

2020 Research Productivity Traffic Light (RPTL) Report

Background

In order to monitor the extent to which degree programme teaching and supervision is underpinned by research activity, a NZQA requirement, the Academic Board approved the use of the Research Productivity Traffic Light (RPTL) Report. This report was first presented to the Academic Board in 2012 and was repeated every year since then. The longitudinal nature of the RPTL productivity metric means trends and forecasting for the research activity of Unitec's degree programmes can be reported.

The Unitec Research Strategy 2015-2020 outlines Unitec's aspiration with regard to RPTL performance, stating that all programmes at degree level and above will be rated "green" by 2020, the outcome of which will be reported in 2021.

This report summarises the 2020 RPTL results for Unitec's degree programmes.

RPTL Terms of Reference and Methodology

Following is an overview of the key terms of reference and methodology approved by Academic Board:

- The criteria for inclusion is permanent full time or part time staff, or staff on contracts of 12 months or more, with an FTE of at least 0.2 who significantly taught and/or supervised on degree and above level courses during Semester One 2020.
- For the purposes of the RPTL a 'research active' staff member is defined as someone who produces at least two eligible research outputs that are verified in ROMS (Unitec's Research Output Management System) within the past two years. For part-time staff the criteria are at least one research output for the two previous audited years.
- The current 2020 report is based on staff's research activity as recorded in ROMs for 2018 and 2019 period.

The 2020 Research Productivity Traffic Light (RPTL) Results

The RPTL analysis uses a traffic light colour system to represent levels of research activity in each degree programme:

- **Green** is the required standard, where at least 75% of staff teaching and/or supervising on the programme are producing the required number or more outputs for the two-year period under review.
- **Amber** is marginal, with 50-74% of staff producing the required number or more outputs.
- **Red** is below standard with under 50% of staff achieving the required number of outputs.

In the 2020 reporting period, Unitec maintained the consistent gains made since the Traffic Light report was introduced in 2012 (see Table 1 and Figure 1 below), however the rate of progress has slowed. As shown in Table 1 below, in 2019, 33 degree programmes were green lit (79%), seven programmes were amber lit (17%), and two were red lit (5%). In 2020¹, 28 degree programmes are green lit (82%), 3 programmes are amber lit (9%), and 3 are red lit (9%).

¹ In 2020, there were 34 active degree programmes while in 2019, there were 42. There is a difference of 8 programmes. Out of these eight, 4 degree programmes were taught out at the end of 2019. The remaining 4 programmes belonged to Mindlab. These programmes were excluded because The Mindlab is no longer part of Unitec.

Programme Status	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Count of green lit programmes	9	10	14	19	21	28	27	33	28
Count of amber lit programmes	7	8	9	12	16	8	5	7	3
Count of red lit programmes	11	9	7	4	3	5	8	2	3
Total	27	27	30	35	40	41	40	42	34

Programme Status	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Percentage of green lit programmes	33%	37%	47%	54%	53%	68%	68%	79%	82%
Percentage of amber lit programmes	26%	30%	30%	34%	40%	20%	13%	17%	9%
Percentage of red lit programmes	41%	33%	23%	11%	8%	12%	20%	5%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 1: Total number and percentage of green, amber and red lit degree programmes 2012-2020

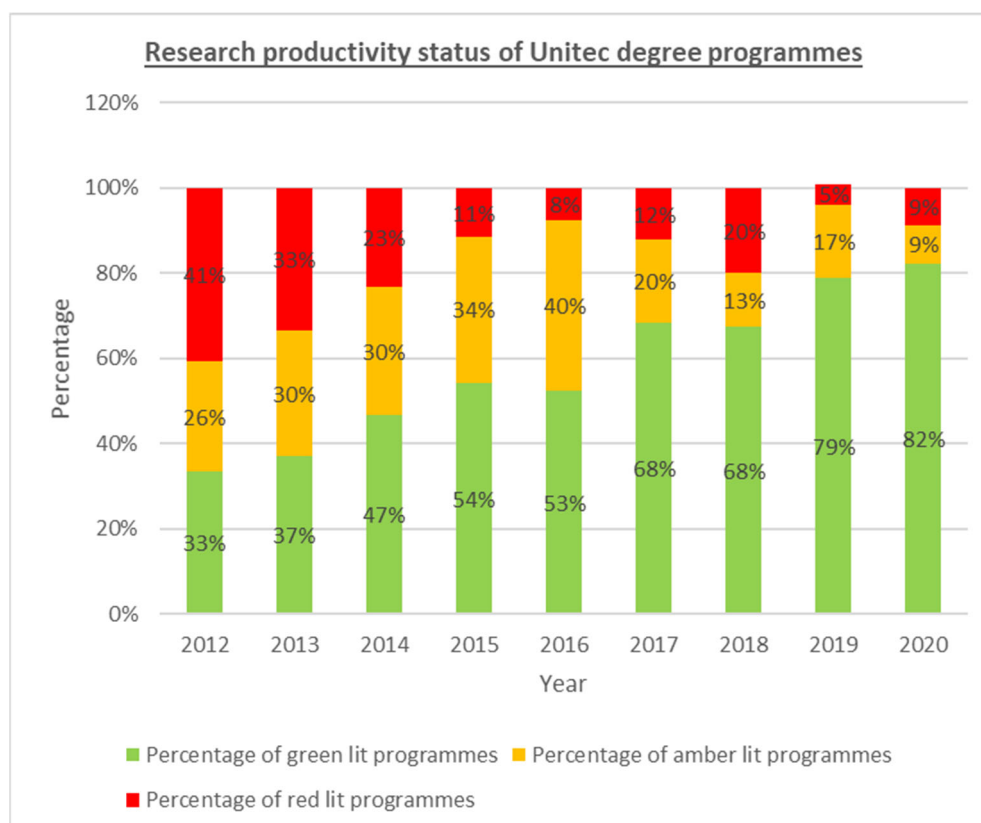


Figure 1: Total number of green, amber and red lit degree programmes 2012-2020

There was a small shift in green lit programmes, a 3 percentage point growth from 2019. In total, we now have 91% of the degree programmes that are either green lit or amber lit, thus meeting the TEC mandate. We now have only three programmes amber lit and three programmes red lit. By looking at the positive shifts, it looks quite ambitious in achieving our 2020 target, that is, all degree programmes will be green lit. While this goal remains achievable it requires a strong focus, increased effort, and appropriate resourcing to shift the final group of amber and red programmes to green lit status. Careful planning is being put in place and implemented this year.

A majority of the programmes, which were green lit, maintained their status in 2020. Not only did they maintain their green lit status, the percentage of staff who are green lit in these programmes are much higher than the cut-off percentage (75%).

Positive shifts: Bachelor of Business, Master of Applied Practice (Professional Accounting), Bachelor of Sport (Teach Out) and Master of Osteopathy (Teach Out) moved from amber lit to green lit.

Bachelor of Engineering Technology and Bachelor of Nursing maintained the red lit status. Bachelor of Engineering Technology shows similar trend as 2019. However, Bachelor of Nursing showed some positive shifts. When compared with 2019 data, 11% more staff were green lit and 30% more staff were amber lit

in this programme. Forty-one percent of the staff who were red lit in 2019, moved to either amber lit or green lit.

Negative shifts: Bachelor of Construction and Bachelor of Computing Systems moved from green lit to amber lit. Bachelor of Applied Technology moved from green lit to red lit.

Table 2 below shows the RPTL results for the individual programmes.

School	Programme	Count of Staff Teaching in Degree Programmes in 2020	Count Green Lit Staff	Count of Amber Lit Staff	Count of Red Lit Staff	RPTL Status in 2020 (Based on 2018/2019 Research Activity)	Percentage Point Change from 2019	RPTL Status in 2019 (Based on 2017/2018 Research Activity)	RPTL Status in 2018 (Based on 2016/2017 Research Activity)	RPTL Status in 2017 (Based on 2015/2016 Research Activity)
School of Applied Business	Bachelor of Business	17	14	2	1	82%	18%	64%	52%	75%
	Master of Applied Practice (all streams)	3	3	0	0	100%	15%	85%	91%	100%
	Master of Applied Practice (Professional Accounting)	5	4	0	1	80%	9%	71%	80%	100%
	Master of Business	4	4	0	0	100%	0%	100%	67%	100%
	Postgraduate Diploma in Business	3	3	0	0	100%	0%	100%	80%	100%
School of Architecture	Bachelor of Architectural Studies	25	20	2	3	80%	-7%	87%	84%	79%
	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture	9	7	1	1	78%	-8%	86%	88%	75%
	Master of Architecture (by Project)	5	5	0	0	100%	0%	100%	100%	
	Master of Architecture (Professional)	24	21	2	1	88%	-1%	88%	85%	75%
	Master of Landscape Architecture	4	3	0	1	75%	-11%	86%	88%	75%
School of Building Construction	Bachelor of Construction	13	8	1	4	62%	-13%	75%	60%	70%
	Bachelor of Engineering Technology	16	8	2	6	50%	2%	48%	35%	50%
School of Community Studies	Bachelor of Applied Science (Human Biology) (Teach Out)	4	2	2	0	50%	-17%	67%	78%	56%
	Bachelor of Health and Social Development (Teach Out)	2	2	0	0	100%	25%	75%	78%	43%
	Bachelor of Sport (Teach Out)	6	5	1	0	83%	21%	63%	83%	75%
	Bachelor of Teaching (ECE)	9	7	1	1	78%	-2%	80%	40%	60%
	Master of Osteopathy (Teach Out)	9	7	2	0	78%	5%	73%	82%	85%
School of Computing, Electrical & Applied Technology	Bachelor of Applied Technology	8	2	4	2	25%	-55%	80%	38%	53%
	Bachelor of Computing Systems	15	11	1	3	73%	-20%	93%	93%	86%
	Bachelor of Engineering Technology	9	4	1	4	44%	-3%	48%	35%	50%
	Doctor of Computing (Teach Out)	5	4	0	1	80%	-20%	100%	100%	100%
	Master of Computing	7	6	0	1	86%	-14%	100%	100%	100%
	Postgraduate Diploma in Computing	8	7	0	1	88%	-13%	100%	100%	100%
School of Creative Industries	Bachelor of Creative Enterprise	10	10	0	0	100%	18%	82%	100%	77%
	Bachelor of Performing and Screen Arts	15	12	0	3	80%	0%	80%	47%	43%
	Master of Creative Practice	15	13	0	2	87%	1%	86%	100%	91%
	Master of Design (Teach Out)	5	5	0	0	100%	17%	83%	100%	85%
	Postgraduate Diploma in Creative Practice	4	4	0	0	100%	15%	85%	100%	
School of Environmental & Animal Sciences	Bachelor of Applied Science (Natural Sciences)	17	13	1	3	76%	-11%	88%	83%	100%
	Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing	10	8	1	1	80%	80%			
School of Healthcare & Social Practice	Bachelor of Health Science (Medical Imaging)	6	5	0	1	83%	-17%	100%	43%	25%
	Bachelor of Nursing	11	4	4	3	36%	11%	25%	21%	29%
	Bachelor of Social Practice	10	9	0	1	90%	5%	85%	100%	86%
	Master of Applied Practice (Social Practice)	8	8	0	0	100%	0%	100%	100%	
	Master of Social Practice (Teach Out)	1	1	0	0	100%	0%	100%	100%	100%
School of BC & School of CEAT	Bachelor of Engineering Technology	25	12	3	10	48%	0%	48%	35%	50%

Table 2. The Traffic Light scores for all Unitec degree programmes 2012 to 2020

Conclusion

The excellent progress Unitec has made since 2012 raising research activity at degree level has been maintained in 2020. However, results indicate progress has slowed down as the final group of degrees work to lift their research activity from red and amber, to green lit status. The goal to see all Unitec degree programmes green lit by 2020 remains achievable. However, it is critical that research plans are established and the necessary actions are implemented. Tūāpapa Rangahau's Research Partners will focus on partnering with Research Leaders and Schools, for the remaining part of this year, to achieve this goal.