



How does ERA Submission work?

Purpose

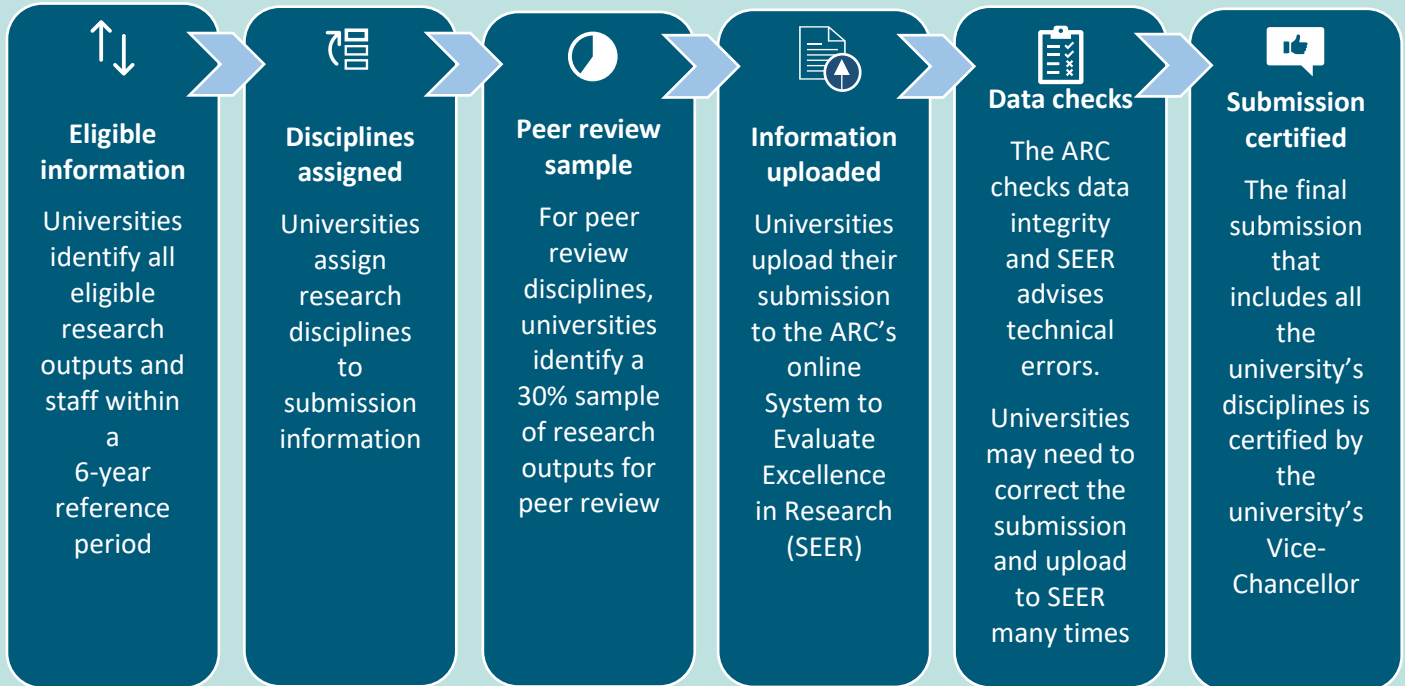
Indigenous studies will be assessed for the first time as a separate research discipline in Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) in 2023. This fact sheet gives an overview of the ERA submission process and details the components of a submission.

The [ERA 2023 Submission documents](#) provide more detailed information.

What is ERA?

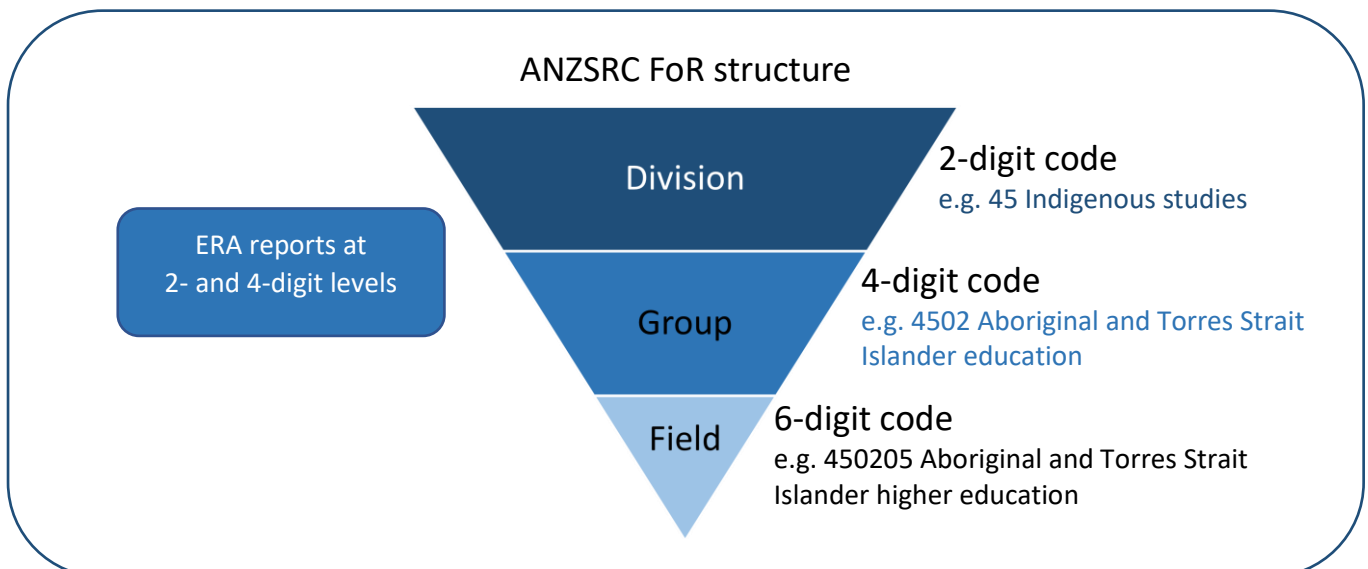
ERA evaluates the quality of research at Australian universities based on the research outputs produced by each discipline. The results and other information are reported publicly and used by the Government and universities to identify Australia's research strengths and to make strategic decisions about research. ERA involves all research disciplines including humanities, arts, social sciences and sciences.

Overview of ERA submission process



How research disciplines are defined in ERA

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) [Fields of Research \(FoR\)](#) is used to define research disciplines in ERA. ANZSRC FoR include a definition for Indigenous studies and sets of codes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Māori, Pacific Peoples and other Indigenous peoples by research discipline.



ERA submission

Unit of Evaluation (UoE)

A UoE is the FoR at a university. FoRs at 2- and 4-digit levels are included in ERA.

For example, 45 Indigenous studies at university x is a 2-digit UoE.



Submission components

Research outputs (see Section 4.4 of the ERA Submission Guidelines)

- All eligible research outputs from a university within a 6-year reference period
- Peer review sample – research outputs nominated for peer review for each discipline assessed using the peer review method
- Research statement for each non-traditional research output (NTROs)

Contextual information

- Explanatory statement for each 2-digit FoR
- Staffing and research income information

Research outputs

Low volume threshold

All UoEs must meet a low volume threshold (LVT) of 50 weighted research outputs to be evaluated in ERA. The threshold ensures there has been enough research activity in a discipline for a fair and robust evaluation. Section 3.3 of the ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines details low volume threshold.

Universities identify all eligible research outputs. Output types are:



Books = 5



Book chapters = 1



Journal articles = 1



Conference publications = 1



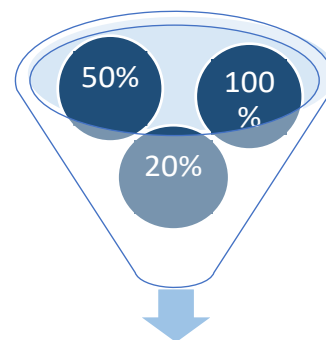
Non-traditional research outputs (NTROs) = 1

Universities assign and apportion up to three FoR codes to each research output to identify relevant disciplines. Codes assigned must reflect the content of the research output.

The combined allocations for one code from a university form a UoE. If it meets the low volume threshold, it will be assessed.

Note: All research outputs are worth 1 each, except for books which are worth 5.

Example of apportioned outputs for one FoR



UoE 4501—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language, culture and history

Peer review sample

- UoEs are assessed using either peer review or citation analysis depending on the discipline. All Indigenous studies UoEs will be peer reviewed in ERA 2023.
- As part of the submission, universities select a 30% sample of the research outputs for a UoE that will be peer reviewed.
- The sample generally represents the range of output types and authors included in the UoE. Refer to Section 3.6 of the ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines for details.
- The ARC has made a concession in ERA 2023 for disciplines affected by Covid that may not have been able to produce outputs in the usual way, for example creative arts. See Section 2.5 of the ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines.

Research statement for NTROs

NTROs include creative works such as performances, public exhibitions and reports for an external body. Universities must provide a statement that explains the research element for each NTRO. Section 4.4.9 of the ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines outlines NTRO requirements.

Research statements must include:

- ✓ Research background
- ✓ Research contribution—includes Indigenous studies guidance
- ✓ Research significance—includes Indigenous studies guidance

Indigenous studies considerations may include Indigenous perspectives, methods and the extent to which the research was Indigenous-led. Appendix D of the ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines details the contents for research statements.



Explanatory Statements

Universities must include an explanatory statement which provides contextual information for the data in a UoE. A statement is provided for each 2-digit FoR and may include some or all of the university's underlying 4-digit FoRs. Each statement must focus on the 6-year reference period and is limited to 2 pages.

Explanatory statements may include information on

- ✓ An overview
- ✓ Publication profile
- ✓ Capacity and environment
- ✓ Spectrum of activity
- ✓ Impact of COVID-19 pandemic
- ✓ Other

An explanatory statement must not include:

- ✗ Data that appears elsewhere in the submission
- ✗ Additional metrics such as download count, social media data or citation count.

Section 4.2 of the ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines provides more information.



Staff information

The ARC collects a range of staffing information from each university in the ERA submission. Some of the information ensures staff are eligible to be included in ERA as well as their research outputs. Other information, such as gender or Indigeneity, is not part of the assessment but may be deidentified and aggregated for ARC analysis and external reporting.

Section 4.3 of the ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines outlines staffing eligibility and information to be included by universities.

Note: It is optional for university staff to identify their Indigenous background.

Research income

Universities include information on research income in the ERA submission. Categories include:

- Australian competitive grants income
- Other public sector research income
- Industry and other research income
- Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) research income.

Research income information is provided for all 2-digit UoEs and, for as many as relevant, 4-digit UoEs.

See Section 4.5 and Appendix H of the ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines.

! Important notes

Refer to ERA 2023 Submission documents

The information provided here is a quick guide reference only. Universities preparing submission material for ERA should refer to the ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines, ERA 2023 Technical Specifications, ERA 2023 Business Rules and ERA 2023 Discipline Matrix for full information.

Engage Indigenous researchers in coding

Universities are encouraged to engage with experts to code research outputs for Indigenous studies, that is Indigenous studies researchers. This ensures data accuracy for the first round of Indigenous studies in ERA 2023.

Individual researchers are not assessed in ERA

ERA does not assess individual researchers. Any demographic information, such as gender and Indigeneity, that is collected is not provided to assessors. Aggregated data may be analysed and reported separately by the ARC.

Coding of research outputs will be published

The ARC will publish the coding of research outputs from ERA 2023 along with research output data. This will increase transparency of how research outputs have been coded.