

# CENTRES AND INSTITUTES POLICY

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all academic Centres and Institutes in all Monash University locations.

## POLICY STATEMENT

The role of Centres and Institutes is to advance excellence and impact of education and research at Monash University that would not ordinarily be achieved within the existing University organisational structure. Specifically, Centres and Institutes transcend traditional disciplinary and departmental boundaries and:

- enable the development of critical mass and focus for education and research activities in theme areas and contemporary issues and challenges;
- advance one or more areas of strategic priority for the Faculty and/or University; and
- enhance the external profile of such activities across Monash.

### 1. Role of Centres and Institutes

- 1.1 Centres and Institutes are intended to be organisational structures (virtual or physical) that have a common area of focus and involve commitment from members to develop a programme of broadly connected work rather than individual projects.
- 1.2 The activities of a Centre or Institute would normally constitute a significant body of work with critical mass to deliver research outcomes and impact as relevant to the discipline.

### 2. Centres

- 2.1 Centres may be established within faculties, at University-level or at a President-led campus.
- 2.2 Faculty Centres may reside in departments, schools or at faculty-level. These Centres are referred to in the accompanying procedures as 'Faculty Centres' and will be the overall responsibility of the Dean.
- 2.3 Where more than one faculty is involved in the Centre, one of the faculties will be designated as the 'host faculty' and will take overall responsibility for the Centre.
- 2.4 The case for establishing a new Centre must meet the following minimum criteria:
  - the potential to fulfil a research and/or education need that is not currently met by existing structures;
  - the ability to enhance the strategic aspirations of the University;
  - a track record of high-level performance amongst potential Centre members of relevance to the Centre's aspirations;
- 2.5 Faculties and campuses may also set additional criteria for establishment within their own disciplinary contexts.
- 2.6 The above criteria are also used to conduct periodic reviews of established Centres and Institutes, alongside review of performance and strategic directions, as set out in the Academic Review Policy.

### 3. Institutes

- 3.1 In addition to fulfilling the minimum requirements of Centres set out above, a proposed Institute must demonstrate the potential to:
  - be multi-disciplinary in focus;
  - advance one or more areas of strategic priority for the University;
  - lead University engagement with government, industry and research organisations, nationally and/or internationally; and
  - engage in significant collaboration across and external to Monash.

- 3.2 Structures will vary depending on the Institute but will be designed to maximise collaboration within and external to the University. An Institute may be established from inception or may provide a framework for bringing together existing interrelated entities. Institutes may contain Centres.
- 3.3 Institutes will generally be established at university-level. Proposals to establish an Institute within a Faculty will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Provost, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Enterprise) or Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement).

## DEFINITIONS

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|------------------|---|
| <b>Centre</b>    | Centres are formal structures established to advance strategic research and/or teaching opportunities that may not be possible within existing structures.  |
| <b>Institute</b> | Institutes are substantial large scale, multi-disciplinary research-focused entities which may include Centres. Institutes are expected to have significant external relationships with industry, business, government and/or other organisations. Due to the scale of Institutes it is not anticipated that the University would have a large number of these types of entities. |

## GOVERNANCE

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| <b>Supporting procedures</b> | <a href="#">Centres and Institutes Procedure</a>                               |
| <b>Associated policies</b>   | <a href="#">Academic Review Policy</a>   |
| <b>Related legislation</b>   | N/A  |
| <b>Category</b>              | Academic   |
| <b>Approval</b>              | Academic Board<br>22 May 2019<br>MEETING 3/2019, AGENDA ITEM 12.1              |
| <b>Endorsement</b>           | Monash Research Committee<br>21 August 2018<br>MEETING 5/2018, AGENDA ITEM 5.8 |
| <b>Policy owner</b>          | Vice-Provost (Faculty and Graduate Affairs)                                    |
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| <b>Content enquiries</b>     | academicreviews@monash.edu   |