

**REGULATION 18**  
**CENTRES AND SCHOOLS**



Current version with effect from:	N/A
Approved by:	Council
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Repealed:	13 Mar 2024, effective 1 Apr 2024
Transitional note:	The information covered in this regulation can now be found in Regulation 5 Schools and Regulation 6 Centres, effective 1 Apr 2024

- 18.1 The Council may establish a Centre or School for the purpose of fulfilling one or more of the objects specified in section 4 of the *University of Divinity Act*.
- 18.2 Prior to establishing a Centre or School, the Council must seek the advice of the Academic Board.
- 18.3 A Centre is to promote excellence in a specific area of research, research outputs and research impact and engagement. A Centre is not permitted to enrol students in an award or unit of the University.
- 18.4 A School is to promote excellence in a specific area of education or scholarship, and may include research. A School may enrol students in an award or unit of the University subject to approval by the Academic Board.
- 18.5 The purposes of a School or Centre may include:
- Public engagement with an area of knowledge;
  - The development of intercollegiate cooperation within the University;
  - The development of partnerships with external parties;
  - Enhancing access to resources.
- 18.6 A Centre or School must meet the following criteria:
- Its aims and purposes are aligned with the University's Vision and Mission;
  - It is controlled by the Council and governed by a committee that is accountable to the Council;
  - Its governance, management, staff and membership are clearly defined and appropriate to its aims and purposes;
  - It has sufficient resources or the potential to acquire sufficient resources to fulfil its aims and purposes.
  - It has clear objectives and is accountable to the Council for achieving them.
- 18.7 To resource the work of a Centre or School, the Council may:
- establish agreements with a College or group of Colleges of the University;

- b) establish agreements with an external party or parties;
- c) establish an internal fund for the receipt of donations in accordance with Regulation 44: Funds Governance.

18.8 A Centre or School must submit an Annual Report on its activities to the Council.

18.9 A Centre or School is established for a period decided by the Council and normally of no more than five years. A Centre or School may only be renewed by the Council following a review of its operations.

18.10 The Council has the power to terminate a Centre or School.

REPEALED

## REGULATION 18

### SCHEDULE A: CENTRE FOR RELIGION AND SOCIAL POLICY (Concluded on 31 Dec 2019)



Established by the Council on 1 July 2016

Current version with effect from: 11 Nov 2021

Approved by: Council

Approval History: 8 Jun 2016, 2 May 2018, 8 May 2019, 10 Nov 2021

Note: The Centre for Religion and Social Policy operated from 1 July 2016 until 31 December 2019.

#### 1.1 Aims

The Centre for Religion and Social Policy:

- a) promotes and undertakes research on the interaction between religion and society, and its policy implications
- b) encourages public conversation about the implications of religious social thinking, including its socio-economic, environmental, cultural and political aspects
- c) adopts an advocacy role about relevant areas of social policy
- d) engages in research for peer-reviewed journals and monographs
- f) draws academic resources within the University of Divinity into closer engagement with current public issues
- g) identifies and resources informed spokespeople to engage in public conversation in areas of their expertise
- h) develops partnerships among the Colleges of the University of Divinity; the churches, religious organisations and religious orders, their agencies and networks; organisations and individuals who share the Centre's aims
- i) encourages, through collaboration with the Colleges, the teaching of specific units on religion and social policy.

#### 1.2 Governance

1.2.1 There is a Management Group of the Centre for Religion and Social Policy which provides advice to the Director and support to the Centre in fulfilling its aims. The Management Group is accountable to the Vice-Chancellor.

1.2.2 The members of the Management Group of the Centre for Religion and Social Policy are:

- a) the Centre's three priority project leaders (currently in ecology, economy and wellbeing)
- b) one other person with expertise in research and engagement and/or grant applications/fundraising (currently the Director of Research)
- c) the Director of the Centre

- 1.2.3 The Management Group must meet no less than five times each year. Persons able to provide additional expertise may be invited by the Management Group to attend meetings but are not members of the Management Group.
- 1.2.4 The Management Group must make an Annual Report to the Council.
- 1.2.5 The Management Group may not enter into contracts or employment agreements. All such arrangements must be referred to the Vice-Chancellor, who may take advice from the Management Group.

### **1.3 Director**

- 1.3.1 There is a Director of the Centre (currently 0.4), appointed by, and responsible to, the Vice-Chancellor.
- 1.3.2 The Director is the executive officer of the Centre, liaising with members of the Centre, donors and supporters, and the wider University, and representing the Centre in public forums.
- 1.3.3 The Director works with the Management Group to develop and implement a strategic plan focused on developing nationally and internationally recognised research and effective stakeholder engagement. Some administrative and financial support for the Director is available from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

### **1.4 Members**

- 1.4.1 The Management Group may appoint as Members of the Centre persons who are able to contribute to its aims.
- 1.4.2 Members of the Centre are entitled to access facilities of the Centre and, through the Centre, may be entitled to access the facilities of the University.
- 1.4.3 Members of the Centre must acknowledge the Centre and the University in public activities and research publications supported by their association with the Centre.

### **1.5 Review**

- 1.5.1 The Centre was approved for a period of three years from 1 July 2016 to 31 July 2019. A review of the Centre was conducted by the Council in December 2018. The Council approved renewal of the Centre for a period of two and a half years from 1 July 2019 till 31 December 2021, incorporating a review of its progress at the end of 2020.

**REGULATION 18: CENTRES AND SCHOOLS**  
**SCHEDULE B: SCHOOL OF INDIGENOUS STUDIES**

Established by the Council on 10 Nov 2021



Current version with effect from: 23 Jun 2022

Approved by: Council

Approval History: 10 Nov 2021, 22 Jun 2022

### **1.1 Mission and Objectives**

The mission of the School of Indigenous Studies is to encourage the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander theologies and ministries, and to decolonise the euro-centric versions of Christianity that remain dominant in this country.

This is to be achieved through:

- a) forming respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and Elders and with Indigenous councils and assemblies amongst the University's partner churches
- b) delivering Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander curriculum in partnership, where appropriate, with the University's Colleges
- c) encouraging and developing a University-wide research culture that embeds Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander methodologies, ontologies and epistemologies, along with Indigenous approaches to theology and ministry that seek to inform and challenge the wider church and community.
- d) providing a culturally safe and supportive environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to promote access, retention and success in theology and ministry.
- e) continuing to transform the cultures and activities of the University, its Colleges, and partners, to promote justice and equity and to address the impact of colonisation.
- f) developing innovative and engaging learning experiences with the wider church and community that foster knowledge, respect and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and knowledge and of shared histories that are purposeful, and transforming.

### **1.2 Aims and Outcomes**

By 2025, the School of Indigenous Studies aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- a) The provision of dedicated support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students of the University that provides cultural, pastoral and academic guidance and support mechanisms to enable access, retention and success for all.
- b) All staff at the University and its Colleges, both academic and professional, complete a scaffolded program of Indigenous cultural training every three years

- c) Every award at the University includes a dedicated component in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spiritualities, experiences and ways of knowing. This may be fulfilled through a unit taken for credit, a hurdle requirement, content embedded across the award's curriculum, or a combination of these, tailored to the volume and outcomes of the award.
- d) There is growing engagement across the University with the School of Indigenous Studies leading to greater participation by all Colleges, and growth in number and diversity of Indigenous student enrolments.
- e) The University has developed and delivered a dedicated award pathway in Indigenous Theologies which is accessible to non-Indigenous as well as Indigenous students and which is designed to contribute to justice and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This may be fulfilled by development of a short course, a sequence of units, a dedicated award or a combination of these.
- f) The University has consulted and engaged with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education providers to create an accessible online map of opportunities and pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in relation to vocational and higher education, research, and professional development in theology and ministry.
- g) The University has developed culturally appropriate support for Indigenous researchers and Indigenous higher degree by research students, increasing the access, participation and completion rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR students, as well as producing internationally-recognised research in Indigenous theologies and ministries.
- h) The University has developed policies and protocols for engaging with Indigenous students and staff, welcome or acknowledgment of country at all major University events, the development of Indigenous content in curriculum, and Indigenous participation and representation in the governance, leadership and staff of the University and its Colleges.

### **1.3 School of Indigenous Studies Committee**

- 1.3.1 The School of Indigenous Studies Committee provides advice to the staff and support to the School in fulfilling its aims.
- 1.3.2 The members of the Committee are appointed by the Council for a term of up to three years taking into account any recommendation of the Committee.
- 1.3.3 The Committee must have at least seven members, a majority of whom must be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons, and including:
  - a) an Indigenous person appointed as Chair of the Committee
  - b) at least one member of staff of the School of Indigenous Studies
  - c) at least one member of academic staff of a College of the University.

- 1.3.4 The Committee must meet no less than four times each year. Persons able to provide additional expertise may be invited by the Committee to attend meetings but are not members of the Committee.
- 1.3.5 The Committee is accountable to the University Council through its Chair and confirmed minutes of the Committee are reported to the Council after each meeting.
- 1.3.6 The Committee must make an Annual Report to the Academic Board and to the University Executive on the School of Indigenous Studies.
- 1.3.7 The Committee must seek advice or request a decision from the Academic Board in relation to any matter concerning the academic programs of the University in accordance with the *University of Divinity Act* and Regulation 2: Academic Board.
- 1.3.8 The Committee may not enter into contracts or agreements. All such arrangements must be referred to the Vice-Chancellor, who may take advice from the Committee.

#### **1.4 Advisory Group**

- 1.4.1 The School of Indigenous Studies Advisory Group exists to provide the School with wisdom, expertise and advice from a diverse community, including Elders and Indigenous alumni of the University.
- 1.4.2 Members of the Advisory Group are appointed by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Committee. New Advisory Group group members may be appointed on the retirement or resignation of existing members.
- 1.4.3 Members of the Advisory Group may be consulted by the Committee or by the staff of the School about any matter relating to the School.
- 1.4.4 Usually there will be two gatherings of the Advisory Group each year which all members are invited to attend as they are able.
- 1.4.5 Members of the Advisory Group are members of the University, are entitled to access its services and facilities, and are required to abide by the University's Code of Conduct.

#### **1.5 Staff**

- 1.5.1 There must be at least two Indigenous identified staff of the School of Indigenous Studies, preferably including at least one woman and one man.
- 1.5.2 The staff of the School are employed by the Vice-Chancellor in accordance with the University's policies and procedures governing employment.
- 1.5.3 The staff of the School are accountable to the Committee for implementing all activities of the School.
- 1.5.4 The staff of the School work with the Committee to develop a strategic and operational plan for the School.

#### **1.6 Review**

- 1.6.1 The School is approved until 31 December 2025. The School may be renewed by the Council for a further period, subject to completion of a satisfactory review of the School's activities and achievements of its Aims and Outcomes.

**REGULATION 18: CENTRES AND SCHOOLS**  
**SCHEDULE C: SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**



Established by the Council on 8 Feb 2023

Current version with effect from: 8 Feb 2023

Approved by: Council

Approval History: 8 Feb 2023

**1.1 Mission and Objectives**

- 1.1.1 The School of Professional Practice is established to respond to current and future needs in faith-based agencies and related organisations for graduates who are equipped for professional practice in the world in which they work and live.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of the School of Professional Practice is to equip graduates to engage authentically and flourish in their role in the service of others.
- 1.2.3 The School of Professional Practice achieves its purpose by:
- a) delivering high-quality academic programs and professional development experiences that meet the needs of students, alumni and professional practitioners and the requirements of professional associations, industry and community standards
  - b) facilitating communities of practitioners in professional disciplines through collaborative approaches, transformative enquiry and contemporary educative processes
  - c) delivering research and thought leadership that responds to contemporary issues and is transformative of wider society
  - d) resourcing the mission, education and business strategies of the University and its Colleges and their partners
  - e) actively seeking the participation and engagement of industry in designing programs which fulfil their needs and the School's mission
  - f) providing a single point of contact for enquirers, students, graduates, employers and professional associations in relation to programs offered by the School
  - g) working collaboratively across the University and its Colleges in delivery of programs.

**1.2 Authorised Activities**

- 1.2.1 The School may deliver awards of the University that are assigned to the School by the Academic Board.
- 1.2.2 The School may develop and deliver units of the University that support the awards it offers, and that support awards delivered by the University's Colleges and other Schools.



1.2.3 The School may offer conferences, seminars, professional development activities and microcredentials that support the needs of students, graduates, professional associations and industry partners, including not-for-credit experiences.

1.2.4 The School may engage in research and is eligible to apply for research grants internally and externally.

### **1.3 Students**

1.3.1 The School may enrol students in awards or in individual units of study delivered by the School.

1.3.2 The School may enrol audit participants in units of study delivered by the School.

1.3.3 Students or audit participants enrolled through the School may also be a member of a College of the University, subject to the College's consent.

1.3.4 The School is responsible for ensuring that students enrolled through the School:

- a) comply with the standards and requirements of the Regulations and academic policies of the University
- b) are provided with appropriate orientation, academic skills, pastoral and other extra-curricular support.

### **1.4 Staff**

1.4.1 The Head of School is appointed by the Vice-Chancellor.

1.4.2 An academic staff member of the School may be an employee either of the University or of a College of the University who with the permission of that College conducts activities as a member of the School.

1.4.3 Administrative staff of the School are employees of the University.

1.4.4 Academic and administrative staff of the School are accountable to the Head of School for those activities they undertake on behalf of the School.

1.4.5 Each program offered by the School is led by a Program Director appointed from the academic staff of the School by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Head of School.

### **1.5 Governance**

1.5.1 The School's Strategic Plan is a division of the University's overall Strategic Plan and may only be approved by the Council on the advice of the University Executive. The Head of School is accountable through the University Executive to the Council for the development and delivery of the School's Strategic Plan.

1.5.2 The School's budget and business plan is a division of the University's overall budget and business plan and may only be approved by the Council on the advice of the Finance and Audit Committee. The Head of School is accountable to the Vice-Chancellor for management of the School's annual budget.

- 1.5.3 Where the School seeks to enter into a contract, agreement or memorandum of understanding necessary for the School to achieve its objectives, the School must follow the procedures of the Governance Policy and obtain approval from the Vice-Chancellor or another duly authorised officer of the University in accordance with the Delegations Policy.
- 1.5.4 The Academic Board must appoint an Academic Committee for the School to ensure the academic quality of programs delivered by the School (see Schedule to Regulation 2).
- 1.5.5 The School must provide an Annual Report on its activities to the Academic Board, University Executive and Council.

## **1.6 Review**

- 1.6.1 The School is approved until 31 December 2027. The School may be renewed by the Council for a further period, subject to completion of a satisfactory review of the School's activities and achievements.

REPEALED