Developing a supportive policy for postgraduate research students who teach

Ms Emily Feamster, Academic Policy Officer
Mrs Paula Miles, Lecturer in Psychology & Neuroscience
Dr Heather McKiggan-Fee, Educational & Postgraduate Researcher Developer
Why did we review the PGR teaching policy?

• Concerns from the Centre regarding support at the School level

• ELIR feedback:
  
  ‘ensure all postgraduate students who teach receive support from their schools for undertaking this role. This would complement the well-regarded training already provided centrally’

• Issues regarding what types of work should be paid

• A need to clarify roles and responsibilities of PGRs vs Academic Staff
How did we approach this review?

- Multiple discussions on existing practice and good practice
- Set up Working Group
- Located and combined all elements of the existing policy
- Defined the postgraduate teaching journey from start to finish
- Developed draft of new policy and templates
- Extensive consultation
- Policy approved
How did we address concerns along the way?

Extensive consultation

- Human Resources
- Critical ‘friends’
- Postgraduate representatives
- All Directors of Teaching (x2 consultations)
- All Directors of Postgraduate Studies
Policy on Doctoral Students who Teach

1. Scope of duties
2. Limits on teaching time
3. Selection process
4. Initial training
5. Ongoing support
6. Monitoring performance
7. Evaluation by postgraduate teachers

Policy & Templates