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To: Business School Staff
Cc: Associates of the Business School
Subject: ADR update#10 - Marsden success, RDF, MCRs, ECRs, FRC, Ethics committee representatives, RSL, Elsevier
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Update #10, 2025

Hi all,

Marsden Success

Assoc Prof Ryan Greenway-McGrevy (ECON) has been awarded his 3rd Royal Society Te Apārangi Marsden Fund project "Who benefits from upzoning? Evaluating the socio-economic effects of New Zealand's zoning reforms" (\$853,000). His previous projects were on upzoning and housing affordability in Auckland (2021) and new methods of panel data forecasting applied to New Zealand's property market (2017). Securing three Marsden projects is a rare and remarkable achievement. Congratulations, Ryan!

A call for proposals for the 2026 Marsden Fund will be released soon. If you are considering applying for a Marsden Grant next year, please contact the [Research Services Team](#) for support. Also, the Royal Society will host a Marsden Narrative CV Workshop Webinar 11 December 10am-11.30am, for which you can register [here](#).

RDF Contestable Fund: Update

22 Research Development Fund (RDF) applications were submitted this year – 7 from ISOM, 4 from MIB and A&F each, 3 from MKTG, and 2 from PROP and ECON each. The amount of funds requested was \$269,400. All Faculty Research Committee (FRC) members and a representative of the DVCR&I Office scored each application individually, using the rubric published in the RDF call. The scores were aggregated to form the basis of the discussions at a dedicated 5-hour FRC meeting held in November.

Following a formal recommendation and approval process that included the Interim Dean and the DVCR&I Office, 12 applications were funded, totalling \$126,500. (Last year, 24 applications were submitted, totalling \$348,000 requested funds; the allocated amount was \$163,600.)

The FRC acknowledges the work invested in crafting the applications. We congratulate all colleagues who were successful in this round and wish them success in conducting their RDF projects in 2026.

MCR Development Programme

The UoA-funded Mid-career Researchers (MCR) Development Programme successfully completed its 3rd cohort with 9 participants from the Business School and 5 participants from the Law School. The feedback is highly positive, with a particular appreciation for the off-site intensive format and topics relevant to crafting a rewarding career, regardless of the disciplinary/faculty anchor. Interest in future cohorts remains steady, and a sustainable model is emerging to run a cohort every 18-24 months. Plans for 2026 include a 1.5-day refresher for the three cohorts that have completed the Programme.

From the MCR Taskforce

Seminar series – The 2025 seminar series concluded with its 4th and final workshop, which focused on mindfulness as a practical approach to managing mid-career academic challenges. The session attracted 11 participants, including early-career and education-focused staff. While this and previous workshops have drawn a small core group, overall engagement has been limited.

Writing retreats – The November writing retreat, although positively rated by those who attended, suffered

from relatively low interest and late withdrawals. Changing the location did not improve the situation. This indicates that the concept itself no longer appeals to MCRs.

From the ECRC

The Early Career Researchers' Committee (ECRC) recently gathered feedback from participants in the fully subscribed October writing retreat. The input is now being used to shape future retreats to ensure they remain productive and appealing for ECRs across the faculty.

In late October, the Committee also hosted a coffee catch-up in the collaboration space. These events offer an opportunity for ECRs to connect, exchange advice on teaching and research, and build cross-departmental networks. Future invitations will be circulated in due course.

The Committee has also expanded its website to provide information to the faculty on [key events](#) and a [platform](#) for connecting researchers with potential research assistants.

A few numbers from the FRC

As we approach the end of 2025, here are a few key numbers related to FRC's work that may be of interest.

The [FRC](#) held 10 meetings this year to discuss and debate several research-related issues, craft recommendations, and make decisions that benefit researchers across the Business School. Yet, the Committee's main work happens between meetings. As in previous years, each FRC member has led at least one portfolio, ensuring efficiency, accountability, coverage of various research-related activities, and good overall Committee performance. A big thank you to everyone who served on FRC this year!

[Research success featured on the e-screens in our building](#): As part of our research visibility initiative, the FRC runs research success e-screen displays that recognise and celebrate researchers' achievements. In 2025, we ran a series of 11 issues, featuring 57 research achievements and the success of 70 researchers across the Business School. These included research awards, major grants, journal publications, published books, etc.

[Social Sciences Research Network \(SSRN\)](#): The School's SSRN Research Paper Series continues to show strong visibility. In 2025, downloads ranged from 1,392 to 2,123 per month, and 3 new e-journal issues were released featuring ECRs in A&F, showcasing PhD research across the Business School, and highlighting ComLaw scholarship. A 4th issue, based on papers from the November PhD Research Conference, will be completed in December. An archive of the School's SSRN e-journals is available [here](#).

[Summer Research Scholarships 2025/2026](#): 16 students have accepted their projects and will start working with their supervisors from 1 December for 10 weeks. There is a series of online workshops for students in the 2 weeks leading up to the official start of the programme, accessible via this [webpage](#).

Our representatives in the University Ethics Committee

Prof Karen Fernandez (MKTG) will be the new representative of the Business School in the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee (UAHPEC). She will be replacing Dr Rick Starr (MKTG), who has served on this Committee since December 2023. Rick did an excellent job in representing us, including taking up the role of Acting Deputy Chair of one of the two committees. Karen will join Assoc Prof Chris Nicoll (ComLaw), who continues to serve on UAHPEC. These are important roles that ensure our Human Ethics committees have the appropriate expertise, skills, and knowledge to conduct high-quality ethics reviews.

Research and Study Leave: Key insights and tools from the October FRC panel

The FRC hosted a panel discussion titled "Research and Study Leave Reflections", which provided valuable insights into the Research and Study Leave (RSL) process. Una Lightfoot shared a range of useful resources to support staff in navigating RSL applications. These included a [YouTube video](#) outlining the RSL process on Hono, links to the [University Policy Hub](#) detailing the [RSL Policy](#) and [RSL Guidelines](#), as well as practical guidance on preparing and [submitting applications via Hono](#). Additional resources, including the Working Away Leave policy, can be found in the [University forms](#) to assist academic staff in planning and applying for RSL.

CAUL agreements and changes to Elsevier access in 2026

The Council of Australasian University Librarians (CAUL) has agreed in principle on read and publish agreements with Taylor & Francis, Springer Nature, and Wiley for 2026. This means authors can continue to publish open access in most journals from these publishers without incurring article processing charges. Negotiations with Elsevier have paused after CAUL rejected their final offer. When the current contract ends 31 December 2025, many ScienceDirect journals will be unavailable and researchers will have to pay an Article Processing Charge (APC) to publish open access in Elsevier hybrid or gold journals. For more detail:

[Managing disruptions to read and publish access to Elsevier's academic journals](#)
[Elsevier academic journal access in 2026](#)

This is the last ADR Update for 2025. Take care, and have a good break when you get to it!
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](#).

