

Principles and Practice of Research Management

Unit outline for approval as minor change to Graduate Certificate in Research Commercialisation (QUT course code IX97). February 27, 2008.

UNIT CODE: IFP105

UNIT TITLE: Principles and Practice of Research Management

DISCIPLINE CODE:

Credit Points: 12

Semester(s) of Offer: 1 and 2

Year(s) of Offer: 2007 onwards

Prerequisite(s): Nil

Co-requisite(s): Nil

Coordinator: Rod Wissler

1 Rationale

Research Management is an increasingly specialised and complex professional field involving both values-based strategic decision-making and a plethora of inter-related compliance, governance and administrative functions. Research Management takes place in both public and private sector contexts, and facilitates delivery of the economic, social and cultural benefits expected of research.

This unit, the first of two, deals with a number of the key foundational principles and practices which are part of a research manager's activity.

2 Aims

This unit aims to improve understanding of the range of frameworks, and issues involved in the field of research management including research ethics, research training, research dissemination and multi-partner research collaboration. In exploring these frameworks and issues, the unit will acknowledge the human factors in research organisations and will examine the data management systems and other technologies which underpin the operation of a typical research services unit.

3 Objectives

On completion of the unit, you will:

- a) have an understanding of
 - Issues in multi-partner research collaboration
 - Managing research ethics
 - Managing the research funding process
 - Issues in research training
 - Issues in research dissemination

- b) have developed some skill in one or more of the functions of a typical research services unit eg
 - funding application assessment
 - ethics application approval
 - research publication assessment
 - PhD scholarship assessment

4 Content

This unit allows you to engage with the following content areas, to extend your understanding of these key domains of research management activity and to develop early stage skills in some of the research management tasks which apply to them.

- **Issues in multi-partner research collaboration**

Perspectives on personal and organisational drivers

Teamwork across boundaries (eg disciplines, methods, work approaches)

Stakeholder management

- **Managing research ethics**

Recognising ethical issues

Analytical tools to help make ethical decisions

Case studies

Ethics Approval process

- **Managing the research funding process**

Initiation – funding models (public/private), funding sources and cycles, effective funding proposals (scientific merit, problem definition, fully-costed budgets, risk mitigation)

Project life cycle from contract to completion - milestone management

Acquittal and evaluation

- **Issues in research training**

The Context of research training

What is Good Supervision

Procedures and regulations

- **Issues in research dissemination**

Publish or patent

Open repositories and other emerging issues

5 Teaching and Learning

The design of the unit encourages active learning through online collaboration. While the unit moderator (teacher) provides expert content input and guides your learning, the peer learning opportunities are equally important, as the class group will include a significant cohort of practicing research management professionals. You will participate and interact in the online learning environment provided by this unit in a variety of ways, including:

a) Reading and responding to online content, including completion of online quizzes

b) Participating in online interactions such as forums and chat sessions

c) Engaging in formal assessment tasks (reading, reflecting, responding, writing, discussing)
The emphasis in formal assessment tasks will be on extending your conceptual reach through your own experience and knowledge, and to facilitate this, opportunity will be provided for workplace-based assessment tasks and workplace-relevant modes (eg case studies, project reports, project plans, presentations).

Opportunities will be provided for formation of groups and for participation in externally provided expert workshops, seminars and information sessions.

6 Assessment

Summative Assessment

a) Type: Forum and personal journal contributions (objectives 3a, 3b)

Description: You are required to contribute weekly to the Online Forums (on response to weekly stimulus questions or responses to designated key reading) and also to a Personal Journal (online blog), as a record of personal reflections on your progress through the unit.

Due date: Ongoing
Weight: 30%

b) Type: Short answer tests (objectives 3a, 3b)

Description: You are required to complete three short-answer tests at regular intervals.

Due date: Week 2, Week 5, Week 7
Weight: 30%

c) Type: Assignment (objective 3a, 3b)

Description: You are required to develop a workplace-relevant document (eg report, plan, proposal, presentation) using a supplied template, in the final stage of the unit. This document will allow for in depth treatment of multi partner collaboration and at least one other key content domain in the context of a case study organisation. This may be completed as a group task.

You will have the opportunity to submit a concept draft of the assignment for formative feedback.

Due date: End of unit (final version)
Weight: 40%

d) Formative Assessment (objectives 3a, 3b)

Description: The unit moderator will be able to respond to email enquiries throughout the unit, s/he will provide written feedback on short answer tests within one week of completion and you will also have the opportunity to participate in online chat sessions. Together, these provide for ongoing evaluation of your progress through the unit, for example through moderator and peer feedback on forum and journal posting, and also an assignment draft.

Weight: 0%

7. Resource Materials

The key resource is the unit website. Reference materials are provided online in the unit's 'Resources' section and throughout the body of the website. They include:

- Documents for download
- Links to offsite websites and web pages

You will also have access to:

- An online chat facility
- A personal journal/blog site
- Online discussion forums

The resources are identified in relation particularly to the topics covered on a weekly basis, as described in the semester calendar for the unit to be provided to students in week one.

8. Risk Management

There are no out-of-the-ordinary risks, other than those relating to the functioning of the internet and the provision of QUT systems access to the website for enrolled students.