



RRI Membership Policy

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1. OVERVIEW

The Robinson Research Institute (RRI) aims to build a committed membership, which is essential for achieving its goals and advancing the University of Adelaide's strategic research priorities and interests through collaborative research excellence, critical mass and leadership.

Membership in RRI is central to fostering a collaborative and dynamic environment dedicated to impactful research in reproductive and maternal and child health, leveraging the strengths and contributions of researchers to drive innovation and societal impact.

This policy sets out the framework for membership to support a community of researchers aligned with RRI's strategic objectives while recognising and valuing their contributions to the Institute's success. RRI's membership framework supports the Institute's strategic focus on impactful and collaborative research, particularly through its Accelerator Programmes and Foundation Science Streams.

2. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This policy applies to all RRI members and individuals seeking RRI membership, including University of Adelaide affiliated staff, academic titleholders, and research students, and external collaborators.

3. POLICY PRINCIPLES

The following principles guide RRI's Membership Policy:

- **Contribution and engagement.** Membership is founded on meaningful contribution to RRI's activities — including research, clinical roles, and building a collaborative and purpose-driven community. Members are expected to actively engage with and participate in RRI's initiatives.
- **Commitment and shared value.** RRI seeks to build a committed membership by articulating the reciprocal benefits of membership, ensuring alignment and shared value for all parties involved.
- **Strategic alignment.** Full membership requires alignment with RRI's Accelerator Programmes and Foundation Science Streams to drive meaningful impact in each research focus area.
- **Openness and alignment.** RRI welcomes members from all academic or clinical backgrounds. While not all members will contribute directly to strategic programs, all must demonstrate a commitment to RRI's mission and impactful research culture.

- **Mutual expectations.** A Charter of Membership is essential to establish and manage mutual expectations between RRI and its members. Commitment to this Charter is a prerequisite for membership and eligibility for RRI support.

Membership of RRI is categorised into three tiers—Full Member, Associate Member, and Affiliate Member—each aligning with a different level of engagement and contribution.

4. BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP & MEMBER ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Members will benefit from:
 - professional recognition through affiliation with the Institute
 - opportunities for career development and participation in governance
 - a collaborative research environment and access to resources
 - strengthened institutional relationships.
- Full Members will be eligible for a range of targeted strategic funding and initiatives to support the development of competitive research proposals and the communication and translation of research findings.
- All members must:
 - Commit to RRI's Charter of Membership, thus confirming their agreement with this policy and associated procedures.
 - Maintain an up-to-date profile in RRI's membership database.
- University staff who are members of RRI will continue to be accountable to the supervisor of their substantive position in a Faculty, Division or equivalent, whilst being responsible to the Institute Director for work within the scope of Institute activities.

5. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES, CRITERIA, AND EXPECTATIONS

5.1. Full Member

Eligibility

Open to University of Adelaide staff and Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students whose primary research focus aligns closely with RRI's strategic mission and research agenda, centred on reproductive medicine, pregnancy, neonatology, and maternal and child health.

This category includes academic staff, academic affiliate title holders, senior researchers, early- and mid-career researchers (EMCRs), and HDR students whose work is central to RRI's focus.

Applicants must meet research performance standards appropriate to their level, as specified in the applicable Faculty [‘Adelaide Academic Role Statement’](#) and determined by RRI.

Commitment and expectations

Full Members will:

- Align a major part of their research to RRI's strategy, actively engaging with Accelerator Programmes and Foundation Science Streams.
- Demonstrate a genuine commitment to RRI's goals and objectives, through active contribution to RRI research programs and knowledge creation, collaboration on research projects and grant applications aligned with RRI priorities, and active participation in RRI activities such as events, seminars, and symposia whenever possible.
- Engage with the community and serve as ambassadors for both RRI and the University of Adelaide, foster connections between laboratory and clinical research and practice, and prioritise translational and commercial opportunities to maximise impact.
- Acknowledge RRI affiliation in all representations of their RRI-related work.

A Full Member may also be identified as an RRI research leader.

RRI research leaders are responsible for motivating and monitoring member contributions in their teams. They are expected to engage in whole or part with the activities of one or more Accelerator Programmes or Foundation Science Streams.

5.2. Associate Member

Eligibility

Open to researchers, internal or external to the University of Adelaide, whose work intersects with RRI's focus but who do not meet the criteria for Full Member.

This category includes academic staff, research support personnel, and HDR students who engage in specific projects led by RRI, co-contributions to research outputs and publications with Full Members, or shared HDR supervision with Full Members.

Commitment and expectations

Associate Members will:

- Contribute to selected projects, events, or collaborations led by RRI or RRI Full Members.
- Acknowledge RRI affiliation in representations connected to their institute membership.
- Participate in relevant capacity-building activities and professional development opportunities offered by RRI.

Associate Members who demonstrate an interest in aligning their research with RRI priorities and who meet the eligibility criteria could potentially progress to Full Member.

5.3. Affiliate Member

Eligibility

Open to external researchers, collaborators, and professionals whose primary research is not directly tied to RRI but aligns with RRI's research agenda and mission, and who can support the Institute's broader goals.

This category includes honorary or adjunct appointees, emeritus faculty, industry partners, collaborators from other academic institutions or sectors, and individuals who can contribute to RRI's development through support and promotion.

Commitment and expectations

Affiliate Members are valued partners who extend the reach and impact of RRI through strategic engagement and external influence. While their involvement is less intensive than that of Full or Associate Members, Affiliate Members play a meaningful role in promoting the Institute's mission. They will:

- Participate periodically in RRI activities, including attendance at events and contribution to external advocacy efforts.
- Engage in collaborative initiatives where appropriate, such as research projects, joint funding applications, or knowledge exchange with Full and Associate Members.
- Maintain an active affiliation with RRI and uphold its mission to advance impactful research and foster external engagement.

6. PROCEDURES

6.1. Membership application, renewal, resignation and termination

The Institute Director holds the authority for the approval and termination of membership, considering recommendations from the RRI Executive Team.

Application process

Prospective and renewing members are invited to apply by submitting an [online application form](#).

The application will require the applicant to:

- Select a membership category and confirm they meet the eligibility criteria for that category.
- Briefly demonstrate how they meet the criteria for their desired membership category and how their research interests align with RRI's strategic objectives, and for Full and Associate Members, with RRI's Accelerator Programmes (as applicable) and Foundation Science Streams (a minimum of one is required).
- Provide their details.
- Agree to the RRI Charter of Membership.

Membership is determined by individual application with reference to the membership criteria and guidelines. Applications will be reviewed, and membership will be determined by the Institute Director (taking advice from the RRI Executive Team if required) based on alignment with RRI's strategic direction and the potential for the applicant to contribute to the Institute's success.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application, and members will receive a Welcome Pack.

Renewal of membership

Membership will initially be for a period of three years and will be renewed for additional three-year terms, provided the eligibility criteria for the relevant membership category continue to be met. This includes alignment with RRI's strategic objectives and reconfirmation of the Charter of Membership.

Membership renewals will be processed twice per year, typically in January and July. Members whose terms are due to expire within the following six months will be contacted during these renewal windows to confirm ongoing eligibility and renew their commitment.

Membership terms will continue from the original start date and be extended in three-year increments, regardless of the timing of the renewal process.

Change in level of membership

A member may apply for a change to their membership category at any time if they meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the RRI Membership Policy. Applications will be reviewed and membership will be determined by the Institute Director (taking advice from the RRI Executive Team if required)

Resignation of membership

A member may resign their membership by providing that resignation in writing to robinsonresearch@adelaide.edu.au.

Cessation of membership

Membership may be reviewed and potentially terminated if a member no longer meets the eligibility criteria for their category or fails to uphold the principles and commitments outlined in the RRI Membership Policy and the RRI Charter of Membership.

6.2. Administration

The administration of all membership processes, including setting of procedures, processes and allocation of resources, is the responsibility of the Institute Manager.

The Institute Manager will be the primary contact point for membership inquiries via robinsonresearch@adelaide.edu.au and is responsible for management of the membership database.

7. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This policy will be reviewed every three years or as needed to maintain alignment with RRI's objectives and University policies.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND POLICIES

RRI Strategic Plan 2025-2030

The University of Adelaide 'University Research Institutes and Centres Policy'

9. DEFINITIONS

EMCR is an early- and mid-career researcher (EMCR). ECRs – early-career researchers – have typically received their PhD or equivalent qualification in the last five years; MCRs – mid-career researchers – have between 5 and 15 years' research experience since the award of a PhD or equivalent qualification.

HDR student is a student enrolled in a Higher Degree by Research (HDR), being a program at Doctoral or Master level that comprises two-thirds or more of its assessable content by research.

RRI research leader is a Full Member of RRI who leads a distinct and active research program, and demonstrates a high level of research performance and leadership. They will be at Level C or above, and/or a Category 1 mid-career or senior Research Fellow or equivalent.

Senior researcher is a researcher with significant experience and expertise in their field, often holding a higher academic rank or position like an associate professor or full professor. They typically have 15 or more years of postdoctoral experience, or they may be less than 15 years postdoctoral but have reached professorial level.

Policy custodian	RRI Institute Director
Responsible policy officer	RRI Institute Manager
Approved by	RRI Institute Director
Effective from	12 May 2025
Review date	12 May 2028
Contact for queries about the policy	robinsonresearch@adelaide.edu.au