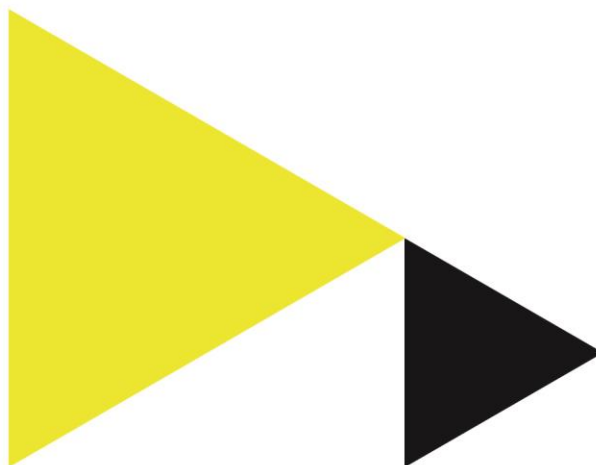


CoARA action plan 2024-2027

Policy department Education and Research



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1. Preamble

In July 2023 Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS) signed the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) commitment and became an official member of CoARA. CoARA builds on DORA, the Declaration on Research Assessment that was signed by AUAS in 2022, showing that the AUAS supports the international research assessment reform.

In line with the CoARA membership an action plan for implementation of the CoARA commitments by the AUAS has been developed. This action plan focusses on ten principles or priorities, which are in line with the AUAS's Strategic Research Policy 2021-2026 which in turn is based on the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences Strategic Plan, the 2021 External Evaluation of AUAS Research and the evaluation of the AUAS Strategic Research Policy 2015 – 2020. The action plan is also in line with the guiding principles of the national UAS Sector Protocol for Quality Assurance in research, which corresponds with the main principles of CoARA and AUAS Strategic Research Policy.

The aim of this action plan is to describe AUAS's intentions regarding CoARA commitments and of its operational actions for the period 2024-2027.

1.1 Focus of CoARA commitments

The following ten guiding CoARA commitments are priorities in the AUAS approach to reform research assessment:

1. Recognise the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and nature of the research.
2. Base research assessment primarily on qualitative evaluation for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators.
3. Abandon inappropriate uses in research assessment of journal- and publication-based metrics, in particular inappropriate uses of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and h-index.
4. Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations in research assessment.
5. Commit resources to reforming research assessment to achieve the organisational changes committed to.
6. Review and develop research assessment criteria, tools and processes
7. Raise awareness of research assessment reform and provide transparent communication, guidance, and training on assessment criteria and processes as well as their use.
8. Exchange practices and experiences to enable mutual learning within and beyond the coalition.
9. Communicate progress made on adherence to the principles and implementation of the commitments.
10. Evaluate practices, criteria and tools based on solid evidence and the state-of-the-art in research on research and make data openly available for evidence gathering and research.

1.2 Implementing the CoARA commitments at AUAS

AUAS policy departments (e.g. Education & Research (in Dutch: O&O), HR) and staff departments (e.g. Library) have close links with multiple AUAS networks wherein stakeholders from all seven faculties participate. For example, there are networks about research quality, support staff (e.g. data stewards), Open Science, and for managers of knowledge centres for applied research (kenniscentra in Dutch). These networks are directly linked to researchers in multiple stages of their careers and help to develop CoARA strategies to match the needs of researchers and to implement the commitments.

Chapter 2 describes which department is responsible for the CoARA-relevant actions of AUAS. Evaluation of the actions will be conducted during the implementation of the action plan 2023-2027.

2. Commitments and action plan 2023-2027

Commitment	What (action)		Responsibility	In collaboration with
1	Linking principles of <u>recognition and rewards</u> to the introduction of HR policy in line with principles of open science and (inter)national frameworks (e.g. reflecting on pre-registration of study protocols, FAIRdata, open publishing).	2024- 2026	HR	O&O, HvA Academy, Communication, faculties
1	Clarifying and strengthening diversity in career options in AUAS research, through the development of reflection tools, professionalization opportunities on individual, peer and team level, and more information about career options.	2024- 2026	HR	HvA Academy/Centre for Teaching and Learning (in development, CTL)
1	Elaboration of the AUAS vision on learning and development in professionalization policy, with special attention to professional development of teacher/researchers in the field of practice-oriented research (i.e. with the use of certificates/edubadges/microcredentials)	2024- 2026	HR	HvA Academy/CTL
2	Conducting a midterm review of the AUAS research centres with a developmental focus (i.e. not an assessment) with the support of peers and the use of indicators, including evaluation of the reviews.	2023-2025	Faculties	O&O, professor van Vliet
2	Conducting an external review of the AUAS research centres with a developmental focus with the support of peers and the use of indicators, including evaluation of the reviews.	2027	O&O	Faculties, professor van Vliet
3, 4	We explore how other public sources (e.g. Pure, Publinova, Figshare) can contribute to recognising the diversity of contributions of researchers (see commitment 1 and 6) and are supported by the AUAS professor of the research group Impact of Practice-based Research (including supportive tools, such as the website https://doorwerking-hbo-onderzoek.nl/en/).	2024-2025	Library	professor van Vliet, O&O
5,6 and 8	Fostering the development of a AUAS supportive infrastructure for research assessment (i.e. the design of the Digital Competence Center, Publinova,	2024-2025	Library	HvA Academy/CTL

	Research Data Management (RDM) policies and guidelines, Virtual Research Environment, trainings about RDM, FAIR data, scientific integrity, publishing, digital skills.			
5, 6, 7 and 1	Introduction of reflection tools that contribute to strengthening the diversity of career development in AUAS, partly based on principles of recognition and reward and “the European Competence framework for researchers”, with four levels of expertise: foundational, intermediate, advanced and expert.	2024-2026	HR	HvA Academy/CTL
5, 6, 10 and 1	Developing and testing a Strategic Personnel Development methodology for combining work in education and research.	2025- 2026	HR	O&O, faculties
5, 6	Developing research quality manuals to contribute to explicit quality standards of research centers in faculties.	2023-2025	Faculties	O&O
5, 10	(further) Development of indicators for monitoring the policy agreement that teacher-researchers have the opportunity to develop professional skills and take advantage of opportunities for career development in research.	2025	O&O	IR, HR
5, 10	(further) Development of indicators for monitoring the policy agreement about the use of diverse types of research output in society.	2023-2024	O&O	IR
5, 10	(further) Development of indicators for monitoring the policy agreement about the use of diverse research output in education.	2023-2024	O&O	IR
5, 10	(further) Development of indicators for monitoring the policy agreement about satisfaction of the research supportive infrastructure.	2023-2024	O&O	IR
6, 9	Addressing of the practices and experiences of researchers’ participation in the CoARA workgroup in AUAS networks to enable mutual learning.	2024-2026	Researcher participates in the CoARA workgroup.	AUAS networks
6, 9	Participating in the CoARA workgroup Towards Transformations: Transdisciplinarity, Applied/Practice-Based Research, and Impacts. The aim of the working group is developing new concepts for evaluating practice-based research, with a specific focus on societal impact.	2023-2024	Representative AUAS	
10	Evaluating the use of research quality manuals including CoARA principles and in relation to the external review in 2027 (see commitment 2).	2026	O&O	AUAS networks

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