



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

College Nominations 2022

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Version 1.0

Release Date: 18 May 2021

The ARC is seeking nominations from suitably qualified and experienced individuals, with peer review experience, to join the 2022 ARC College of Experts. The nomination period opened 18 May 2021 and will close at **5.00pm (AEST) Friday, 25 June 2021**.

All nominees should be familiar with the Nomination Kit and Instructions to Applicants available on the [ARC website](#).

If you have questions that are not answered in this document, please contact the NCGP Committees team (College@arc.gov.au).

Frequently Asked Questions

Institutional Support

What level of institutional support do I need to demonstrate in the application?

As stated in the [Nomination Kit](#), there is a significant time commitment required by ARC College of Experts members. Having your nomination approved by an appropriate authority from your institution is an acknowledgement that the institution is supportive of you becoming a member of the ARC College of Experts and the commitment that it will require. No additional articulation is required.

Payment

What remuneration do College of Experts receive?

ARC College of Experts members serving on a Selection Advisory Committee are paid sitting fees of A\$635 for the Chair & A\$565 for members per day (exclusive of GST). Reading rates for assigned applications range from \$45.45 up to \$90.90 (GST exclusive) per application.

How are remuneration payments paid?

Where College of Experts are affiliated with an organisation, the ARC makes the payments in accordance with ARC's contract with that organisation. It is at the discretion of the organisation how payments are then managed and attributed internally. For self-employed College of Expert members, the ARC will enter into a contract with that individual.

Recruitment

How many nominations does the ARC usually receive each year and how many will be recruited in the 2022 round?

The ARC usually receives around 400 - 500 nominations each year. This year we anticipate appointing approximately 80-90 new members from the pool of nominees, to replace approximately one-third of the College of Experts who will be completing their appointments.

Referees

Who should I ask to be my referee? Can I have an international referee?

As specified in the [Instructions to Applicants](#), you must provide details of three referees who can comment on your performance against the selection criteria. One referee must be your current or most recent supervisor. International referees may be included but are not required. At least two of your referees should be Australian based.

It is important that any referee has an understanding of what you are applying to do. The people you select as a referee for your College nomination should be able to provide details about your skills and experience with respect to the expectations for a member of the ARC College of Experts.

It is recommended that you look at the selection criteria which can be found on the sample application form on the ARC website. This will assist you in choosing suitable referees.

Do all referees need to write a referee report?

No, referees will be contacted by phone. The ARC will approach referees for shortlisted nominees only.

Selection Advisory Committee

What is a Selection Advisory Committee?

A Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) is a committee that makes funding recommendations to the ARC CEO for applications submitted under the schemes of the National Competitive Grants Program. College of Expert members will be selected to become members of SACs for a particular scheme round. For some schemes SACs may also include some non-College members.

Skills and experience

Will you take into consideration the existing track record of a nominee as an ARC Detailed Assessor? Is there any expected number of detailed assessments a nominee is required to provide before one can apply to the College of Experts?

It is beneficial if nominees have peer review experience with the ARC, but this is not essential and peer review experience with other funding bodies is highly relevant too. The ARC will take reliability of a nominee as a Detailed Assessor into account, but not the number of assessments completed as this differs significantly across schemes and research areas and is not comparable.

What does the ARC mean by "a strong emphasis placed on multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary expertise"?

Members of the ARC College of Experts are expected to assess applications across a wide range of research areas as a generalist (General Assessor). Nominees should demonstrate their experience conducting inter-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary or cross-disciplinary work and their ability to assess it as this is a critical part of the role.

If my nomination is unsuccessful will I be provided with feedback and should I apply again?

The ARC conducts the College of Expert nomination process on an annual basis. In selecting the new ARC College of Experts members, we will take into account the skills and experience of all nominees as well as discipline coverage and diverse representation across the College of Experts. The selection each year is also influenced by the expertise of the departing and remaining members.

Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to re-apply in future rounds as their individual skillset may be needed in a different year. The ARC will not provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Who selects the members of the ARC College of Experts?

The ARC CEO appoints the members of the College of Experts, informed by an internal selection process involving ARC Executive Directors and referee reports of shortlisted nominees.

Travel

Can you confirm whether College of Expert members will attend selection meetings in person in Canberra or online?

The ARC is currently successfully conducting SAC meetings via video conference due to COVID-19 impacts. Under normal circumstances the majority of selection meetings are held face-to-face in Canberra. Each time an ARC College of Expert member is appointed to a SAC, the ARC will advise in advance the SAC meeting arrangements.

The ARC will cover reasonable travel costs, if applicable, for attendance at selection meetings in Canberra.

Workload

Is the level and depth of reading required by a SAC member (General Assessor), equivalent to providing a detailed assessment?

There is quite a significant difference between the Detailed Assessor role and that of a SAC member who provides a general assessment.

A Detailed Assessor is expected to read the application and provide a written assessment and scores against the selection criteria. A SAC member will read the application, detailed assessments for that application and the applicant's rejoinder and then provide scores against the selection criteria. In addition, a SAC member is expected to prepare for the selection meeting, including careful consideration of the budgets of highly ranked applications and communicating with other SAC members. At the selection meeting SAC members must be ready to discuss the applications they have been assigned to and make funding recommendations, as well as contribute to overall discussions.

What is the expected workload for a member of the ARC College of Experts? Are members expected to be available all year round?

The individual workload of College of Expert members is difficult to quantify in hours and may vary across years. ARC College of Experts members may be called upon to assign, read and assess, up to 150 to 200 funding applications each year. The number of meetings, volume of assignments and assessments vary per year according to the scheme and number of applications received from different discipline areas. The ARC seeks to balance workloads across College of Expert members and may request a member to join at least one SAC meeting a year. Members who are selected as SAC members for the Linkage Project scheme may be required to attend up to three meetings per year.

The ARC will approach all members of the College of Experts each year to request their availability for the upcoming year. While members are expected to be largely available, they may advise of any planned periods of unavailability.