Discovery Projects Expressions of Interest - Shortlisting

The assessment process for the Discovery Projects 2027 Round (DPEI27) is set out in the Grant Guidelines, approved by the ARC Board. Each Expression of Interest (EOI) was assessed by three members of the College of Experts. EOIs were assessed and weighted according to the two Assessment Criteria detailed in the Grant Guidelines (s.6.2): Project Quality and Innovation (70%) and Investigator(s)/ Capability (30%).

The weighted and normalised assessments from each College member were averaged to produce an Expression of Interest Panel Rating and Rank. There are five discipline-based EOI Panels: Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (BSB), Engineering, Information and Computing Sciences (EIC), Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA), Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences (MPCE), Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE). Within each of these EOI Panels, the most highly rated EOIs were shortlisted in rank order.

Of a total of 4679 EOIs, 1733 have been shortlisted and invited to proceed to the full application stage. The number of EOIs shortlisted from each EOI panel reflected the relative volume of submissions to that panel.

EOIs with disparate scores – that is, a difference of more than two letter ratings between assessors – were identified. To ensure that no applicants were disadvantaged by outlier assessor scores, the mean and median assessor scores were compared in EOIs that fell below the shortlisted range. In the instance that the median score would have placed the application among the EOIs shortlisted in the EOI Panel, that EOI was shortlisted. A total of EOIs were shortlisted in this 'disparate scores' process.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who assessed my Expression of Interest?
EOIs were assigned to members of the College of Experts. College members assessed the quality of EOIs in their capacity as experienced General Assessors. For the DPEI27 Round, all EOIs received three assessments. EOIs were allocated to College of Experts members on the basis of disciplinary fit utilising FoR code matching, in a process overseen by the Academic Directors.

How were the Expressions of Interest Shortlisted?

EOIs were assessed individually by three College of Experts members according to the two Assessment Criteria detailed in the Grant Guidelines (s. 6.2): Project Quality and Innovation (70%) and Investigator(s)/Capability (30%).

The weighted and normalised assessments from each College member were averaged to produce an EOI Panel Rating and Rank. Within each EOI Panel, the most highly rated EOIs were shortlisted in rank order.

Can I find out how my Expression of Interest fared?

Applicants who submitted an EOI for DPEI27 can access their assessor scores, rankings and banded feedback in the feedback tab of their application in RMS. This information is available to both shortlisted applicants and those who have not been successful in the DPEI process.

A total of 4679 Expressions of Interest were submitted to the Australian Research Council across the five Expression of Interest Panels:

- Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (BSB): 1183
- Engineering, Information and Computing Sciences (EIC): 1232
- Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA): 443
- Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences (MPCE): 844
- Social, Behavioural and Economics Sciences (SBE): 977

A full selection outcomes report will be produced at the conclusion of the Discovery Projects 2027 round.

What's next in the process?

Full applications for shortlisted applicants open in RMS on Monday 2 March 2026 and close on Wednesday 22 April 2026.

Why was my EOI assigned to a particular Expression of Interest panel? How did this affect the assessment?

All Expressions of Interest were assigned to an Expression of Interest Panel based on the FoR codes indicated in the EOI. More information on the distribution of FOR codes across panels can be found here. Where the FoR codes of an application cross panels, the ARC has in place mechanisms for cross panel assessment.

For the Discovery Projects Expressions of Interest assessment, assessors from the entire College cohort were utilised. Expressions of Interest were assigned to the most suitable College members based on their individual expertise, regardless of the Expression of Interest Panel to which the EOI was assigned. EOIs were assigned to College based on expertise match against all the FoR codes listed in the EOI, where applicable, and not just the primary code that was used to allocate each application to a Panel.

The scores from my three assessors are different. Why is this the case?

Each College assessor read and scored the Expressions of Interest allocated to them independently against the two assessment criteria. The ratings given by College members reflect their individual judgment of the strengths and weaknesses of the EOI, and its relative standing in the pool of EOIs that the College member assessed. Each College member assessed a different set of EOIs. The raw weightings provided by College assessors were normalised to reduce marker bias and ensure scores were comparable.

Will full applications be assessed by the same College members as the EOI?

It will not necessarily be the case that a full application will be assessed by the same College members who assessed the EOI. At full application stage, the application is allocated to two College members who serve on the Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) in one of five disciplinary panels (BSB, EIC, HCA, MPCE & SBE), noting the interdisciplinary applications may be allocated to members across panels. Not all College members serve on the Discovery Projects SAC, therefore not everyone who participated in the EOI assessment will review and assess the full applications.

There are no changes to the assessment process for the full application stage from previous Discovery Project rounds. Applications will be assessed by both General and Detailed assessors, and applicants will be able to submit a rejoinder. Each full application will be assessed independently of the related EOI and on its own merits, as it is presented.