



Discovery Projects Expressions of Interest - Shortlisting

The assessment process for the Discovery Projects 2025 Round (DPEI25) is set out in the Grant Guidelines, approved by the Minister. 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, Behavioural and Economic Sciences (SBE). Within each of these EOI Panels, the most highly rated EOIs were shortlisted in rank order.

Of a total of 4,147 EOIs, 1,141 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 46 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 DPEI25 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 Executive 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 DPEI25 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 4,147 Expressions of Interest were submitted to the Australian Research Council across the five Expression of Interest Panels:

- Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (BSB): 1,088
- Engineering, Information and Computing Sciences (EIC): 1,119
- Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA): 386
- Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences (MPCE): 768
- Social, Behavioural and Economics Sciences (SBE): 786

A full selection outcomes report will be produced at the conclusion of the Discovery Projects 2025 round.

What's next in the process?

Full applications for shortlisted applicants open in RMS on Thursday 11 April 2024 and close on 4 June 2024.