SCHEDULE 5

Research Academic Employees
Minimum Standards for Academic Levels (MSALs)

Level A
A Level A research academic will typically conduct research/scholarly activities under limited supervision either independently or as a member of a team, and will normally hold a relevant higher degree.

A Level A research academic will normally work under the supervision of academic staff at Level B or above, with an increasing degree of autonomy as the research academic gains skills and experience. A Level A research academic may undertake limited teaching, may supervise at undergraduate levels and may publish the results of the research conducted as sole author or in collaboration. He or she will undertake administration primarily relating to his or her activities at the institution.

The standards are not exhaustive of all tasks in academic employment, which is by its nature multi-skilled and involves an overlap of duties between levels.

Level B
A Level B research academic will normally have experience in research or scholarly activities which have resulted in publications in refereed journals or other demonstrated scholarly activities.

A Level B research academic will carry out independent and/or team research. A Level B research academic may supervise postgraduate research students or projects and be involved in research training.

The standards are not exhaustive of all tasks in academic employment, which is by its nature multi-skilled and involves an overlap of duties between levels.

Level C
A Level C research academic will make independent and original contributions to research which have a significant impact on his or her field of expertise.

The work of the research academic will be acknowledged at a national level as being influential in expanding the knowledge of his or her discipline. This standing will normally be demonstrated by a strong record of published work or other demonstrated scholarly activities.

A Level C research academic will provide leadership in research, including research training and supervision.

The standards are not exhaustive of all tasks in academic employment, which is by its nature multi-skilled and involves an overlap of duties between levels.

Level D
A Level D research academic will make major original and innovative contributions to his or her field of study or research, which are recognized as outstanding nationally or internationally.

A Level D research academic will play an outstanding role within his or her institution, discipline and/or profession in fostering the research activities of others, and in research training.

The standards are not exhaustive of all tasks in academic employment, which is by its nature multi-skilled and involves an overlap of duties between levels.

Level E
A Level E research academic will typically have achieved international recognition through original, innovative and distinguished contributions to his or her field of research, which is demonstrated by sustained and distinguished performance.

A Level E research academic will provide leadership in his or her field of research, within their institution, discipline and/or profession and within the scholarly and/or general community. He or she will foster excellence in research, research policy and research training.

The standards are not exhaustive of all tasks in academic employment, which is by its nature multi-skilled and involves an overlap of duties between levels.

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