

### **Implementation of Research Skills Development (RSD) in Courses – Executive Summary (25 July 2016)**

Implementation of the Research Skills Development (RSD) Framework at The University of the South Pacific was initiated in Year 2012. The RSD implementation process includes training of course coordinators, revision of assignments to integrate research literacy and skills, design of RSD framed marking rubrics for assignments, implementation of RSD marking rubrics in courses, and monitoring of implementation. This process is simultaneously embedding research literacy and skills in the programme level outcomes. There is a broader and deeper focus on programme level implementation of RSD from 2016.

Following implementation of RSD in the 100-level generic courses UU100 and UU114, RSD was implemented in UU200 during Semester 2 2012 and in UU204 during Semester 1 2013. Implementation of RSD commenced in discipline based 100-level courses during Semester 1 of 2013, with progress in implementation at the 100-level noted during years 2014 and 2015. Implementation of RSD in 200-level discipline based courses commenced in 2014 with some 200-level courses implementing RSD in 2015 and 2016. In addition, Foundation courses started implementing RSD from 2014. Specific undergraduate 300-level courses commenced implementation of RSD in years 2015 and 2016.

RSD framed marking rubrics have been implemented in a number of core courses across different Faculties at the University. RSD marking rubrics were implemented in the core postgraduate courses ‘DG400 Advanced Research Methodology’ and ‘SC400 Research Methods’ offered by the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE) and Faculty of Science, Technology & Environment (FSTE) respectively during year 2013. The postgraduate courses ‘PC414 Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation’, ‘PC424 Disaster Risk Management’ and ‘PC425 Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment’ offered by PACE-SD successfully implemented RSD in assessments during year 2014. Although aspects of RSD were implemented from year 2014 in the core postgraduate course ‘AL400 Research Methodologies in the Humanities and Social Sciences’ which is offered by the Faculty of Arts, Law & Education (FALE), full implementation with use of RSD based marking rubrics commenced in Semester 2 of 2015. The course ‘PC426 Ecosystem-Based Management of Climate Resilience in the Pacific Islands’ implemented RSD in 2015 and the course ‘PC415 Climate Science’ implemented RSD in 2016.

A summary of the progress on RSD implementation is provided in Table 1. Monitoring of RSD is an ongoing process including review of marking rubrics for assignments, feedback from markers, students and peers.

**TABLE 1 Progress on RSD Implementation - Summary as on 25.07.2016**

	TARGET COURSES	PERCENTAGE COMPLETION				PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE	COMMENTS
		RSD Introduction - Training of course coordinators and selected teaching staff	RSD Introduction - Design of RSD marking rubric for at least one assignment	Implementation of RSD marking rubric in course assignment	Monitoring of implementation (including review of marking rubrics)		
<b>Foundation Courses</b>	AFF01, AFF02, AGF01, BIP03, BIF03, CHF02/CHF03, ISF21, CSF12, ECF04, GEP01, GEP02, GEF01, GEF02, HYF01, LLF11, LLF14, MAF11, OSF01, PHF02, PLF01, SOF01, SOF02, TEF02	100.00%	90.24%	88.81%	77.38	Dec-16	RSD implementation in foundation courses commenced in Semester 1 of 2014.
<b>UU Courses</b>	UU100, UU114, UU200, UU204	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	95.00%	Dec-15	RSD implementation has progressed well.
<b>FALE 100-level courses</b>	ED152, ED153, HY101, HY102, JN101, LL102, LW110, LW112, PP101, PS103, SO100, SW100, SW101, TE113	100.00%	74.67%	71.33%	67.33%	Dec-15	Monitoring of RSD implementation is in progress
<b>FBE 100-level courses</b>	AF101, AG111, AG134, DG100, DG101, EC101, LM112, MG101, PD101, PL100, TS106	90.91%	68.18%	60.91%	57.73%	Dec-15	Monitoring of RSD implementation is in progress
<b>FSTE 100-level courses</b>	BI102, BI108, CH101, CS111, GE102, IS121, MA111, MA161, MM101, MS111, PH102, ST131	98.33%	67.50%	58.33%	54.17%	Dec-15	Monitoring of RSD implementation is in progress
<b>FALE 200-level courses</b>	ED250, ED252, ED255, HY206, JN201, JN202, LL202, LL211, LW202, LW203, PP202, PS203, PS206, SO200, SW200, SW201, TE213, TE251, TE256	88.42%	63.16%	63.16%	55.79%	Dec-15	Monitoring of RSD implementation is in progress
<b>FBE 200-level courses</b>	AF210, AG213, AG266, DG200, EC203, LM211, LM214, LM215, MG201, PL201, PL203, TS213	100.00%	55.83%	49.17%	52.08%	Dec-15	Monitoring of RSD implementation is in progress
<b>FSTE 200-level courses</b>	BI201, BI205, CH201, CH203, CS214, EE224, GS201, IS222, MA221, MM222, MS201, MS206, MS211, PH206	75.00%	34.29%	34.29%	30.00%	Dec-15	Monitoring of RSD implementation is in progress

<b>FALE 300-level courses</b>	ED300, ED350, ED359, HY302, JN302, LL305, LL311, LW301, LW308, PP300, PS307, PS312, SO300, SW300, SW301, TE313, TE351	87.06%	63.53%	63.53 %	53.53%	2016	Implementation is in progress
<b>FBE 300-level courses</b>	AF301, AG364, AG373, AG383, DG301, EC302, LM315, MG309, MG311, PD301, PL302, PL305, TS310	92.31%	26.92%	26.92%	25.38%	2016	Implementation is in progress
<b>FSTE 300-level courses</b>	BI302, BI307/MS307, BI309, CH301, CH303, CS, EE312, GE302, IS323, IS333, MA313, MA321, MS302, MS312, PH301, SC356	100.00%	39.06%	36.25%	23.13%	2016	Implementation is in progress
<b>FALE Core Postgraduate course</b>	<b>AL400</b> – Offer of this course started in Semester 1 2014	100.00%	90.00%	100.00%	80.00%	Dec-15	Implementation of RSD based marking rubric commenced in 2015
<b>FALE Education Postgraduate courses</b>	<b>ED455, ED457</b>	100.00%	90.00%	100.00%	80.00%	2016	RSD implementation commenced in 2015
<b>FBE Core Postgraduate course</b>	<b>DG400</b>	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	Dec-15	RSD based marking rubric has been implemented from Semester 2 2013.
<b>FBE Management Postgraduate course</b>	<b>MG409</b>	100.00%	100.00% - noted as RSD compliant using School rubric	100.00%	100.00% - noted as RSD compliant using School rubric	Dec-15	School rubric assesses research skills although less explicit than RSD.
<b>FSTE Core Postgraduate course</b>	<b>SC400</b>	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	80.00%	June-15	RSD based marking rubric has been implemented from Semester 2 2013.
<b>PACE-SD Core Postgraduate courses</b>	<b>PC414, PC424, PC425, PC426</b>	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	80.00%	Dec-15	RSD implementation commenced with PC414 and PC425 in 2014.

**Note:** Implementation of RSD in just one mode of the course counts as 80% implementation as implementation into other modes will essentially mean transfer of the RSD assessments to the other modes.