



# How will Indigenous studies be evaluated in ERA 2023?

## 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 evaluation process and how Indigenous studies will be assessed in 2023.

The ERA 2023 Evaluation and Peer Reviewer Handbooks provide more detailed information.

## How research disciplines are defined

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) [Fields of Research \(FoR\)](#) is used to define research disciplines in ERA. ANZSRC 2020 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.

## Overview of ERA process



### University Submission

All research outputs submitted by discipline (FoR).  
Identify peer review sample



### Low volume threshold (LVT)

If threshold is met for the discipline, it is evaluated



### Evaluation method

Peer review or citation analysis is used depending on the discipline



### Disciplines are rated

Committees of experts evaluate and give a rating



### Outcomes reported

ERA results and output data are published



## University submission

Universities identify all eligible research outputs to include for ERA.

Universities assign and apportion up to 3 Fields of Research (FoR) codes to each research output to identify relevant disciplines. The FoR codes assigned must reflect the research content of the output. The combined apportionments for one code form a Unit of Evaluation (UoE) for that university.



## Low volume threshold (LVT)

To be evaluated in ERA, the UoE must meet a low volume threshold (LVT). The threshold ensures there has been enough research activity in a discipline for a fair and robust evaluation. The same LVT is applied to all disciplines, including Indigenous studies.



## Evaluation method

ERA disciplines are evaluated using either peer review or citation analysis, depending on what is relevant for the discipline.

All Indigenous studies UoEs will be evaluated in ERA 2023 using peer review.

As part of the ERA submission, universities identify a 30% sample of research outputs from each UoE for peer review in relevant disciplines. Details on peer review selection method are in Sections 2.5 and 3.6 of the ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines.

The number of outputs in a peer review sample will depend on the size of the UoE. A UoE that just reaches LVT of 50 may have as few as 10-15 outputs in the sample. Another UoE that is made up of hundreds of outputs will have a much larger sample size.

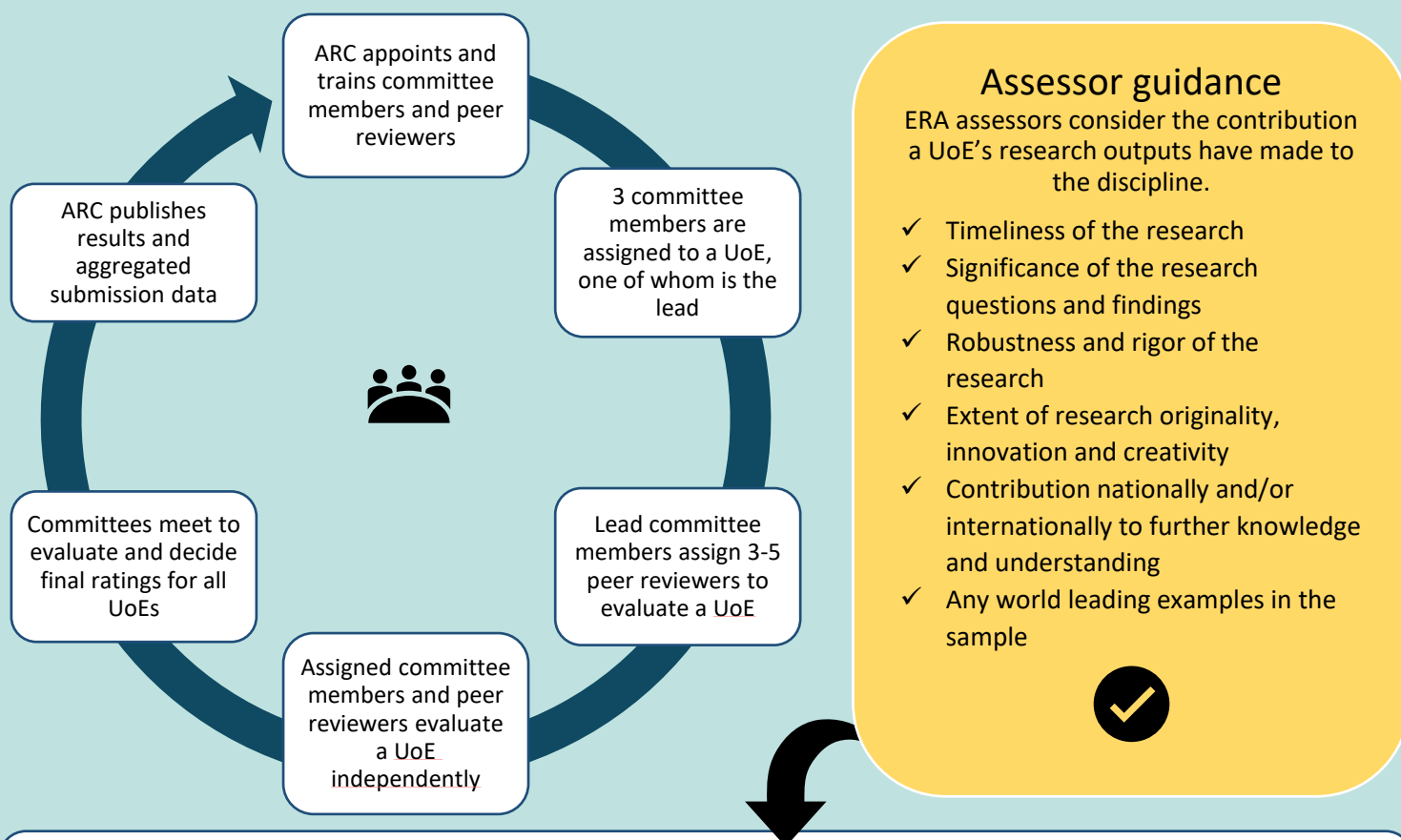
## Experts evaluate

The ARC appoints experts to Research Evaluation Committees (RECs) to assess the UoEs and determine ratings. The committees for peer review disciplines are informed by additional reports from peer reviewers who are also appointed by the ARC.

For ERA 2023, Indigenous studies will have its own committee and a range of peer reviewers.

Universities nominate research experts for committees and peer review. The ARC may seek additional experts to ensure the committees have good coverage of disciplines.

## ERA peer review process



### Note

Assessors bring their disciplinary expertise and knowledge to inform the assessment. For Indigenous studies this would be in the context of the unique disciplinary norms and practices across all the areas of Indigenous studies research.

### Quality includes a range

Committees and peer reviewers consider quality across a range of research outputs in the peer review sample and the quality of the UoE's outputs may vary. A UoE may include some outputs at a certain quality standard while other outputs in the UoE are above or below that standard. For example, a highly rated UoE may include many strong outputs and a small number of outstanding outputs.

### ✗ Coding issues

At any stage of the evaluation, committee members can raise issues with the ARC about how outputs have been coded. The ARC will ask the university for an explanation and provide the response to the relevant REC. The REC considers the response. The REC may exclude UoEs or outputs where significant miscoding has occurred.