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Subject: ADR Update #8: MCR programme, A* Accelerator, SSRN, Library collection, Research translation, Research strategy, Signature research areas, Transdisciplinary research
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BUSINESS SCHOOL

From the Associate Dean (Research)



Update #8, 2025

Hi all,

Mid-career Researchers Development Programme

This Business School-initiated and centrally funded Programme is now in its 2nd year. In 2024, we had two cohorts of mid-career researchers (MCRs) from our Faculty. This year, we expanded! Our current 3rd cohort includes nine MCRs from our School (ComLaw, ECON, ISOM, MIB, and MKTG) and five MCRs from the Law School.

We started with a 2,5-day off-site retreat last week comprising six carefully designed and sequenced sessions, intensive group work, plenary sessions, individual reading, and quiet time. There were lively discussions, a lot of sharing of knowledge and insights, and great conversations over meals. Like with previous cohorts, we now continue with four workshops that require pre-readings and individual preparation. [Assoc Prof Lisa Callaghan](#) and I continue to co-lead and co-facilitate the Programme.

We have just been informed that the UoA Research & Innovation Office (RIO) will fund the Programme also in 2026.

A* Accelerator

This year's A* Accelerator process is in full swing with seven participants: four as individuals and three in a team-based project. Each has a plan for their paper, which mentors have kindly and expertly been reviewing. The group has been meeting in the Collaboration space, discussing papers previously published in A* journals. The group has recently had a productive and enjoyable two-day writing retreat at Castaways. We thank Prof Emeritus Rod Brodie for his involvement as guest speaker on crafting A* papers and the Faculty Research Committee for their support. Drafts of papers will be produced in due course for further feedback from mentors, and seminars will be given to departments.

Social Sciences Research Network

The Business School's [SSRN Research Paper Series](#) (RPS) is a key initiative for delivering on our Visible Research Expertise objective. In 2024, our RPS' downloads reached 4,421, the highest annual total to date. In 2025, visibility is being sustained with stronger engagement per paper at about 45 downloads per abstract in the first half of 2025, as compared to 11 in the first half of 2024. Our [SSRN Top 1,000 Business School visibility ranking](#) has also moved from 100th to 90th.

This year, we are prioritising the dissemination of research by our early-career researchers (ECRs) and doctoral candidates, with the relevant e-journals in the making, including one showcasing ECR research from each Disciplinary Area and another for the November PhD Conference.

Our SSRN e-journal archive is available on the [Business School website](#). While the final published version of a journal article, also known as the Version of Record, may be subject to publisher-specific sharing restrictions because of journal branding, working papers and accepted manuscripts can always be shared on SSRN. We encourage colleagues interested in publishing articles/e-journals to contact the SSRN team: [Assoc Prof William Cheung](#) and research assistant [Liz Yingxue Zhao](#).

Library collection 2026 renewal review

Earlier this year, we communicated that a team of librarians was working on identifying and analysing subscriptions that have not been utilised sufficiently and that are candidates for cancellation. Following a recent consultation process, feedback has been reviewed, and final decisions on resource cancellations have been confirmed in collaboration with faculty Deans and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research & Innovation. You can read more and access the list of confirmed cancellations [here](#).

Aotearoa Business and Economics Research Translation Competition 2025

You are invited to attend the awards celebration for the [Aotearoa Business and Economics Research Translation Competition 2025](#) that is being hosted by AUT's Faculty of Business, Economics and Law. The event will take place 17 October, 3.30-5.00pm at AUT City Campus. Finlay Macdonald, Senior Editor of *The Conversation*, will deliver the keynote. If you would like to attend, please [register here](#) by 2 October.

Business School research strategy

Thank you to colleagues who have submitted feedback to the Research & Innovation Position Paper developed by the

Faculty Research Committee. We will be discussing the comments at a Committee meeting next week.

Signature Research Areas

The UoA survey seeking staff views on Signature Research Areas closed 19 August. 456 submissions were received from across the university, 70 of which were from the Business School. We are told ours was among the highest (if not the highest) response rate across Faculties and Institutes. While I have been and remain critical about several features of the Signature Research Areas project, I acknowledge colleagues' active engagement. A thematic analysis of the survey responses is underway in the RIO team. Updates will be shared on our [internal Research page](#).

Transdisciplinary research on Research Hub

The new [Transdisciplinary research](#) page offers information about what transdisciplinary research is and how it is practised at our University. It also offers practical advice, support, and development opportunities. Key changes to the page include:

- Updated information on internal funding initiatives
- Resources on how to start your transdisciplinary research journey at the University
- Information on how to engage outside of the University
- Links to development opportunities
- Networking opportunities with national and international collaborators

Other upcoming research events and deadlines

15 September 11am-12pm: RDF 2026 information session. Calendar invitation circulated. OGGB, room 260-325.

15 September: Deadline for [WUN Research Development Fund](#), up to \$22,000 for 1-year collaborative projects with WUN partners.

16 September, 9.30am - 12.30pm: Making Sense of the Treaty in a Research Context webinar. [Register here](#)

23 September, 9.30am - 12.30pm: Putting the Treaty into Practice in a Research Context webinar. [Register here](#)

26 September: Interdisciplinary symposium on SDGs. [Learn more here](#).

29 September: Deadline for [Transdisciplinary Ideation Fund](#), up to 15 project grants of \$20,000 each, 18-month duration.

30 September: Deadline for applying for the International Central Networks and Partnership Grant 2025 (Round 3). Details are available [here](#).

31 October: Deadline for [KU Leuven Global Seed Fund \(GSF\)](#). 1-year projects, up to €30,000 per project (KU Leuven), plus \$25,000 NZD (UoA, apply for matched funding through the [Global Research Engagement Fund](#)). Eligible activities include organising joint workshops, reciprocal travel between institutions, other activities that support the proposed research and strengthen the partnership (to be approved by both institutions). Contact international.research@auckland.ac.nz for further details.

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](#).