

RSHA Strategic Direction statement

2016-2017

Overview

The Research School of Humanities and the Arts (RSHA), part of the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences, is primarily concerned with building on its established strengths in research and education across the humanities and the creative arts at all levels. While it places a strong emphasis on traditional humanities scholarship, at the same time it encourages creatively interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, and practice-led research, including digital humanities research; Indigenous studies and policy development; language studies; museum, curatorial, and heritage studies; archaeological science and rock art studies; studio visual arts and crafts; musical composition and performance, and much more. The RSHA also engages with the community beyond the university in a variety of ways – in industry and cultural collaborations and policy contributions through programs in applied anthropology and development studies, for example; biological anthropology and forensics; art exhibitions and musical performance; music education and outreach in the ACT; and production of the Australian National Dictionary.

RSHA's four schools, each representing a broad group of disciplines, include the School of Archaeology and Anthropology (including an ARC Laureate Fellow in Pacific archeology, Linkage projects with national cultural institutions, and the Native Title Research Centre in collaboration with the Attorney General's office); the School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics (including the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language); the School of Art (internationally recognised for specialised links with Asian and other international craft and design institutions, and for digital media, art history, and its contribution to arts fairs and biennales); and the School of Music (which focuses on producing twenty-first-century music scholars and professionals in composition and music technology). Cross-disciplinary dialogue is facilitated by a number of research centres within the Schools.

Across the Research School, in 2015, the RSHA had around 1100 undergraduate students, 160 postgraduate coursework students, and 240 research Masters and PhD students, many of whom were recipients of Australian Postgraduate Awards and International Postgraduate Research Scholarships.

The disciplines that comprise the RSHA are at the forefront of ANU's excellence in international rankings, routinely outperforming those at other universities in Australia and overseas. Our research, education, and outreach activities emphasise the production, dissemination, transfer, and application of knowledge through critical analysis and creative expression, collaborating within and across university, the community, and the government sectors.

RSHA: the public humanities and creative arts

The RSHA is driven by the fundamental question of what it means to be human, a question that generates analysis, debate, and creative expression across diverse disciplinary fields to make real contributions to understanding, recording, challenging, and transforming human society. The impact of our work is public and it is real, bringing together researchers working in areas as diverse as Ancient Greek, Indigenous language preservation, anthropological and digital cultures in order to provide innovative forms of education, research, and outreach to the other scholars, policy makers, and communities who become our collaborators. The breadth and depth of our research enables new knowledge for the benefit of those seeking to understand and address the challenges faced by the world today.

Because of our Art and Music schools, the Classics museum, our public lectures and seminars, our ties with national cultural institutions, and our work with Indigenous and other languages, the RSHA is identified by many as the public face of the ANU. Our reputation for building sustained relationships with diverse socio-cultural, political, and economic groups stems from the collaborations we enjoy with museums, libraries, and heritage institutions across Europe, the Americas, and the Asia-Pacific region; with remote Indigenous communities in regional Australia, as well as in Asia and the Pacific; and with federal and ACT government organisations, including local art and music communities in the national capital and its region. Similarly, our research centres (such as the Humanities Research Centre, Centre for Digital Humanities Research, Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies, the Australian National Dictionary Centre) publicise and link the ANU's excellence in research to cultural and intellectual communities globally. The physical assets and artefacts of our activities (including art, music, and literature, as well as diverse material and virtual collections) demonstrate our conscious and tangible commitment to public engagement.

Mission statement

RSHA is committed to an ongoing process of investigation into both old and new ways of understanding and valuing human experience and human culture. Our mission is to consolidate the RSHA's reputation for excellence in research, education, and engagement in order to build public confidence in the vital contribution made by the humanities, arts and social sciences (HASS) sector to social, cultural, political, and economic transformation. We are fully committed to creating and extending opportunities for the creation and transfer of knowledge both within and across communities.

Rather than just responding to changing tertiary funding structures in Australia, the RSHA aims actively to contribute to the shaping of the new landscape within which we work. Our mission includes:

(1) Sustaining a community of scholars committed to:

- free and open inquiry;
- academic excellence and the inherent value of teaching and research in the humanities and creative arts;
- providing opportunities for our students to develop the attributes and capacities required for leadership and global citizenship;
- bringing the methodologies and insights of our disciplines to bear on many of the fundamental questions facing humanity today through basic research and engaged public comment and debate.

- (2) Committing to innovative forms of knowledge transfer and student experience through:
- digital humanities;
 - identifying and creating links between HASS and STEM sectors;
 - enhancing student experience through creative pedagogy, field schools, internships, and international exchanges;
 - highlighting the unique nature of our practice-led research and linking to all national cultural institutions and the galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAM) sector;
 - facilitating professional development opportunities and workforce alumni.
- (3) Articulating the public impact value of the humanities by:
- extending links with national cultural institutions;
 - consolidating or improving Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) results and other university rankings;
 - improving the narrative around the utility of traditional humanities research to improve funding outcomes;
 - developing partnerships with principal event and festival agencies and peak bodies as a prominent contributor to the annual arts calendar of the ACT.

Objectives

The RSHA Strategic Directions statement has the following main objectives:

1. to showcase the excellence of our research in response to government changes to university funding and research quality measures for HASS disciplines;
2. to increase the visibility of RSHA within an identified cultural precinct of the ANU and to reach out to the community;
3. to increase opportunities for internationalisation;
4. to develop greater cross-college collaboration;
5. to enhance and manage our donor funding;
6. to maintain our excellence in teaching.

1. to advertise the excellence of our research in response to government changes to the research block grant funding and research quality measures for HASS disciplines.

Actions	Responsibility
Act in response to new drivers for the Research Block Grant funding; as Cat. 1, Cat. 2, 3, 4 income and HDR completions by seeking new research opportunities with tangible outcomes.	Director, HOSs, Head HRC, all academic staff
Provide input into discussions around new measures for research excellence, by making a strong case for RSHA's research contribution to public impact and engagement with industry, business, government, collecting, and cultural sectors.	Director, HOSs, EO, Head HRC, all academic staff
Work for better recognition of Non-Traditional Research Outputs (NTROs) particularly relevant for RSHA, including music, artworks, literary and other creative works, dictionaries, editions, translations.	Director, HOSs, EO, Head HRC, all academic staff
Participate in the 2017 ANU pilot collection for impact studies, working to increase academic awareness of the need to represent our research in case study examples and mentoring staff to put the best case study examples forward.	Director, HOSs, EO, Head HRC, all academic staff
Consolidate and develop our network of relationships with the national cultural institutions (NCIs) of Canberra, contributing to research of national importance with significant end user impact and quantified by visitations, admissions, and tourism earnings.	Director, HOSs, EO, Head HRC, all academic staff
Provide input to public policy through links with government departments and their consultative mechanisms – for example, on Indigenous issues with PM&C or development policy with DFAT.	Director, HOSs, EO, Head HRC, all academic staff
Act to maintain and improve our ERA and QS rankings in each of our disciplines, while gaining recognition for NTROs as having equal status to publication research outputs.	Director, HOSs, all academic staff
Continue to publish in high-profile journals and with reputable publishers, continue to produce quality exhibitions and other NTROs, and to attract and retain excellent staff.	Director, HOSs, all academic staff
Support RSHA-run journals, where they provide valuable publishing opportunities for ANU staff and students (e.g. <i>Australian Humanities Review</i> , <i>Australian Literary Studies</i> , <i>Humanities Research</i>).	Director, HOSs
Support ECRs in career development, including: advancing research (esp. grant applications and publishing), developing an appropriate teaching portfolio; engaging with service to ANU; and managing workloads; as well as providing appropriate mentoring to assist them in this.	Director, HOSs, Head HRC

Increase our student internship placements with industry and business, for example with increased opportunities through the new DESIGN degree and continuing the internship placements of the Heritage and Museum program with NCIs and others in the cultural and government sector.	Director, HOSs
Continue to lobby for increased government funding for CGS-supported places and for financial recognition of high cost infrastructure and fieldwork requirements of some HASS disciplines.	Director, EO

2. to increase the visibility of RSHA within an identified cultural precinct of the ANU, to reach out to the community, and to secure safe and accessible storage for RSHA collections

Actions	Responsibility
Complete an audit of our collections in order to secure safe storage and security for valuable items and to facilitate better access for teaching, research, and outreach purposes.	Director, EO, HOSs, SMs
Work towards establishing a visible cultural footprint which is the RSHA, to consist of a cluster of buildings, in close proximity to each other, nurturing a range of cross-disciplinary collaborations, and adjacent to City West, New Acton, and the national cultural institutions and galleries, libraries and museums around the civic and basin area, with a greater physical link to the broader community.	Director, EO, Head HRC
Obtain greater certainty and security regarding proposed changes to Union Court and the RSHA's position within it.	Director, EO
Actively develop and seek better infrastructure for replacement laboratories for Archaeology, the development of a museum exhibition space, improved health and safety conditions in the School of Art, and maintenance of the Classics Museum.	Director, EO
Maintain and promote the Google online museum for the Classics museum and collection, and take advantage of other such opportunities for wide promotion of RSHA activities.	SLLL, EO, SM
Support events that promote the public face of the Humanities, e.g. HRC seminar series, Conversations across the Creek, Books that Changed Humanity, Ad Hominem, Reading Across Borders, as well as public lectures, film festivals, art shows, music performances.	Director, EO, HOSs, Head HRC

3. to increase opportunities for the internationalisation of our research and research-led education

Actions	Responsibility
Utilise the SAA and SOA reviews as opportunities to engage with targeted international reviewers who will assist in charting strategic directions for the Schools in a global landscape.	Director, HOS SOA/SAA
Work with the CASS Associate Dean (International) to identify and develop international AOU initiated research partnerships and research-led training opportunities.	Director, A/D (International), EO, HOSs, Head HRC
Develop the Singapore School of the Arts (SOTA) camp for elite Year-12 art and music students to visit the ANU Schools of Art and Music and take part in a menu of activities, with a view to SOTA undergraduate enrolments at the ANU.	EO, SOA and SOM reps and SMs
Work with ANU Enterprise and international partners (such as the British Museum and Smithsonian) to develop professional training courses in areas such as material collections, authenticity, and cultural theft.	Director, EO, HOSs
Enhance visitor schemes – including the RSHA and HRC Visiting Fellows – to maximise opportunities for visitors and ANU scholars and students to interact widely and to develop longer term collaborations.	Director, EO, HOSs, Head HRC
Support staff with opportunities to present their own work in international venues.	Director, HOSs, Head HRC

4. to develop greater cross-college collaboration

Actions	Responsibility
Continue to engage with interdisciplinary and cross-college conversations with STEM disciplines – for example, in research proposals, seminar programs such as the HRC Conversations across the Creek, and the SOA VCCAF program.	Director, HOSs, Head HRC
Continue to develop and strengthen connections between digital humanities and other areas of the ANU; consolidating the connections made so far across literature, gender studies, ethnographic film, museums, art history, art theory, history and music.	Director, HOSs, EO + Head HRC

Ensure that technological advances are shared across the campus, including dissemination of information about, and training in, such advances	Director, EO
Work with the CASS and partners in CAP to make the most of collaborations both within and across disciplines such as linguistics, languages, archaeology, anthropology, visual art, gender studies, development studies, and literary studies.	CASS Exec, Director, HOSs, EO, SMs
Work to further facilitate greater cooperation around educational offerings in CAP and CASS, weighing up carefully the benefits of deregulation vs. strategic regulation of degree structures.	CASS Exec, Director, HOSs, EO, SMs

5. to enhance and manage our donor funding

Actions	Responsibility
Work with the new CASS Advancement Manager to identify and develop opportunities for new foundations with large institutions and foundations.	Director, HOSs, EO, SMs
Work with the new CASS Advancement Manager to identify post-doctoral fellowship and new professoriate funding sources.	Director, HOSs, EO, SMs
Support outreach events and celebrate student and staff achievements at School or Research School level.	HOSs, EO, SMs
Work with CASS Marketing and AR&P to better engage with our alumni and make them feel a part of the RSHA community.	HOSs, EO, SMs

6. to maintain our excellence in teaching.

Actions	Responsibility
Support for staff with innovative teaching initiatives and to develop and sustain these initiatives.	Director, HOSs, SMs
Work to ensure that expectations about ANU staff leading in technology-enhanced education are matched to resourcing provided	Director, HOSs, SMs
Work to ensure that the Education Design Studio provides services across the RSHA that are not duplicated elsewhere and have potential to enhance RSHA education, in particular in relation to technological advances.	Director, HOSs, SMs
Provide support for international students (English language training, mentoring systems, other aspects of the student experience).	Director, HOSs

Facilitate collaboration across areas within the Creative Arts.	Director, HOSs
Provide opportunities for postgraduate and postdoctoral professional development training.	Director, HOSs, Head HRC