

Academic Promotion Discipline Statement

Discipline area: Humanities and Social Sciences

Discipline: Indigenous Australian Studies

Sub-Discipline:

Centre:

Discipline Overview

Indigenous Australian Studies is a multi-discipline field which covers all other disciplines and is grounded in critical and decolonising pedagogies. Indigenous Australian Studies is frequently seen as covering disciplines within the Humanities, Social Sciences, Health, and Environmental Studies. However, Indigenous Australian Studies can and should be contributing to all other disciplines including Business, Science, Maths, Agriculture, and Computer Science. A growing field within Indigenous Australian Studies is Indigenous languages (outside of linguistics). Indigenous Australian Studies is offered as standalone subjects or as hybrid subjects. Indigenous Australian Studies occasionally has courses designed for Indigenous people only but is an important field for all students and all disciplines, and thus there is an increasing demand for compulsory subjects across all discipline areas. However, despite the interdisciplinary nature of Indigenous Australian Studies, most academics within the discipline come from Humanities, Social Sciences, Education and Allied Health fields.

Gender Profile

Profession/Industry	% male / % female – unable to determine
Higher Education Sector	32% male / 68% female All Indigenous staff in higher education (University Australia 2021)
University	23% male / 77% female All Indigenous staff at CSU (2021)

Discipline Context and Expectations

INDUSTRY ACCREDITATION	At minimum a Bachelor degree for levels A-C; a PhD for levels D-E
DISCIPLINE PEDAGOGIES	As Indigenous Australian Studies is a multidisciplinary field, there are a number of pedagogies that are covered. However, pedagogies such as critical, social justice and decolonisation approaches currently underpin all areas of Indigenous Australians Studies.
STUDENT PROFILE	Student numbers vary depending upon the university and whether Indigenous Australian Studies are compulsory or not. In addition, Indigenous Australian Studies are not just taken up by Indigenous Studies and exist within a variety of disciplines.
STUDENT FEEDBACK/PERFORMANCE	Students' feedback tends to be polarised – students either have a very high opinion of courses and subjects and thus the lecturer, or a very low opinion. Frequently these opinions are set before the student has even commenced studies; sometimes, but rarely, do these opinions change during engagement in a subject. In universities where it is compulsory to undertake an Indigenous Studies subject, student feedback tends to rate the subject and staff much lower than students would another subject. Indigenous staff tend to be rank lower than Indigenous staff within compulsory Indigenous Studies subjects. However, Indigenous students within Indigenous courses/subjects tend to rank Indigenous staff higher than non-Indigenous staff. As Indigenous staff generally have to carry much higher workloads than non-Indigenous staff it is difficult for them to perform across all areas and in general it is research that suffers. Indigenous staff in general have heavier administrative/service loads, higher teaching loads when guest lecturing is taken into account and are expected to support other Indigenous staff and students, as well as sitting as Indigenous representatives on numerous university committees and boards.
RESEARCH APPROACH	<p>The research approach is generally collaborative and across a board range of fields. There is a mix of supportive and lead research roles. However, there is an increasing number of lead roles because of the specific knowledges and skills Indigenous academic/researchers bring to the area of research. In addition, Indigenous academics/researchers also are expected to work with community in identifying community's priorities for research and for all research projects to be co-designed. As well it is expected that people from the community are also employed and trained as research assistants for research projects within communities. There are specific codes of ethics governing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research</p> <p>https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/ethical-research</p> <p>https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research-policy/ethics/ethical-guidelines-research-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples</p>
PUBLICATION	There are limited numbers of journals for Indigenous Australian Studies and most work is published within textbooks or journals outside of the discipline. Hence the discipline has a higher rate of textbook chapters being published. Journal articles within Indigenous Australian Studies are peer reviewed but generally not at a Q1 level. The Australian Aboriginal Studies journal is one of the rare Q2 journals within the



	discipline. Authorship is a mix of single and co-authored chapters/articles. However, there is an expectation that Indigenous academics co-author with less experience Indigenous academics and there is also an expectation that the less experience academic is placed as first author in order to assist their career development and advancement. For non-Indigenous academics it is expected that they co-author with an Indigenous person and that the Indigenous person is first author. Furthermore, there is a growing demand from community that members of the community are co-authors of published work, especially when the content is about the community and/or the community were/are involved in research projects and outcomes.	
CONFERENCES	There are a small number of Indigenous Studies conferences (nationally and internationally), which generally tend to be non-peer reviewed. The main conference for Indigenous Studies is the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education, which is held every 3 years and is an international conference. However, given the multi-disciplinary nature of Indigenous Australian Studies, there is the opportunity to present at conferences in other fields that have peer-reviewed papers.	
GRANTS	There is a decreasing number of grants for universities/academics within the Field of Indigenous Australian Studies, as funding bodies are moving away from funding universities to directly funding community organisations and groups. Hence there is an increasing dependency on government funding and collaborating with other disciplines in order to obtain grants.	
HDR SUPERVISION	It is expected that an Indigenous person be the primary supervisor for all research students within Indigenous Australian Studies.	
RECOGNITION	Small number of awards and fellowships within the area of Indigenous Australian Studies, that are highly competitive. These awards and fellowships in general are identified awards and fellowships for Indigenous staff only.	
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT	The discipline of Indigenous Australian Studies requires that the individual engages with community and is the link between the community and the university. The community has extremely high expectations that all Indigenous staff are known within community and that they are involved in community meetings and attend community events.	
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION	No registration/accreditation requirements	
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