

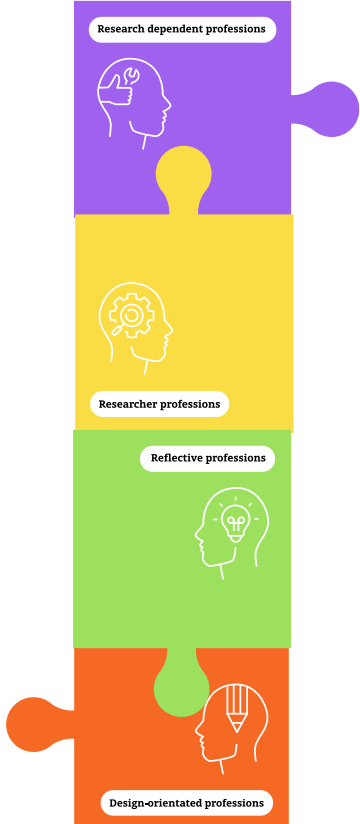
# Perspective of Professional Differences Framework

## Aim

Understand how research is positioned differently between types of professionals. This will help your team discuss why research should be a part of education, and in what way. This instrument is best applied for curriculum designers, but this could include students and other teaching professionals.

## Professional Differences in Research

Research is understood, conducted and applied differently among professions. Even within the same faculty, the relationship between research and professional practice can vary. Through interviews with educational managers of programmes in professional higher education, we found four types of professions in how they position research:



Type of professional	Characteristics	Examples
Research-dependent professions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rely on insights from research on a regular basis.</li> <li>It is essential that professionals keep up with the latest evidence and insights because it has a direct impact on daily practice.</li> </ul>	Dieticians or applied legal professionals.
Researcher professions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducts research as a core part of their activities.</li> </ul>	Marketing-related professions, applied chemistry and applied forensics.
Reflective professions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perceive research as something that lies very close to their day-to-day professional actions and is more reflective than systematic empirical in nature.</li> <li>Improve protocol-based professional actions through research.</li> </ul>	Social work, applied psychologists
Design-oriented professions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design technical or creative products, such as buildings, clothing or usability tools.</li> <li>Research is part of the design process, through usability, testing design requirements, and prototyping.</li> </ul>	Architects, product designers and user researchers.

Understanding these professional differences has consequences for how the curricula should be set up, how students are taught research skills, and how students are assessed.