RESEARCH POLICY

Approved	Academic Board
Approval Date(s) (from most recent)	25/01/2017, 16/07/2012
Date for Review (no more than five years from last approval)	2017
Responsible Officer	Director of Research
Author(s) and Role(s) from most recent	D Speed (Dean)
Related Documents (explicitly cross-referenced)	SCD Strategic Plan 2016-18 SCD Research Plan 2016-18 SCD Handbook
Higher Education Standards (2021)	4.1
National Code (2018) (if directly relevant)	

The Research Plan is the third Matter within Area 2, 'Academic', in the *SCD Strategic Plan 2016-2018*, and is set out in full in the *Research Plan 2016-2018*.

Research has a key role in the academic operation of SCD from several points of view.

1. Research Awards and Course Constituents

SCD delivers accredited (i) research degrees based on research and theses, (ii) postgraduate coursework awards with provision for research essays and research projects, and (iii) two Bachelor Honours degrees with the requirement for research and a thesis.

Relevant SCD Documents
Degree regulations as above in the SCD *Handbook*
Current information and forms for students, lecturers, supervisors and examiners

2. Research for Peer-Reviewed Publication

SCD expects accredited academic staff to engage in research and, as far as possible, to publish their research in recognized academic forums. From time to time SCD will provide or facilitate access to such forums.

Relevant SCD Documents
Academic Faculty Classification
Occasional information about SCD Press
Professional Development Policy
Promotions Policy
Research and Professional Activities Report

3. Research for Supervision

Supervisors must be demonstrably research active. For academic staff based in SCD or its Teaching Bodies a specific policy and specific criteria for recognition as research active apply. External academics may be recruited for supervision on the basis of their expertise as documented and recognized by the wider academic community.

Relevant SCD Documents
Supervision Workshop materials
Research Active in the SCD Policy
Research and Professional Activities Report
Register of Research Active Faculty

4. Research and Scholarship in Teaching

SCD embraces the ideal of research-informed teaching and up to date scholarship at all levels.

Research and scholarship may be distinguished as relating, respectively, to the direction of written work towards peer-reviewed publication and to the ability to teach from an appropriately well-informed base. Nevertheless, the two are closely linked in concept and practice: scholarship entails some level of research and research is founded on scholarship.

Research involves scholarly activity of sufficient originality, investigative rigour and contextualization in current discourses that its outcome will usually be publication in peer-reviewed, internationally recognized forums, with the broad intention of advancing knowledge in a particular academic field. For research to achieve a successful outcome a researcher must have, as well as inherent capacity and application, access to adequate resources of time and funds to advance the research itself and provide opportunities for both interim communication and final publication and, where relevant, satisfactory completion of a research degree as the basis for ongoing research. Resources may be expected to include provision by the employer of extended undisturbed periods for work of high quality to be developed, as well as ongoing provision of some shorter periods in which more limited aspects of the research may be addressed. As well as the provision of funding represented by relief from normal duties, it may be expected that actual funds will be made available from time to time to assist in attendance at conferences, travel to specialist resources or original records or monuments, and acquisition of research aids and materials as relevant.

Scholarship involves maintaining awareness of current discoveries and knowledge in a particular field and having the consequent ability to incorporate such awareness in teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate courses and in contributing to academic planning within SCD. For scholarly activity to be promulgated at a level that enables all teaching to be informed by relevant and current scholarship, academic faculty must have, as well as inherent capacity and application, access to adequate resources of time and funds to keep up with developments in their field, integrate new learning into teaching and academic planning, and make related presentations to in-house and external forums. As well as time allowance it may be expected that actual funds will be made available occasionally to assist faculty to participate in relevant forums and to ensure the acquisition of relevant materials for the use of both faculty and students.

In its accreditation of coursework teachers for disciplines, sub-disciplines, and individual units, SCD requires appropriate qualifications, generally including research degrees.

Relevant SCD Documents
Academic Faculty Accreditation

Academic Faculty Classification
Faculty Register
Moderation documents
Promotions Policy
Register of Teachers, SCD Committee Members and Other Academic Leaders
Research and Professional Activities Report

5. Research and Scholarship in Curriculum Development

SCD supports innovation in all aspects of curriculum development. The broad goal of the curriculum is to promote theological understanding and theological reflection in ways that assist students to lead responsible lives of faith. Research and scholarship in this area allow for critical, creative analysis and synthesis of innovative means for deepening spiritual awareness, promoting growth in moral sensibility and character, comprehending the biblical and theological tradition of a faith community, and enhancing the exercise of ministry in that community. Research and scholarship involve a critical evaluation of the existing curriculum and its relevance to the work of theologians, ordained ministers, and the laity, with a view to curriculum change and development.

Relevant SCD Documents
Learning and Teaching Enhancement Plan