



Tertiary Education Commission  
Te Amorangi Mātauranga Matua

# **Performance-Based Research Fund**

Business and Economics panel-specific  
guidelines 2012 Quality Evaluation

## Introduction

The Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) 2012 Panels have developed guidelines to assist staff members with the processes of developing and submitting Evidence Portfolios (EPs). These guidelines provide advice on specific areas that relate to the subject areas of Business and Economics and do not replace or supersede the requirements for EPs that are set out in the *PBRF Quality Evaluation Guidelines 2012*.

The Business and Economics panel-specific guidelines must be read in conjunction with the *PBRF Quality Evaluation Guidelines 2012*. In areas where the panel-specific guidelines do not provide additional information, this is because the advice provided in the *PBRF Quality Evaluation Guidelines 2012* applies.

The panel will be primarily interested in assessing the quality of the NROs and the staff member's contribution to them, and can also take into account the quality of the outlets through which the research has been published.

Please note that peer review panels assess EPs without reference to Quality Categories gained by staff members from their participation in the 2003 and/or 2006 Quality Evaluations.

# Business and Economics panel-specific guidelines

## Description of panel coverage

The Business and Economics Panel will assess EPs in the subject areas described below. The descriptions should be considered a guide – they are not intended to be exhaustive. The panellists recognise the cross-disciplinary nature of business and economics research and expect that many EPs could cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.

### **Accounting and finance**

Accounting includes financial accounting, management accounting, accounting information systems, auditing, and taxation.

Finance includes banking, investment and securities, and insurance.

### **Economics**

Economics includes economics, econometrics and economic history.

### **Management, human resources, industrial relations, international business and other business**

Management, human resources and industrial relations includes management, communication in organisations, employment relations, human resource management, management science including operations and services management; decision sciences; knowledge management; organisation studies including organisational behaviour and organisation theory, public sector management, risk management, small business management, and strategic management.

International business and other business include business development, business ethics, business history, corporate governance, innovation and entrepreneurship, international business and cross-cultural business studies, property studies, and business and society.

### **Marketing and tourism**

## Cross-Referrals

The Business and Economics Panel will cross-refer EPs to other relevant panels or will seek input from specialist advisers where it is appropriate to supplement the range of expertise of panel members. Cross-referrals are likely to arise in relation to nearly all other panels.

The membership of peer review panels is designed to enable panels to assess the quality of research in most areas, including those which have a professional or applied outcome. It is recognised, however, that a

	<p>small number of staff members will have research outputs that require expert advice from outside the scope of the panel membership and/or that may need to be considered by one of the two Expert Advisory Groups.</p>
<p><b>Expectations for standard of evidence to be supplied</b></p>	<p>Nominated Research Outputs (NROs) should normally be quality-assured.</p>
<p><b>Elaboration of the definition of Research</b></p>	<p>Consultancy, case studies, and research into the teaching of areas of business and economic studies may count as research provided that they meet the PBRF Definition of Research (see Chapter 1 Section D: What Counts as Research?).</p> <p>For example, a research consultancy, or series of consultancies, that has involved research into current practice and that establishes new policy, paradigms, methods and/or standards which extend the body of knowledge in a given area of professional practice may be acceptable as research. Similarly, case studies accompanied by appropriate interpretation may be seen as research if they validate or question existing theory and research or develop new theory.</p>
<p><b>Types of research output</b></p>	<p>In addition to the research output types listed in the general Guidelines (Section C: Guidelines for Completing the Research Output (RO) Component,), the Business and Economics panel also sees research books, textbooks, and reports for external bodies as acceptable types of research output, provided that they meet the PBRF Definition of Research.</p> <p>TEOs should note that all research outputs included in EPs must be consistent with the PBRF Definition of Research, as set out in the general Guidelines, and must be accompanied by evidence as to quality.</p>
<p><b>Additional advice from expert advisory groups</b></p>	<p>EPs can be referred to an expert advisory group (EAG) by either a TEO or by the Chair of a peer review panel.</p> <p>Where an EP has been referred to an EAG and has <b>at least one</b> NRO that meets the criteria set out by that EAG, additional advice can be sought. A score and opinion on the EP will be provided back to the peer review panel the EP is assigned to.</p> <p>The criteria that will determine whether or not the Pacific Research and the Professional and Applied Research EAGs will accept EPs for consideration will be published on the TEC website.</p>
<p><b>Indications of the minimum quantity of research output expected to be produced during the assessment period</b></p>	<p>The general Guidelines apply. See Chapter 2 Section C: Guidelines for Completing the Research Output (RO), especially 'Where NROs are Fewer than Four', and also Chapter 3 Section C: Assessing and Scoring the Three Components of an EP, especially The 'Quantity' of</p>

Research).

In relation to new and emerging researchers, see Chapter 3 Section E: Assessing New and Emerging Researchers.

**Special circumstances**

Refer to the general Guidelines, Chapter 2 Section F: Dealing with Special Circumstances.

**Definitions of Quality Categories**

Refer to general Guidelines topic: What do the Quality Categories Mean? in Chapter 3 Section A: Panel Assessment: Introduction, and the final three topics of Chapter 3 Section D: Assessing and Scoring the Three Components of an EP – starting with Scoring an EP: Allocating Points for Research Outputs.

The Business and Economics Panel affirms that the term 'world-class' denotes a standard, not a location, and may include research focused on local situations, information or data.

**Treatment of non-standard, non-quality-assured and jointly produced research outputs**

**Non-standard**

Non-standard research outputs will be assessed using the same criteria as standard research outputs.

**Non-quality-assured**

The Business and Economics Panel anticipates that EPs submitted to it will have been prepared with due regard for the definitions of quality-assured and non-quality-assured research outputs as set out in the general Guidelines (see Chapter 2 Section C: Guidelines for Completing the Research Output (RO), especially Quality-Assured and Non-Quality Assured outputs and Quality-Assured and Non-Quality-Assured Research Outputs).

**Joint publications**

Refer to the general Guidelines Chapter 2 Section C: Guidelines for Completing the Research Output Component, especially "Outputs involving Joint Research".

Where there are multiple authors, staff members must ensure that their contribution to the research output is clearly defined in the "My Contribution" section. In cases where co-authors include the same NRO in their EPs, staff members are encouraged to confer about the details of their contributions, to ensure that there is no conflict in the information provided.

**Proportions of Nominated Research Outputs (NROs) to be examined<sup>1</sup>**

It is intended that the Business and Economics Panel will examine at least 25% of all NROs in the EPs submitted to it. The panel also expects to examine a higher proportion of non-quality-assured NROs and more NROs for EPs around the tie-points.

**Use of specialist advisers**

The Business and Economics panel anticipates making use of specialist advisers to supplement the range of expertise of panel members. See general Guidelines topic "Using a Specialist Adviser" in Chapter 3 Section B: Allocating EPs to Panel Members and Obtaining Additional Input.

**Elaboration of the descriptor and tie-points for the Research Output (RO) component**

**The RO component descriptor**

The general Guidelines apply. See Chapter 3 Section C: Assessing and Scoring the Three Components of an EP, especially Scoring the RO Component and Scoring an EP: Allocating Points for Research Outputs.

*Tie-point 6*

Consistent with the view that term 'world-class' denotes a standard, not a location, the Business and Economics Panel will have regard to the possible constraints on access to internationally focused publication channels that may be imposed when research is focused on local situations, information or data.

*Tie-points 4 and 2*

The general Guidelines apply. See Chapter 3 Section C: Assessing and Scoring the Three Components of an EP, especially Scoring the RO Component on page 109 and Scoring an EP: Allocating Points for Research Outputs on page 109.

**Elaboration of the descriptor and tie-points for the Peer Esteem (PE) component**

**The PE component descriptor**

The panel will also consider the ability of the staff member to sponsor their own students into positions such as lectureships.

In the case of Business and Economics, peer esteem may reflect esteem amongst peers outside the academic area. Such esteem should, however, be based on the staff member's research activity. It may include esteem amongst senior members of business, government, NGOs, the relevant profession, and Societies which include professional societies.

It is recognised that citations data are not available in

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<sup>1</sup> "Examined" is defined as either reading an NRO in full, substantially or sufficiently to make an informed assessment, or (for NROs which by their nature cannot be read) an equivalent level of scrutiny.

some areas covered by the panel, or may be hard to find.

Media recognition of research activity might be relevant in some areas covered by the panel.

*Tie-points*

The general Guidelines apply. See Scoring an EP: Allocating points for Peer Esteem in Chapter 3 Section C: Assessing and Scoring the Three Components of an EP.

**Elaboration of the descriptor and tie-points for the Contribution to the Research Environment (CRE) component**

**The CRE component descriptor**

In Business and Economics, it is expected that some of the activity will relate to areas outside the academic area – such as in the business and government communities and in iwi, hapu and other Māori organisations. Such contributions should, however, be based on the staff member's research activity. In the case of research in Māori and Pacific areas, this may involve stakeholder or end-user satisfaction.

*Tie-points*

The general Guidelines apply. See Scoring an EP: Allocating points for Contribution to the Research Environment in Chapter 3 Section C: Assessing and Scoring the Three Components of an EP.

**Other relevant information required for panel assessors to accurately assign Quality Categories to EPs**

The Business and Economics Panel requires clear and specific information from staff members on the nature of any quality assurance of NROs, the contribution of staff members to specific NROs, and any impact NROs may have had outside of the academic environment.