



Why are the Indigenous Studies codes important for ERA 2023?



Visibility of research

Indigenous peoples and communities make valuable contributions to university research across the sciences, arts, social sciences, humanities and creative arts. The recognition of Indigenous knowledge ownership and contribution provides an opportunity to engage 'properly' with First Nations.

In the past it has been difficult to identify nationally and, therefore recognise, how much and what type of Indigenous studies research is being produced by Australian universities. The result is limited visibility of this work for Indigenous peoples and communities, universities and government. ERA will bring visibility to this research and provide an opportunity to promote it within Australia and across the world. Visibility will enable and encourage the continued building of research excellence in Indigenous studies for mutual benefit and to advance First Nations futures.



What does ERA do?

Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) is a large-scale national evaluation that occurs around every 3 years. ERA assesses the quality of research produced by all disciplines (across the sciences, social sciences, humanities and the arts) at Australian universities.

The ARC publishes the results and data after a round is completed. The government uses the results and data to identify Australia's research strengths. Universities use the results for promotional purposes and to make strategic decisions.

ERA produces a rich national dataset which provides insights into the research landscape, for example through [State of Australian Research](#) and the [Gender and Research Workforce](#) reports.



How will ERA 2023 benefit Indigenous studies?

ERA 2023 will collect data on Indigenous studies research outputs and researchers at Australian universities. The outcomes of ERA will show what type and how much Indigenous studies research is being produced by Australian universities and the quality of that research. Indigenous studies will be visible and comparable to other research disciplines in ERA.

The ARC will also use the baseline dataset from ERA 2023 for program analysis which will be used to make improvements for Indigenous studies evaluation in future ERA rounds.



What has changed?

In previous rounds of ERA, Indigenous studies has been assessed within other research disciplines such as health, law, languages and social sciences. This has made it difficult to identify Indigenous studies research in ERA.

[Fields of Research](#) are used to define research disciplines in ERA and were updated in 2020 to include Indigenous studies as a separate discipline. Indigenous studies includes research that is about or involves Indigenous peoples, places, cultures and/or knowledges.

Indigenous studies will be assessed as a separate research discipline for the first time in ERA in 2023.

How can we implement Indigenous studies effectively in ERA 2023?

Accurate submission data



The quality, or accuracy and comprehensiveness, of the data that universities submit to ERA 2023 will affect the quality of analysis and reporting that can be done by the ARC and others who use publicly available ERA data.

Universities will identify research outputs relevant to Indigenous studies and need to accurately identify the most relevant disciplines (e.g., Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law).

Indigenous studies covers many areas of research including health, education, sciences and mathematics, arts, humanities, social sciences and creative arts.

Universities will need the assistance of discipline experts—in this case Indigenous studies researchers—to advise on relevant research outputs and discipline codes for ERA 2023 submission.

Robust assessment



The evaluation process for ERA is based on principles of rigor and fairness. The process ensures consistency across all research disciplines so that outcomes are comparable and considers the unique attributes of each discipline to ensure each discipline is treated fairly.

Discipline specific considerations for Indigenous studies will include incorporating the values of Indigenous peoples in how quality research is defined.

The ARC appoints committees of academic experts and peer reviewers to assess for ERA and will recruit Indigenous studies researchers to assess for ERA 2023 as committee members and peer reviewers. Ensuring First Nations voices are integral in the assessment process will be important. This ensures the most appropriate experts conduct the evaluation.

Leadership and engagement



Implementing the Indigenous studies discipline for the first time in ERA 2023 will require leadership from universities and Indigenous studies researchers. To be successful, implementation will involve significant engagement between university research managers, Indigenous studies researchers and the ARC.

It is important that Indigenous studies researchers provide expert advice to universities and the ARC for ERA submission and assessment processes.

Indigenous researchers may need various support from universities and the ARC to participate. Those new to ERA may need to build knowledge of ERA processes. Others with heavy workloads may need time and resources to participate.

Resources for universities, Indigenous studies researchers and assessors

Submission



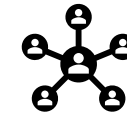
- **[Guidelines](#)**
The ERA 2023 Submission documents provide guidance for universities making a submission to ERA. They include eligibility requirements and how to include information in the ARC's online System to Evaluate Excellence in Research (SEER).
- **[How to code quick guide](#)**
A quick guide with a checklist, tips on how to assign Indigenous studies codes to research outputs for ERA 2023 and some hypothetical examples.
- **[Submission fact sheet](#)**
Outlines ERA submission processes and the various components of a submission.

Evaluation



- **[ERA 2023 Assessment Framework](#)**
Will set out the revised ERA assessment framework for 2023 including the rating scale and peer review guidance
- **[Handbooks](#)**
The ERA 2023 Evaluation and Peer Review Handbooks provide guidance for assessors on ERA committees and peer reviewers about the evaluation criteria and processes. The ARC also provides training for assessors.
- **[Evaluation Fact Sheet](#)**
Outlines ERA evaluation processes and how Indigenous studies will be evaluated in ERA 2023.

Leadership and Engagement



- **[ISEE Group](#)**
The Indigenous Studies Excellence and Engagement (ISEE) Group is developing and promoting leadership strategies for implementing Indigenous studies in ERA 2023. Members include Indigenous and non-Indigenous researcher leaders and the ARC.
- **[Resources and promotion](#)**
The ISEE Group has developed a roadmap and resources to assist universities with understanding the importance of coding research outputs accurately for ERA and best practice engagement with Indigenous researchers.