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To: [Business School Staff](#)
Cc: [Associates of the Business School](#)
Subject: ADR update#1 - RDF internal funding, A*Accelerator programme, ABDC draft Journal Quality List, Research recognition, OA Agreements
Date: Monday, 2 February 2026 9:59:45 am
Attachments: [image002.png](#)



Hi all,

Internal RDF funding available only via the Faculty Research Committee in 2026

Funding for the following four initiatives is available again this year from our non-contestable Research Development Fund (RDF) and will be managed through the FRC, not through Departments and/or Disciplinary Areas (DAs):

- Editing support for journal (re)submissions: Applications are open throughout the year.
- Research assistant support (up to 50 hours or \$1,750): Applications are open throughout the year.
- Open Access (OA) support (for publishing in journals not covered by the OA Agreements the University of Auckland has signed): Applications are open throughout the year.
- Visiting Scholars Programme: Applications are open during two competitive rounds, with deadlines 2 March for visits to take place in 2026 and 1 September for visits in 2027.

The application forms for these initiatives can be found [here](#). Completed forms should be sent to [Juan Rodriguez](#).

Researchers with positive balances in either a Research Development Account or a Personal Research Account are expected to utilise these funds before applying for internal RDF funding.

A* Accelerator Programme 2026

In 2026, we will run the sixth A* Accelerator Programme, designed to support academics in the Business School who are motivated to achieve the highest level of journal publication in their field. Like last year, [Prof Peter Boxall](#) will lead the programme. We invite applications from interested researchers across all DAs. A preliminary conversation with the respective DA Lead is encouraged.

Programme participants may be individuals or small teams. They will form a cohort that will meet regularly for support throughout the year and will be invited to a 2-day writing retreat in mid-year. They will have mentoring assistance from an expert or a small group of experts in the targeted area of their proposed A* publication. Participants commit to producing a draft ready for submission to their targeted journal within 12 months. Participants from previous rounds are not excluded from applying.

The programme will commence in April. Applications should describe their A* project in up to 1,000 words, including:

1. A description of the research question or objectives, the intended theory, model or framework (for theoretical and empirical papers) and the methods and data (for empirical papers). Projects intended to

result in a literature review article are also welcome.

2. A description of the importance or envisaged contribution of the paper.
 3. Potential challenges and a brief description of the support that would be helpful to overcome them.
 4. Arrangements with any current co-authors or identification of potential co-authors.
 5. The targeted journal(s): ranked A* by the ABDC or ranked 4 or 4* in the Chartered Association of Business Schools' (CABS) Academic Journal Guide or recognised as of the highest standing in a discipline not included in ABDC or CABS lists.
- Applications should be sent to Prof Boxall by COB 20 March. Any questions can be directed to him or me.

ABDC draft Journal Quality List

The ABDC has released the [draft Journal Quality List](#). An extensive review, which was conducted last year, considered the inclusion of new journals, the exclusion of existing journals, and journals' up- and down-grading. Submissions were considered by 10 panels that included 43 scholars. Four researchers from our faculty were involved in the process.

ABDC members and eligible stakeholders in Australia and New Zealand are now invited to put forward any updates to journal titles and/or publisher details, or any factual errors in the draft list that require attention, using this [online form](#). Other feedback will not be considered at this stage of the process. The consultation closes 16 February 5pm AEDT. The finalised Journal Quality List is expected to be released in March.

Research recognition

[Prof Charl de Villiers](#) (A&F) was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his research in sustainability accounting and for helping others to develop and publish their research. This is a significant research recognition and honour. Congratulations, Charl!

Open Access Publishing Agreements

The latest updates regarding OA Publishing Agreements are available [here](#).

The staff UoA email address is required for affiliation verification purposes when submitting a manuscript to a publisher. Student email addresses (name@aucklanduni.ac.nz) and other non-university email addresses will not work. The OA publication option within the publisher's submission platform must be used.

Upcoming research events and deadlines

12 February: Deadline for [The Global Research Engagement Fund \(GREF\)](#), awards up to \$25,000 to foster the development of research partnerships with international collaborators and develop applications to major international funding schemes.

16 February: Deadline for [Spencer Foundation Large grants](#), up to \$850k for 1–5 years for research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education.

25 February: Deadline for [Templeton World Charity Foundation Grants – Listening and Learning in a Polarised World](#). Up to \$175k for 6–9 months planning grant to build the team, tools and contextual understanding necessary for a new scientific enterprise on a global scale.

14 April: Deadline for [RSNZ Catalyst Fund](#) for advancing global science partnerships for NZ – various opportunities.

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 intranet pages](#).