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To: [Business School Staff](#)
Cc: [Associates of the Business School](#)
Subject: ADR Update #10: ECREA, UoA top ranked journals, MCR, RDF, OA, PBRF, ResearchHub
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Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[OA Support - Application Form - 2023.docx](#)



Hi all,

UoA Early Career Researcher Award

Congratulations to Assoc Prof Julia Fehrer (Department of MIB) who is one of seven recipients of the 2023 UoA Early Career Researcher Award (ECREA)! This award recognises and rewards research excellence and leadership potential among ECRs at the University of Auckland enabling them to further their current research, establish stronger links with researchers in other parts of the world or embark on new fields of research. This is the third time within the last six years a Business School researcher has received an ECREA.

You may be interested in the following facts: in the period 2021-2023, 64 ECREA and REM applications were submitted from the STEM faculties and 24 won. CABLE faculties submitted 25 applications, 9 of which won. Factoring in the faculties' size, these numbers defeat the common perception that the awards favour STEM colleagues. Also, there was no significant gender difference in terms of applications and awards. Information about ECREA and research medals (REM) is available [here](#).

UoA Top Ranked Journal list and Scopus SciVal

As part of the University's strategic plan, Taumata Teitei, a list of UoA top-ranked journals list has been produced –<https://research-hub.auckland.ac.nz/the-publishing-process/top-ranked-journals-list>. It consists of 9490 journals, with information on journals covered by 2023 OA Publishing Agreements. A journal is considered a 'top' journal in the list if it appears in the top 20% in any of the following sources: (1) JournalIndicators.com, which reports Subject Normalised Impact per Paper (SNIP), (2) SciMago Journal Rank (SJR), which reports the metric of the same name, or (3) Scopus, which reports CiteScore. There are 937 journals that feature both on the 2023 ABDC list and the UoA top-ranked journal list as shown [here](#).

From the Mid-Career Researchers Taskforce

[Universitas21](#), a global network that brings together 29 world-leading, research-intensive universities, has launched a Mid-Career Researchers (MCR) Fellowship programme. As a U21 member, the UoA selected, competitively, four participants to participate in the programme this year, among whom is Dr Lisa Callagher (Dept of MIB and member of our MCR Taskforce). Half-way through the programme, here are her insights:

- “The challenges that the 50 MCRs in my group have shared are consistent with the challenges that UABS MCRs shared in the focus groups we conducted last year and the themes we identified in the scarce literature on MCRs.
- While some MCRs might feel that what they are experiencing are local problems, hearing from academics from 29 universities and marrying that with the MCR literature reveals that many issues are systemic to higher education.
- Growth mindset provides a helpful way to develop individual resilience to several challenges; developing a network of mid-career peers can be helpful. Combining the two is particularly powerful.”

Our Mid-Career Researcher Development Programme (2024)

We have received \$50,000 through the relatively new Researcher Skills and Development Fund at the UoA to support our planned MCR activities in 2024. The MCR Taskforce, with the help of Prof Emeritus Rod Brodie, was active in developing the

application. In this round, 17 applications from across the University were submitted (totalling \$1.07 million) for \$500,000 available. 13 were funded, or partially funded, including ours – ‘MCR Development Programme’. You are welcome to contact the MCR Taskforce (Dr Lisa Callagher, Dr Shahper Richter, Dr Alan Toy) to receive details.

RDF 2024 results

The faculty’s Research Development Fund (RDF) applications for 2024 were discussed at a Faculty Research Committee meeting on 18 September. The Committee’s recommendations were subsequently approved by the Dean and the Associate DVC (Research). We have now informed colleagues of the outcome of their applications. Of 20 applications, 17 were recommended for funding – five fully funded and 12 funded with a reduced budget. This RDF round was focused on disciplinary research for one-year projects to a maximum of \$20,000. 11 principal investigators identified themselves as ECRs, eight were MCRs, and one was a senior researcher.

2023 Open Access Support Fund

We have sought clarification and have now received confirmation that books and book chapters also qualify for Open Access (OA) funding through the [Open Access fees for high impact publications](#). While the initial decision at university level was to exclude such research outputs from being candidates for OA funding, this has been rectified. We are told the wording on the Research Hub page will be updated accordingly to clear up confusion for everyone. The application form is attached if you would like your work to be considered for OA funding.

PBRF

The Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) aims to ensure that excellent research is encouraged and supported. Quality Evaluation 2026 involves an assessment of the research outputs of staff at eligible tertiary education organisations for the period 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2025. The results of Quality Evaluation 2026 will determine the allocation of 55% of a \$315 million (per annum) Fund for a 7-year period.

Over the past two years, the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) has released several Consultation Papers for sector response. While we await the final outcomes of this consultation, key changes indicated through this process include:

- The PBRF definition of research has been expanded to ensure that it better reflects the diversity of ontologies and epistemologies in Aotearoa New Zealand and reflects the importance of mātauranga Māori as a taonga under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- A broadened definition of ‘research excellence’ which includes impact within and outside academia.
- An increased PBRF weighting for Māori and Pacific researchers, and those who submit to the Mātauranga Māori and Pacific Research Panels.
- The introduction of an ‘achievement relative to opportunity framework’ which affects submission requirements for new and emerging researchers, staff members in part-time roles, and staff members declaring ‘researcher circumstances’. This new approach recognises that people meeting these criteria will have had a reduced opportunity to conduct and publish research during the assessment period, and therefore may submit fewer ‘examples of research excellence’, previously called ‘nominated research outputs’.
- A revised Evidence Portfolio template which reflects these and other changes to final versions of the PBRF Guidelines will form the operating platform for PBRF Quality Evaluation 2026. We expect TEC to release the Guidelines in December 2023.

Updates are available on ResearchHub and on the TEC website ([PBRF Sector Consultation](#)). Questions can also be directed to our Assistant Dean (PBRF) Assoc Prof Ryan Greenaway-McGrevy, myself, or the University PBRF support team at pbrf@auckland.ac.nz.

ResearchHub designers are interested in researchers’ feedback

The ResearchHub content and navigation aim to provide us as researchers with a seamless way to access the resources we need at different stages of our research journey. At the moment, SubHubs are being prepared for each [research stage](#). The SubHubs will curate key articles, events, services, and support teams relevant to each stage of the research life cycle. To prepare the pipeline of ResearchHub improvements in 2024, we are invited to share our feedback (by 31 October) – what is working well and what could be enhanced to make ResearchHub more user-friendly and engaging: [Provide feedback about your experiences or provide your suggestions](#).

Upcoming events and deadlines

26 October: [Breaking new ground: founding a diamond standard open access journal, platforming voices and shaking up the publishing status-quo](#) with Louis Sartain (Faculty of Arts)

27 October: [Art, Research and Open Access](#) with Mark Harvey (Faculty of Creative Arts & Industries)

27 October: [HRC 2024 Explorer Grants](#), \$150,000 for research working expenses only for up to 2 years

30 October: [Transdisciplinary Ideation Fund](#), \$20,000 – 60,000 for up to 2 years. Submit for Dean’s sign-off by 27 October.

6 November: [MBIE Smart Ideas Registration Deadline](#)

13 November: [MBIE Smart Ideas Concept Proposal Submission Deadline](#). Up to \$1 million for 2 – 3 years.

18 – 19 November: UABS ECR writing retreat

27 November (date and time tbc): LinkedIn Training for UABS Academics. Watch this space.

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 MCR writing retreat. There are currently places available. If you are an MCR and you would like to attend the writing retreat, please contact: alan.toy@auckland.ac.nz

March 2024: 1-day workshop “AI for academic research” (dates TBC, likely 4, 5 or 6 March)

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](#).