AUTHORSHIP

What is authorship?

Although Monash is guided by the Vancouver Protocol on authorship, it is important to remember that each discipline has its own customs and practices for joint or multi-authorship. Please speak to your supervisor about the conventions that normally apply in your area of research.

According to the Vancouver Protocol, the following are minimum requirements for authorship:

- Conception and design, analysis and interpretation of data; and
- Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
- Final approval of the version to be published.

According to these guidelines, participation solely on the basis of provision/acquisition of funding or collection of data does not normally justify a person being named as an author. Nor is the general supervision of the relevant research group sufficient for authorship.

However, your supervisor is likely to have participated in conceiving, executing or interpreting some or all of the work. Under these circumstances your supervisor may become a co-author. In some disciplines however, for example in the humanities, sole authorship is more the norm.

Above all, if a paper is to be prepared for publication it is important that the matter of authorship is discussed at the outset between all those who may claim to be named as an author.

Co or multi authorship

Where there is more than one author, that is where it is a conjointly authored work, one co-author should be nominated by mutual agreement as the executive author for the paper. There are forms that will need to be completed (for example, A1 books – authored; B1 book chapters; C1 journal articles; E1 conference publications) for the annual DEEWR research publication collection exercise. Your supervisor will be able to advise you on the paperwork required. See [http://www.monash.edu.au/resgrant/publications/](http://www.monash.edu.au/resgrant/publications/)

All authors of a conjointly authored work must certify their authorship is in accordance with the discipline’s standards and practices.

What happens if one or more of the authors is unable to sign?

The head of the academic unit may sign on behalf of the absent author(s).
**Theses based or partially based on conjointly authored work**

Doctoral students may now present a thesis consisting or partly consisting of published or unpublished papers. Where these are conjointly authored, proper attribution of authorship and a statement on the particular nature and extent candidate’s contribution to the work, must be included to the thesis. For detailed guidelines see: [http://www.monash.edu.au/migr/apply/accept/intellectual-property/](http://www.monash.edu.au/migr/apply/accept/intellectual-property/)

*Other related TIPS leaflets*

Assignment and Licensing  
Background Intellectual Property  
Confidentiality  
Copyright  
Intellectual Property  
Patents  
Plagiarism and using quotes  
Publication  
The University’s Intellectual Property Statute and Regulations