

21 February 08

RPI Update



From the Office of Research & Development

Making a Claim for Research Income

What's claimable?

- **External** income received for the purposes of research can be claimed. Curtin internal grants (such as Fellowships, Institute/Centre support, Curtin Linkage) are not eligible for claiming.
- The external research income must enter the finance system of Curtin in **2007**. The exception is where there is a joint venture agreement and the income is formally recognised by the partners as Curtin's 2007 allocation but doesn't enter the University's finance system. The requirements that must be met for claiming this income are set out in the [2008 Higher Education Research Data Collection \(HERDC\) Specifications](#), section 7.5.
- Only **Curtin's allocation** of external research income can be claimed. Therefore, if Curtin, as the lead organisation of a collaborative grant, is responsible for receiving and then dispersing income to other university partners, then only the proportion of income that stays with Curtin is claimable.
- Apart from normal research grants, remember that APAI income is claimable – the value and verification statement can be sourced from [Delia Giggins](#) of the Graduate Studies Office. Also claimable is income for a Professorial Chair, as long as there is formal recognition by the sponsor that the Chair is a research position.

Who can claim for income?

The RPI rewards researchers for **securing** research income. So it is the named investigators on the grant that are allocated RPI points – rewarding the researchers for securing the income, and providing consistency between RPI Groups in the allocation of points.

How points are shared between named investigators: Each research grant coming into Curtin is allocated a Principle Investigator – this is the researcher (1) named as Principle on the grant application and/or RPAT; or (2) nominated as Principle by the research team when ORD is alerted to the application, or (3) in the absence of 1 or 2, the first named Curtin investigator. Where the grant has been registered with ORD, in accordance with Curtin policy and procedures, the grant information, including the Principle Investigator and other Curtin chief investigators, will auto-import to the RPI Module. It is up to the Principle Investigator to allocate the percentage share of the total RPI points for the grant, to each of the named investigators. Each investigator will be able to see their allocation and discuss with the Principle.

New chief investigators: Where a named investigator has left the project during the collection year and:

- Where there is no replacement investigator, the remaining investigators split the points; or
- Where the funding body had to be alerted to and accepts a replacement investigator, the new investigator shares in the RPI points.

What to do when the grant doesn't automatically import

You can [Add Project](#) manually to the RPI system if it isn't already loaded onto SCRIPT. The project will need to be loaded for each Member, and **all** Curtin investigators (including the Principle Investigator and the Member under which it is being loaded) must be added (with Staff IDs) under the [Add Researcher](#) field. Use [Add Claim](#) to add the funding source(s) for the Project.

Categories of research income

Australian Competitive Grants (i.e. grants listed on the [Australian Competitive Grants Register](#)) have a 5 times multiplier in terms of RPI points. Note that your share of an ACG that comes from another university (as the lead organisation on the grant) should be claimed as Australian Competitive Grant income, even though the invoice was raised to another university.

International Peer Reviewed Grants have a 3 times multiplier. For these claims there must be proof that the funding body is an international body, and undertook a formal peer-review process when allocating the funding. Examples are the US based National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF).

Other research income is for all other research income, including projects under CRCs.

New to Curtin?

Researchers who joined Curtin during the collection year (1 January to 31 December 2007) can claim **all publications published in 2007** regardless of whether the affiliation is given as Curtin. This is only allowable for the collection year in which a researcher joined. In subsequent years a researcher's affiliation must include Curtin in order to claim RPI points.

Research **income transferred to Curtin** is also claimable, as long as the income was received in 2007.

HDR completions occurring at another university are not claimable under the RPI.

Tips for Maximising RPI Points

- Where a researcher has left Curtin, the RPI Group can claim their contribution to publications etc by adding the researcher as a Member. The researcher should have been affiliated with the RPI Group previously, or the RPI Administrator should alert ORD that they are making a claim for an ex-staff member's contributions.
- **Editorship of a book** was previously claimable under publications. However, with the exclusion of this sub-category from Section C, please note that editorship of a book can be claimed under Section D, category Ba.
- Where Curtin is not the lead organisation on an Australian Competitive Grant and therefore receives its share of the funding from another university, the income should be claimed under the **original funding source**. For example, where an ARC grant won by a researcher at UWA and a researcher at Curtin, and the grant is managed by UWA, Curtin invoices UWA for its share of the grant. The funding however can be claimed as category Aa.
- Ensure that adjuncts and honorary staff members (with staff IDs) include their affiliation with Curtin on their publications. They can then be included in an RPI Group and their proportion claimed.

Available Help

RPI HelpDesk – for any queries regarding the RPI process including registration of groups and training sessions.

Pia Meehan

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| Telephone | 9266 4245 |
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System Administrator – access or system problems.

Su Siau Chai

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Melinda Thompson

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Useful Links

- [Research Performance Index \(RPI\) website](#)
- [2008 RPI Round Specifications](#) to be read in conjunction with [Higher Education Research Data Collection \(HERDC\) 2008 Specifications](#)
- [Australian Competitive Grants Register](#)
- [SCRIPT Database](#)
- [Application form for SCRIPT login](#)

RPI Recycling

Lever arch files for hardcopy submission can be obtained from ORD, Building 100, Level 1. Rather than buy more files, come and collect last year's files and re-use them for this year's submission.

