

Teachers as Researchers

Aims:

- To develop teachers as classroom and school-based researchers with understanding, knowledge, and skills to participate in small-scale research activities.
- To prepare schools to participate in larger scale future research projects.

Overview:

This eight-month program supports school teams to work collaboratively, with support from UC academic staff, to develop a research skill set and engage in a contextualised, small scale research project.

The Teachers as Researchers Program includes:

- 3 x 2-hour workshops in person and 2 x 1.5 hour workshops online with all Teachers as Researchers groups and UC Critical Friends
- A minimum of 5 x 1-hour interim support sessions with your UC Critical Friend between workshops (these can be via email, phone or face-to-face)
- Ongoing professional reading in relation to the research topic
- UC faculty members acting as critical friends and supporting learning (UC Team)
- A combination of full program and non-full program schools (3-5 teachers per school)
- Selection of research 'projects' to be linked to ACT ED Strategic Plan (themes outlined below)

Who should apply?

All new full program schools are requested to engage in the program and all other Affiliated Schools are also encouraged to apply. All schools are asked to apply by expression of interest to take part.

The themes under which research projects must sit are:

Major Theme 1 Student Centred Learning	Major Theme 2 Teachers and Communities	Major Theme 3 Future School Systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Integrity • Personalised Learning • Student Voice • Diversity and Equity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Partnerships • Work Life of Teachers and Principals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Model for Schools • Effectiveness of Theories of Change • 50-year Anniversary of ACT Education

Schools expressing interest must commit to supporting 3-5 staff members to attend the workshops and engage in the interim activities. They should not have a refined research question but should demonstrate an interest in one of the three theme areas.

What is the time commitment for schools?

Estimated School Teams Time Commitment:

- Engage in each scheduled workshops online and face-to-face
- Interim Activities as described in overview (expect average 3 hours in each intervening period for meetings plus professional reading = approximately 12 hours)
- Participation in delivering research journey at Affiliated Schools Seminar on Tuesday 24th October (2 hours)
- **School team member total participation estimate over the year: 24 hours**

UC Critical Friend Commitment

Each of the UC team members will undertake the following:

- Engage in the delivery and support at each workshop
- Provide a minimum of one, one-hour face-to-face/online session in each intervening period between workshops
- Be available to provide reasonable levels of support via phone/email in each intervening period (please note, this is not an extensive amount of time and expectations should not exceed approximately one - two hours of time commitment in each interim period)
- Provide support at the Affiliated Schools Seminar

How will schools be selected?

Schools will be selected to take part based on the following:

- Ability to commit to resourcing the time and engagement requirements of the program
- Ability to demonstrate linkages between the program and Annual Action Plan
- Demonstration of leadership support for the program
- Area of interest

NOTE: As there is only capacity to take a small number of schools, the panel will consider how the various school interest areas may be linked. This means selection will not be based on one school being 'better' as it is accepted that all schools are high performing schools but may be about finding synergies between potential projects which will allow the best possible outcomes for the program participants. The EOI is very quick and simple to fill in as we understand how busy schools and teachers are.

What are the key dates?

Details sent to schools:	Term 1, Week 2	Friday 10 th February
EOIs due to UC:	Term 1, Week 4	Friday 24 th February
Successful schools notified:	Term 1, Week 5	Wednesday 1 st March
Workshop 1:	Term 1, Week 9	Monday 27 th March 3:30pm – 5:30pm at HBCTL
Workshop 2:	Term 2, Week 5	Monday 22 nd May 3:30pm – 5:00pm ONLINE
Workshop 3:	Term 2, Week 10	Monday 26 th June 3:30pm – 5:30pm at HBCTL
Workshop 4:	Term 3, Week 5	Monday 14 th August 3:30pm – 5:00pm ONLINE
Workshop 5:	Term 3, Week 9	Monday 11 th September 3:30pm – 5:30pm at HBCTL

Presentation of Research at Affiliated Schools Seminar: Tuesday 24th October 4pm – 6pm ONLINE

Questions and submission of Expression of Interest

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Emily Hills, the Affiliated Schools Professional Learning Coordinator at emily.hills@canberra.edu.au to discuss. Please also send your EOI to Emily by Friday 24th February.

Please Note: Based on feedback from previous years we have decided not to have this program TQI accredited in 2023. The workshops will still be available to use as teacher identified professional learning should participants wish to claim those hours.