

## Unitec New Zealand Limited

### Meeting of Unitec Research Committee

8 April 2021

<b>Title</b>	Definition of Early Career Researcher at Unitec
<b>Provided by:</b>	Associate Professor Helen Gremillion
<b>For:</b>	<b>APPROVAL</b>

### Recommendation

That the committee considers and approves the amended definition of an Early Career Researcher (ECR) at Unitec.

### Purpose

To create clarity, while being as inclusive as possible, for eligibility to access ECR funding.

### Background

The definition was discussed, amended and approved in February 2021, but when attempting to apply the definition, anomalies were disclosed.

The earlier agreed definition was:

*An ECR at Unitec lies between 'emerging/beginner' and 'senior/advanced'. An ECR is within 10 years (prior to the closing date for full applications) of becoming an 'independent' researcher, which is defined as:*

- 1. A researcher who has completed a higher research qualification (a PhD, or Masters<sup>[1]</sup>); or*
- 2. A researcher who was the first author of a disseminated quality assured research output<sup>[2]</sup>.*

*Time taken for parental leave<sup>[3]</sup> is not counted as part of the 10-year window (i.e. one year of parental leave would extend the eligibility period to 11 years since graduating).*

<sup>[1]</sup> *Must be a minimum 90 credit Master's Thesis*

<sup>[2]</sup> *This excludes conference presentations.*

<sup>[3]</sup> *Other forms of extended leave may be considered by negotiation with Tūāpapa Rangahau*

The proposed definition is:

*An ECR at Unitec lies between 'emerging/beginner' and 'senior/advanced'. An ECR is within 10 years (prior to the closing date for full applications for ECR funding) of becoming an 'independent' researcher, which is defined as:*

1. *A researcher who has been awarded a PhD or a professional doctorate with a significant research component; or*
2. *A researcher who has been the primary author of a disseminated quality assured research output. This criterion excludes conference presentations and typically also excludes very short written outputs.*

*Time taken for parental leave is not counted as part of the 10-year window (i.e. one year of parental leave would extend the eligibility period to 11 years since achieving criterion 1 or 2). Note that other forms of extended leave may be considered by negotiation with Tūāpapa Rangahau.*

## Next Steps

Embed the reviewed definition in all Terms of Reference for ECR funding at Unitec.

## Contributors

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