



ARC College of Experts

The Australian Research Council's (ARC) College of Experts plays a key role in identifying research excellence to support basic, strategic basic and applied research for the advancement of knowledge and to drive national innovation.

College members are experts of international standing drawn from the Australian research community, including higher education institutions, industry, and public sector research organisations.

The ARC CEO appoints the members of the College of Experts, informed by an internal selection process involving the Chief Research Officer, ARC Executive Directors and referee reports on shortlisted nominees. College of Experts members receive remuneration for their work.

Members of the College of Experts assess applications across a wide range of research areas as a generalist, using their research experience in specific disciplines or in inter-disciplinary, multidisciplinary and/or cross-disciplinary work.

The College of Experts assists the ARC by:

- assigning external detailed assessors
- assessing and ranking ARC grant applications submitted under the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP)
- moderating external assessments
- providing recommendations for fundable applications to the ARC CEO
- assisting with recruitment through the nomination of new detailed assessors
- providing advice for peer review reforms, and
- providing strategic advice to the ARC on emerging disciplines and cross-disciplinary developments.

College of Experts members are selected to become members of Selection Advisory Committees (SACs) for particular schemes in the NCGP. SAC members score and rank applications against the relevant assessment criteria, and also take into account detailed assessments and rejoinders. SAC members contribute to discussions with other SAC members, and are expected to consider budgets of highly ranked applications. SACs make funding recommendations to the ARC CEO. The ARC has processes in place to ensure that any potential conflicts of interest around assessment of applications avoid the possibility of unfair treatment.

College members may be called upon to assign, read and assess up to 150 to 200 funding applications each year depending on the schemes they are assigned to. The number of meetings, assignments and assessments vary per year according to the scheme and number of applications received from different discipline areas.