



## From the Associate Dean (Research)

Update #11, 2023

Hi all,

### A\* Accelerator Programme 2024

In 2024 we will run the 3<sup>rd</sup> faculty-wide A\* Accelerator Programme, an initiative that started as a pilot in the Department of MIB in 2019. We invite applications from interested researchers across all Disciplinary Areas (DAs) in the Business School. A preliminary conversation with the respective DA Lead is encouraged. Applications should be sent by 11 December to Prof Emeritus [Rod Brodie](#) who will lead the programme. Face-to-face interviews with the applicants will be in December and January, and the programme will commence in February 2024. Applications should be max 2,000 words and include:

- A description of the main idea of the research, the research question(s), the positioning, the intended theory/model/framework (for conceptual/theoretical and empirical papers) + the methodology and the data (for empirical papers). Projects intended to result in review papers are welcome, too.
- If appropriate: a description of the potential envisaged contribution at this preliminary stage.
- Targeted A\* journal(s).
- Potential challenges faced and how the A\* Accelerator might help overcome them.
- Time available to commit to developing and refining the paper over 12 months, including arrangements with (potential) co-authors.

Participants will form a cohort that will meet fortnightly throughout 2024. This is a highly structured programme requiring substantial work and dedication. Any questions can be directed to Rod Brodie or me.

### AI for Research: Interactive 1-day Training Workshop

We are co-hosting this event in March 2024 (most likely 4 or 5 March) with AUT Business School – 15 researchers from each of the two Business Schools can express initial interest in participating by emailing [Juan Rodriguez](#). The workshop is designed for researchers new to using artificial intelligence (AI) tools in research. It will provide introductory-level insights to initiate the AI journey and assumes no prior knowledge or experience. Topics covered in the workshop include:

- Critical communication skills to get the most out of AI chatbots
- AI tools for ideating, refining, and exploring research topics
- Conducting AI-powered literature reviews
- How to leverage the power of AI tools to enhance your academic writing
- Discover key resources to continue your journey with AI beyond the workshop

The workshop facilitator will be Dr Bronwyn (Bron) Eager, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Tasmania's College of Business and Economics. She has gained international recognition as a practitioner and scholar in applied AI. Her research interests encompass digital skills, entrepreneurship, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. Dr Eager actively disseminates her knowledge of AI's practical applications through seminars, training events, and her [blog](#), before her academic career, she operated a business and held various industry positions. Alongside her academic role, she maintains an entrepreneurship practice.

### Our Visiting Scholars Programme

In September–October we welcomed Prof Suzanne Rivard (HEC Montreal) as the inaugural visiting scholar of this Programme. She was hosted for a month by the Information Systems DA (Dept of ISOM). Along with working on new research projects with professors Julia Kotlarsky and Ilan Oshri, Prof Rivard shared her vast knowledge and expertise in theory building through a series of four seminars targeted at early- and mid-career researchers and PhD students across the Business School: “Theory building: what is the object that we build?”, “Theory components: concepts and constructs”, “Theory components:

explanation”, and “Theory building is neither an art nor a science. It is a craft”. Prof Rivard was also a mentor in the Qualitative Paper Development Symposium at ISOM and offered feedback to several junior colleagues and PhD students on their research in progress.

The Faculty Research Committee (FRC) encourages colleagues to apply to the Visiting Scholar Programme for 2024. The Programme provides funding for internationally-esteemed researchers to visit the UABS for at least a month to develop research capability and collaborations with UABS faculty. More details can be found [here](#). Applications are handled on an ongoing basis. You are welcome to discuss potential applications with your departmental FRC representative or [Dr Helen Delaney](#).

#### **Business School representatives in University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee**

Assoc Prof Chris Nicoll and Dr Rick Starr will serve as nominated members of the Business School for a 3-year and 1-year term, respectively. A reminder that the drop-in sessions for 2023 have concluded, but Colleen Altagracia will resume these sessions again from 15 January 2024.

#### **PBRF: Tips for starting to prepare for the 2026 Quality Evaluation round**

We are expecting to receive confirmed information and final guidelines about the upcoming Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) round in December. Preparing a PBRF evidence portfolio is a time-consuming task. Supporting evidence is auditable, meaning we need to save and store documents, even if they are not included in our evidence portfolios. Locating and organising all required documents can be daunting, so to mitigate this, here are some practical suggestions:

- Create a folder in outlook to save email invitations to:
  - o review papers;
  - o give seminars, keynotes, or plenaries;
  - o examine theses and dissertations; or
  - o conduct external reviews.
- If approached informally, consider requesting a formal invitation for some of the above activities that can serve as valuable evidence in our portfolios.
- Along with continuously updating our respective Discovery Profiles, create a designated PBRF folder where one can save publications and other research outputs. Having one location for these materials simplifies their retrieval and organisation.

These simple actions will be helpful in navigating the PBRF process as we get closer to working on our portfolios.

#### **Faculty Research Seminar Series**

The Faculty’s subscription to the Seminar Series platform Cassyni has been renewed and is now available to all Business School research centres, departments, disciplinary areas, research beacons and groups. Once published, seminars receive a citable DOI and are indexed in academic databases. If you are interested in reaching a wider audience and maximising your impact by recording and publishing seminars, please contact [Christiane Rupp](#).

#### **Upcoming events and deadlines**

18 – 19 November: UABS Early Career Researchers writing retreat

20 November, 4pm: [Introduction to Horizon Europe Financial Management](#)

30 November, 2 – 5 pm, Business School, room 221: Networking | Business School – Psychology – Computer Science. (Please see the invitation Christiane Rupp sent 24 October)

30 November – 2 December: UABS Mid Career Researchers writing retreat.

Take care and best regards,

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 2021 onwards on the [Research section of the Business School internet pages](#).

