occur following a review if accepted by the Vice-Chancellor. | Closure is at the discretion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). | Will close at the conclusion of the external funding (or any subsequent agreement from the external funder for the continuation of the name). | Requirements to be established through an affiliate agreement | Discontinuation is at the discretion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). On recommendation by the GCI Director. | Discontinuation is at the discretion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). |

1. Full-Time Equivalent (FTE): calculated for Institutes and Research Centres as 1 FTE per Research Focussed academic and 0.5FTE per Teaching and Research academic; calculation for Academic Centres will be dependent on the type. For Teaching and Learning Centres 0.5FTE per Teaching and Research academic. Other academics types will be recognised dependent on their confirmed commitment to the Academic Centre. The FTE must be allocated to the Institute/Centre. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. External Research Income must be expended directly on the work of the institute or centre. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)