

Academic Pursuit Project Policy (MPF XXXX)

Explanatory Memorandum

1. Introduction

The University has developed a new Academic Pursuit Project Policy (MPF XXXX), which is now being released for University-wide consultation.

Academic Pursuit Projects (APPs) are used to manage untied discretionary funds that support academic activities across research, education and engagement. While APPs (previously Academic Consulting Accounts) have operated for many years, they have historically been managed through local practices rather than a consistent University-wide framework.

2. Purpose of the Policy

The proposed Policy establishes a consistent University-wide framework for the creation, management and oversight of APPs. It provides greater clarity regarding eligibility, the appropriate use of funds, accountability, and expectations for the management of APPs.

The proposed Policy has been developed through extensive consultation with academic and professional staff across the University and is now being released for broader University consultation.

3. Key features of the Policy

The Policy introduces greater consistency and clarity in several key areas, including:

- A clear eligibility framework restricting APPs to continuing and fixed-term academic staff.
- Defined allowable and non-allowable income and expenditure categories.
- Confirmation that APP funds remain University property.
- Clear accountability and oversight arrangements.
- Expectations for the active management of APP balances
- Defined compliance and enforcement mechanisms.

What is not changing

The Policy does not change the fundamental purpose of APPs. APPs will continue to:

- support academic activities across research, education and engagement;
- be used to manage eligible untied discretionary funds in accordance with University policy; and
- be managed by eligible academic staff.

The Policy is not intended to restrict appropriate academic activity. Rather, it establishes a consistent framework for how APPs are managed across the University.

4. Relationship to supporting documents

The Policy is supported by an Academic Pursuit Project Procedure, which provides detailed operational guidance.

Supporting guidance will also be developed to assist implementation, including guidance on transitional arrangements.

The Policy should be read alongside related policies including:

- [Financial Code of Conduct Policy \(MPF1338\)](#)
- [External Work Procedure \(MPF1129\)](#)
- [Appropriate Workplace Behaviour Policy \(MPF1328\)](#).

5. Feedback

The draft Policy and Procedure are being released for University-wide consultation, before submission to University Executive for endorsement and can be viewed on the [Policy Consultation Hub](#).

Consultation has been extended and is now open from **31 July to 11 September 2026**.

We welcome feedback on:

- whether the Policy and Procedure are clear and practical;
- areas requiring clarification;
- implementation considerations;
- any unintended impacts.

Your continued feedback is most welcomed and can be provided via the [feedback](#) form until **11 September 2026**.

6. Question and Answer Sessions

To support you during the consultation period and provide the opportunity to ask questions about the Academic Pursuit Project Policy, a series of Q&A sessions have been arranged on the following dates and times:

- Thursday 6 August: 11.30am to 12.15pm
- Tuesday 11 August: 2:00pm to 2.45pm
- Thursday 13 August: 10:00am to 10:45pm

To attend any of these sessions please register [here](#).