

## Internationalisation of Research Strategy

### 1. Background

The Griffith University Strategic Plan 2006-2010 sets internationally competitive research as a major objective. Strategic reorientation has occurred in support of this objective including the formation of Strategic Research Programs and the injection of significant funding into Research Centres. One third of 'Next Phase' appointees have come to Griffith directly from overseas institutions and more than 40% of current academic staff were born overseas highlighting the University's commitment to the internationalisation of its academic workforce. The University has recently adopted a new Internationalisation Strategy which sets out goals, performance indicators, actions and accountabilities for research.

While international collaboration has long been intrinsic to academic research the University realises that the forces of globalisation make it critical to adopt a renewed focus on internationalisation of research. As a leading Australian research university, Griffith conducts research in several areas of global interest which are encompassed by the Strategic Research Programs and research centres. Accordingly, the University will provide additional support and encouragement in areas of research strength which match global research priorities and its strategic investment areas.

This Strategy extends existing documents by setting out a framework and key commitments by which the University will extend its current levels of support for the internationalisation of research and research training. Strategies for achieving greater internationalisation of research include the allocation of more resources to support international collaborations of the highest order<sup>1</sup>, expansion of existing programs to encourage mobility of researchers and research students to and from the University, and development of a new program to enable research centres and researchers to target international opportunities in a timely manner.

### 2. Objectives of the Strategy

The objectives of the Strategy are summarised as follows:

- To strengthen the world class character of Griffith research;
- To strengthen the reputation of Griffith University within the international community as a research-led institution;
- To enable the University to pursue large-scale, global research opportunities;
- To attract more international research funding and/or involve Griffith researchers in prestigious international research projects which might not necessarily attract funding;
- To strengthen research undertaken within Griffith University in selected fields to ensure that it addresses global issues and attains the highest standards of international excellence;
- To encourage individual Griffith researchers and research students to become more connected with the global research community;

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<sup>1</sup> This document refers to the Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) Top 500 as one possible source of guidance when choosing high quality international partners. It is understood however that international partners might be drawn from universities, government agencies, NGOs, industry and other organisations. The University will encourage SRPs and research centres to design their own processes for selection of partners. As a guide the University considers international leaders to be those which can be shown to be in the top five per cent of their field.

- To promote the flow of knowledge into Griffith University.

This Strategy is intended to extend existing activity and should not prevent academic elements or research centres from implementing additional initiatives designed to achieve the same or similar objectives.

### **3. Key University Commitments**

The University's internationalisation of research strategy will take two related directions. First, it will focus on utilising current mechanisms and support programs more effectively to pursue the objectives outlined. Second, it will trial a number of new initiatives specifically focused on creating a more strategic approach to our international research collaborations and to deepening current and future research collaborations. It is envisaged that these commitments might be extended over time and that programs including the visiting fellowship schemes such as the Sewell and Jackson Memorial Fellowships might be enhanced.

#### **3.1 Strengthening Current Mechanisms**

##### *3.1.1 Study Leave (ASP)*

ASP policy will be reviewed to ensure that ASP involving international travel will need to demonstrate the quality of the collaborations to date or planned in terms of high quality publications and standing of the international collaborators. It will be an expectation that the collaborations planned or to be furthered by the ASP will benefit the relevant research centre or academic element of the staff member. For example, staff might conduct seminars at a host institution which will present the research programs of their centre or element in addition to their own research. Preference will be given to ASP applications which fulfil these requirements except where there are equity considerations.

##### *3.1.2 International Conference Funding*

Conference funding policy will be reviewed to give priority to attendance at international conferences where papers are to be delivered involving international partners of distinction or where the Griffith researcher will also spend time meeting with international partners to discuss current or future collaborations. Delivery on these objectives, as measured by joint journal or book publications with relevant international collaborators, will be considered in granting subsequent conference funding.

##### *3.1.3 Current Internal Funding Schemes*

Preference will be given to applications for Griffith University Research Grants (GURGs) involving high quality international collaborators (e.g. from SJTU top 500 institutions or other relevant measures of quality). Careful attention will be paid to ensure that these additional requirements do not impede the primary objectives of the GURGs.

##### *3.1.4 Research Centres*

Collaborations with high quality international partners are to be introduced as one of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for research centres (each to justify measure of quality in terms of top institutions in their field). Research Centres will be required to benchmark against at least one international research centre on Thomson publications (or RQF academy journals for HASS) and research income per FTE. For the fourth year review each Research Centre will be asked to identify between 5-10 international quality institutions with

whom they currently collaborate and how they will strengthen those partnerships in the future.

### *3.1.5 Research Students*

The University's current 'fee waiver' scholarships for international students will be increased from 20 to 30 but a clear focus be retained on high quality students, supporting external competitive grants, and supporting areas of strategic priority for the university.

Griffith International will continue to increase its focus on recruiting international RHD students but with a particular focus on enhancing partnerships with high quality international institutions.

## **3.2 New Initiatives**

### *3.2.1 International Research Opportunities Fund*

The University will trial a number of new initiatives by establishing an International Research Opportunities Fund. This will have three features:

**Travel Fellowships:** five fellowships to be provided to mid-career researchers in the University's research Strategic Investment Areas to spend up to four weeks working with new or existing high quality international partners where there are clear institutional benefits (more extended stay of further four to six weeks to be funded by relevant research centre) – total central costs \$25,000.

**Travel Scholarships:** five travel scholarships to be provided to PhD Students in the University's research 'Strategic Investment Areas' to spend up to four weeks working with new or existing high quality international partners where there are clear institutional benefits (more extended stay of further four to six weeks by relevant research centre) – total central costs \$25,000.

**International Workshops:** Each research Strategic Investment Area will be asked to identify one major current partnership to be strengthened during 2008-9 to conduct a workshop with invited guests from the targeted institution to promote major research collaborations (\$10,000 per workshop – total central costs \$50,000). It is understood that these partnerships will be pursued with disciplinary leaders of the highest order.

### *3.2.2 Joint and Double Doctoral Degrees*

The University will identify five countries and five institutions within each country to commence discussions to establish joint or double doctoral degrees to commence in 2009 with a focus on our research Strategic Investment Areas. These institutions should be ones that Griffith already has strong partnerships with.

## **Key Performance Indicators**

To maintain consistency with the University Rankings and Internationalisation Strategies, the following key performance indicators apply:

- Number of research linkages with Universities ranked in the top 500 of the SJTU ranking of World Universities or top five per cent of non-university research organisations.
- Numbers of Griffith staff and research students involved in international research partnerships
- Numbers of significant research projects addressing developing country concerns
- Number of RHD students enrolled at Griffith who are from overseas
- Number of research outputs co-authored with an international collaborator
- Number of research outputs indexed in Thomson ISI databases [Note: this is an appropriate University-wide indicator but not always meaningful at the discipline level especially in HASS]
- Numbers of international RHD students with Hons 1 or equivalent classification.

### **Actions and accountability**

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) will have responsibility for this Strategy in consultation with Group Pro Vice Chancellors, PVC (International), the Dean GGRS, Research Centres and SRP coordinators. The actions described in the Strategy do not detail all the initiatives that the University takes in the international arena. Neither does the Strategy fully specify the roles of Griffith International, the Office for Research or the Office for Commercialisation. The latter have responsibility to assist Griffith researchers to attract international research funds and will play an important support role in this Internationalisation of Research Strategy.

### **Associated University Plans**

This Strategy should be read alongside the following University documents:

Griffith University Strategic Plan 2006-2010

Griffith 2015: Beyond Top 10

Griffith University Rankings Strategy

Griffith University Internationalisation Strategy

Griffith Research Plan 2005-2010 and Strategic Overview 2008-2010