

Research Infrastructure Levy Fact Sheet

Division of Finance

Purpose

This document outlines the Research Infrastructure Levy principles passed by the Vice Chancellors Leadership Team September 2020. This update is intended to bring Charles Sturt University in line with the rest of the sector, and ensure sufficient funding is available to enable the University to continue to provide a high quality research environment.

Definitions

Direct Project Costs	Total identifiable salary and non-salary expenditure required to complete a research project.
Indirect project Costs	University funded 'Infrastructure' as described below.
Infrastructure	University resources required to undertake research activities, not identifiable as direct project costs. Including but not limited to, research equipment and facilities, IT, technical and administrative support.
Levy	Percentage increase applied to direct project costs.
Project	Externally funded research grants, consultancies, contracts and request for tender applications.
Project Administering Unit	Administering Org listed on the project Notice to Submit as the managing unit, and the Finance Org code.
RIL	Research Infrastructure Levy (combining the previous Competitive Neutrality Levy and Research Centre Levy).

Background

Undertaking a research project incurs a variety of direct and indirect project costs. Applications for external project funding must seek to cover both direct and indirect project costs as not doing so has a number of implications for the University. These include:

- University not meeting our obligations under the NSW Government Competitive Neutrality policy.
- Reduced infrastructure resources required to maintain an excellent research environment, leading to a decline in our capacity to undertake research, or reactive requests for resources.
- Projects for which external cash support is requested being under-costed.
- Reduced reportable HERDC income leading to a reduction in Government Research Block Grant (RTP and RSP) funding.
- University contributions to research projects being undervalued, limiting IP share.

Outline

Minimum 20% levy through to a maximum 30% will apply to all externally funded projects, unless they meet the criteria for exemption.

The minimum 20% is distributed as follows;

- i. 10% DVC Research and Engagement portfolio, for application against University wide infrastructure costs;
- ii. 10% Project Administration Org – Research Centre or Faculty on School based projects. To be applied against research infrastructure and support expenses incurred within that budget centre.

A compulsory additional 10% levy is to be applied on lab based/ high cost research, bringing the total levy applied to the maximum 30%.

Where lab and high cost facilities are not identified as required, the Faculty Executive and Research Centre Directors may still determine to apply a percentage levy greater than the minimum 20%, up to the maximum 30%.

Where funding guidelines restrict the percentage chargeable to less than 20%, the levy will be applied and recovered in the above order, up to the maximum allowable.

Application

1. Costing of RIL

- 1.1. RIL should be costed when formulating a project application budget. The Research Budget Approval Form (BAF) can be used to aid this and the Research Services team can also provide assistance to ensure RIL is correctly applied.

- 1.2. Amounts are calculated as a percentage of Charles Sturt direct project costs only. (Any collaborator share of project funding is excluded.)
2. Exemptions
 - 2.1. The following exemptions from RIL may apply;
 - 2.1.1. Grants of less than \$20,000,
 - 2.1.2. Scholarships for HDR students, both operating and stipend portion. (Note this is scholarship specific agreements only. Does not include stipends and operating within larger research projects.),
 - 2.1.3. Grants from registered charities,
 - 2.1.4. Applications where funding guidelines specifically exclude the recovery of infrastructure and overhead type levies.
 - 2.2. The above exemptions are not applicable where funding body guidelines specifically allow for inclusion of infrastructure and overhead type levies.
3. Requests to waive levy
 - 3.1. Researchers can make a request for RIL exemption to the PVC Research and Innovation during the drafting of project applications.
 - 3.2. Requests for exemption are to be submitted to the PVC Research and Innovation using the form available on the Research Support > Forms and Guides webpage. (A link to this webpage is provided below.)
 - 3.3. Requests for exemption after applications have been submitted may result in a reduction to budget available to fund project direct costs.
 - 3.4. Applications received by Research Services which do not include RIL in budget (where eligible to include) will be returned to the Chief Investigator to complete for submission.
 - 3.5. It must be recognised that where external project funding does not include the RIL to provide for the indirect project costs, the University is in fact subsidising these from alternate funding sources. This should be acknowledged by including the 20 – 30% levy as part of the University in-kind contribution to the project budget.

Additional Information

For additional information or assistance with interpreting the Research Infrastructure Levy, please contact The Office of Research Services and Graduate Studies x32587 or research@csu.edu.au.

Australian Charities and NFP registration status

<https://www.acnc.gov.au/>

Research Support - Forms and Guides

<https://research.csu.edu.au/research-support/forms-and-guides>

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