

From: [Snejina Michailova](#)
To: [Business School Staff](#)
Cc: [Associates of the Business School](#)
Subject: ADR update#8: RDF deadline approaching, Research Management Solution, New Databases available, SRA workshops, Research impact
Date: Thursday, 3 September 2026 2:45:44 pm
Attachments: [image002.png](#)



Hi all,

RDF deadline approaching

Applications for the Research Development Fund (RDF) are currently open; they need to be submitted to the respective Disciplinary Area Lead by 14 September 2026. The application guidelines and form are [here](#).

Research Management Solution

Many of our academics with current active research projects will have received emails from the "RMS Project" regarding the introduction of the [Research Management Solution \(RMS\)](#). RMS went live 1 September.

RMS is a platform that offers researchers greater visibility of their research activities and easier access to key information they need (e.g., research funding opportunities, approvals, awards, etc.).

Colleagues with current projects and those who plan to apply for research funding soon are welcome to attend one of the [training sessions](#), which will run until 18 September. In November, we will hold a special training session for researchers who receive an RDF grant to help successful applicants navigate the RMS system.

New Databases available for Business School researchers

Last year, our Libraries and Learning Services reviewed the databases our university has long subscribed to and canceled several of them. Our Faculty Research Committee subsequently ran a process to investigate which canceled databases would benefit us most. Two databases are now available. Access arrangements and licensed coverage differ by product, as outlined below:

[LSEG Mergers & Acquisitions Services](#)

Contact person: [Dr Michelle Li](#)

Access: Business School staff; a University of Auckland WRDS account is required

[LSEG SDC M&A on WRDS](#)

Licence period: August 2026 - July 2027

The LSEG SDC Mergers & Acquisitions module is a global, deal-level database covering announced mergers, acquisitions and related transactions. It reports more than 1.2 million deals dating from the 1970s and more than 1,000 potential data elements. Depending on the transaction and period, fields may include deal status and dates, value and consideration, target and acquirer details, ownership, deal attitude and form, industry and geography, advisers, premiums, financing, regulatory conditions, and completion or withdrawal. Coverage and field completeness vary by country, period and deal type.

[Morningstar Direct](#)

Contact person: [Dr Xing Han](#)

Access: 15 named-user licences and one classroom licence are available. A registered account and the Morningstar Direct desktop application are required.

Licence period: July 2026 - June 2027

Morningstar Direct is an institutional investment research platform providing data and analytical tools for managed investments and financial markets. Its coverage includes mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, investment trusts, equities, market indexes and portfolios. Available information includes historical prices and returns; fund- and share-class characteristics; portfolio holdings and exposures; assets under management, estimated fund flows and fees; risk and performance measures; Morningstar

classifications, ratings and research; sustainability measures; benchmarks; and investment documents. The platform also supports investment screening and comparison, due diligence, portfolio construction, holdings and exposure analysis, performance and risk analysis, customised reporting, and the export of selected data and results.

SRA workshops

The Research and Innovation Office invites research staff from across the University to contribute to the development of the Strategic Research Areas (SRAs). A series of workshops will be held on 14, 15 and 16 September. Interested colleagues can register their interest: [SRA Investment Planning Workshops – Fill out form](#) by 4 September.

Research impact and impact narratives

The Faculty Research Committee hosted a seminar “When Good Research Isn’t Enough: Crafting Impact Narratives That Count” by Prof Swee Mak, Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation Capability) RMIT University. He shared how well-crafted impact narratives can serve as both a roadmap for research translation and a tool for communicating impact to funders, collaborators, and community stakeholders. Participants were introduced to practical frameworks and tools to strengthen the impact dimension of their research programmes. The talk is available on Cassyni: [When Good Research Isn’t Enough: Crafting Impact Narratives That Count - presented by Professor Swee Mak](#)

Other upcoming research events and deadlines

14 September: Internal deadline for [KU Leuven Global Seed Fund](#). The 2026 call is now open to UoA researchers, offering up to €30,000 per project to kick-start collaboration with one of Europe’s most successful research universities. Match funding of up to \$25,000 NZD provided via the UoA [Global Research and Engagement Fund](#) (GREF).

18 September: Internal deadline for [WUN Research Development Fund 2026](#). This scheme supports international interdisciplinary collaboration across the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). Projects should align with WUN’s priority challenge areas (sustainability, global health, inequality, and responsible AI) and are particularly supportive of early-career researchers. Applications should be emailed to the [International office](#).

30 September: Internal deadline for [Avanza UC Global Research Fund 2026](#) which offers an opportunity to collaborate with the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, one of Latin America’s leading research universities. Match funding of up to \$12,000 NZD can be made available via the UoA GREF.

Take care,
Snejina

This Update is intended to keep University of Auckland Business School staff informed about research developments, news, events, and funding opportunities. The Update has been issued since 2018. You can view editions from 2022 onwards on the [Research section of the Business School internet pages](#).