

ERA RATING SCALE

The rating scale for ERA 2010 is broadly consistent with the approach taken in research evaluation exercises in other countries to allow for international comparison where appropriate.

The rating scale used for ERA 2010 was:

Rating	Descriptor
5	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of outstanding performance well above world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
4	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance above world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
3	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of average performance at world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
2	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance below world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
1	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance well below world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
n/a	Not assessed due to low volume. The number of research outputs does not meet the volume threshold standard for evaluation in ERA.

Note: In order to achieve a rating at a particular point on the scale, the majority of the outputs from the Unit of Evaluation was expected to meet the standard for that rating point.

‘World Standard’ refers to a quality standard. It does not refer to the nature or geographical scope of particular subjects, nor to the locus of research, nor its place of dissemination.