



Quick Guide to Assigning FoR Codes to ERA 2023 Research Outputs—45 Indigenous studies

Purpose

A quick guide to assist universities in assigning Indigenous studies Fields of Research (FoRs) to research outputs for Excellence in research for Australia (ERA) 2023.

Background

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) was updated in 2020 to include Indigenous studies (FoR 45) at the Division (2-digit) and Group (4-digit) levels. Universities will need to classify Indigenous studies research outputs for ERA 2023. All Units of Evaluation for Indigenous studies will be evaluated using peer review.

More information

Refer to the [ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines](#) for the ARC's rules on ERA submission. The ARC has made some adjustments, such as journal codes and the reassignment exception rule, for Indigenous studies inaugural round.

Coding checklist

- Assign at least one and a maximum of three 4-digit FoR codes to each research output.
- If more than one code is assigned, identify the proportion of content (apportionment) for each code.
- Assign codes that directly represent the *research* content of the output.
- Consider which Indigenous studies code, if any, is relevant.
- If the research output type is a journal article, one of the codes assigned to the research output must match one of the codes assigned to its journal (unless a reassignment is needed). This does not apply to Indigenous studies codes which can be assigned to any journal article with at least 20% Indigenous studies research content.
- Include and support Indigenous researchers to be involved in the coding process.
- Familiarise yourself with the descriptions of 4-digit FoRs in the [ANZSRC 2020](#), including the notes on exclusions and the relevant underlying 6-digit codes.
- Familiarise yourself with the [ERA 2023 Submission Guidelines](#) and, if relevant to your role, the ERA 2023 Technical Specification and ERA 2023 Business Rules

Coding published

The ARC will publish FoR coding of ERA 2023 research outputs along with the outcomes

Key questions when coding

What is the research focus or topic of the output?

Would an expert consider the Indigenous studies component research, or is it an enabling method or tool?

Who should assess the output – an Indigenous studies expert, an expert from another discipline, or both?

Note: Only research outputs are assessed in ERA, not individual researchers. FoRs should not be assigned based on authorship such as gender, Indigeneity or expertise.

Does the output have significant Indigenous studies content?

Have Indigenous researchers been engaged in the coding process?

Optional: Have you consulted other universities on co-authored publications?

Coding examples

The following examples show how the Indigenous studies definition could be applied to coding outputs for ERA 2023 and note key issues for consideration and possible FoR code assignments. The examples address specific elements of the definition of Indigenous studies in the ANZSRC 2020. Please note examples are not prescriptive or exhaustive and are provided for illustrative purposes only.

Example 1—Research involving Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people who comprise a sizeable proportion of the study or community and where Aboriginal-specific conclusions are intended.

For example, a comparative study of access to health services in New South Wales; student learning outcomes in Western Australian primary schools; or justice system outcomes for various groups of offenders.

- As the research undertaken was significantly about or involved Indigenous people it should be assigned a 45 code.
- Relevant ANZSRC 2020 codes include:
 - 4504 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing (for health example)
 - 4502 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education (for the education example)
 - 4505 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, society and community (for the justice system example)

Each article could also be assigned an additional 4-digit code to reflect other relevant subject matter or methodological approach, for example 4203 Health Services and Systems (for health example), 3904 Specialist Studies in Education (for education example), 4805 Legal Systems (for justice system example).

Example 2—Research requiring access permissions from Indigenous land owners/custodians where Indigenous peoples may act as co-investigators, or benefit from findings, but the research does not use Indigenous knowledges or methods.

For example, natural sciences research (which does not use Indigenous knowledges or methods) focusing exclusively on contaminants in animals or plants on Yolngu land that does not make inferences regarding food intake.

- The research is about contaminants in plants and animals without discussing any application to Indigenous peoples or food. The research is not informed by Indigenous research methods or knowledges, or about Indigenous peoples. A 45 FoR is not relevant for this output.
- Relevant ANZSRC 2020 codes could include:
 - 3108 Plant biology
 - 3109 Zoology
 - 3103 Ecology

Example 3—Research using Indigenous knowledges and methodologies.

For example, research on environmental fire management techniques using Indigenous knowledges and methodologies or research on Indigenous perspectives or authors for literature studies.

- A significant part of the research is about Indigenous knowledges and methodologies
- Relevant ANZSRC 2020 codes could include:
 - 4503 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental knowledges and management (for fire management example)
 - 4501 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, language and history (literature example).

Each article could also be assigned an additional 4-digit code to reflect other relevant subject matter or methodological approach, for example 4101 Environmental Management (for environmental knowledges example) or 4705 Literary Studies (for literature example).

ANZSRC 2020

Indigenous studies definition

This division covers research that significantly:

- relates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Māori, Pacific, and other Indigenous peoples, nations, communities, languages, places, cultures or knowledges and/or
- incorporates or utilises Indigenous methodologies/ways of knowing, theories, practice and/or
- is undertaken with or by these peoples, nations or communities.

Note about the definition

The ANZSRC 2020 definition for Indigenous Studies describes Indigenous research in the broadest terms. This may be different to how universities, faculties and/or schools define Indigenous Studies within their structures and operations – including more traditional focus in the social sciences. Universities and researchers should be aware that research disciplines assessed in ERA may not align with university structures.

Indigenous studies FoR

45	INDIGENOUS STUDIES
4501	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, language and history
4502	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education
4503	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental knowledges and management
4504	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing
4505	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, society and community
4506	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sciences
4507	Te ahurea, reo me te hītori o te Māori (Māori culture, language and history)
4508	Mātauranga Māori (Māori education)
4509	Ngā mātauranga taiao o te Māori (Māori environmental knowledges)
4510	Te hauora me te oranga o te Māori (Māori health and wellbeing)
4511	Ngā tāngata, te porihanga me ngā hapori o te Māori (Māori peoples, society and community)
4512	Ngā pūtaiao Māori (Māori sciences)
4513	Pacific Peoples culture, language and history
4514	Pacific Peoples education
4515	Pacific Peoples environmental knowledges
4516	Pacific Peoples health and wellbeing
4517	Pacific Peoples sciences
4518	Pacific Peoples society and community
4519	Other Indigenous data, methodologies and global Indigenous studies
4599	Other Indigenous studies

About ANZSRC

The Australian Bureau of Statistics and StatsNZ are responsible for ANZSRC which is a statistical classification.

The definition and sets of codes for Indigenous studies were finalised in ANZSRC 2020 following co-design with Indigenous researchers across Australia and New Zealand during the ANZSRC review in 2019-2020.

Each organisation that uses ANZSRC is responsible for managing how the codes are implemented in their programs.

- **FoR** details of definitions and exclusions are on the [ABS website](#). StatsNZ has produced an easy to use tool (Ariā) for the FoR which is available on the [StatsNZ website](#)
- **ANZSRC Review Outcomes Paper (2020)** on the [ARC website](#)