



**Australian Government**

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**Australian Research Council**

# **ARC College of Experts 2026 Nomination Kit**

This document provides some general information about the ARC College of Experts and the Nomination process.

## General information

The Australian Research Council (ARC) College of Experts plays a critical role in identifying and maintaining research quality in the National Competitive Grant Program. Its members are experts of international standing drawn from the Australian research community: from higher education, industry/end-users, and public sector research organisations. From July 2024 the College of Experts will be established as a committee of the ARC Board.

The College of Experts contributes to the ARC by:

- assessing and ranking grant applications submitted under the National Competitive Grants Program to the ARC;
- assigning external assessors and moderating external assessments;
- providing recommendations for fundable applications to the ARC Board and to the Minister for Education;
- assisting with recruitment of new external assessors;
- providing advice for peer review improvement;
- providing strategic advice to the ARC on emerging disciplines and cross-disciplinary developments; and
- assisting the ARC Board in the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers.

## Nominations

The ARC is seeking nominations from suitably qualified and experienced individuals, including senior academics and end-users across the private, public and not-for-profit sectors, with peer review and research leadership experience. Researchers with multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary expertise are strongly encouraged to apply. We especially welcome nominations from women, particularly those from the STEM disciplines, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Nominees should have strong institutional support to meet the commitment required of ARC College of Experts members.

The ARC is calling for nominations for all discipline fields but has identified the discipline areas listed below as priorities for 2026. High priority discipline areas are shown in bold text in the below table.

<b>3004 Crop and pasture production</b>	4405 Gender studies
3009 Veterinary sciences	<b>4406 Human geography</b>
<b>3101 Biochemistry and cell biology</b>	<b>4407 Policy and administration</b>
<b>3102 Bioinformatics and computational biology</b>	<b>4408 Political science</b>
3103 Ecology	<b>4410 Sociology</b>
<b>3104 Evolutionary biology</b>	4501 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, language and history
<b>3105 Genetics</b>	4502 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education
<b>3107 Microbiology</b>	4504 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing
3108 Plant biology	4505 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, society and community
<b>3109 Zoology</b>	4507 Te ahurea, reo me te hitori o te Maori (Maori culture, language and history)
<b>3204 Immunology</b>	4508 Maturanga Maori (Maori education)
<b>3209 Neurosciences</b>	4510 Te hauora me te oranga o te Maori (Maori health and wellbeing)
3301 Architecture	4511 Nga tangata, te porihanga me nga hapori o te Maori (Maori peoples, society and community)

3303 Design	4513 Pacific Peoples culture, language and history
3304 Urban and regional planning	4514 Pacific Peoples education
3402 Inorganic chemistry	4516 Pacific Peoples health and wellbeing
<b>3403 Macromolecular and materials chemistry</b>	4518 Pacific Peoples society and community
<b>3406 Physical chemistry</b>	4519 Other Indigenous data, methodologies and global Indigenous studies
3407 Theoretical and computational chemistry	4599 Other indigenous studies
3507 Strategy, management and organisational behaviour	4602 Artificial intelligence
<b>3509 Transportation, logistics and supply chains</b>	4603 Computer vision and multimedia computation
<b>3603 Music</b>	4604 Cybersecurity and privacy
3703 Geochemistry	<b>4605 Data management and data science</b>
3704 Geoinformatics	4608 Human-centred computing
3705 Geology	4611 Machine learning
3706 Geophysics	4701 Communication and media studies
3709 Physical geography and environmental geoscience	4704 Linguistics
<b>3801 Applied economics</b>	4705 Literary studies
4003 Biomedical engineering	4902 Mathematical physics
<b>4004 Chemical engineering</b>	4903 Numerical and computational mathematics
4005 Civil engineering	<b>4904 Pure mathematics</b>
4006 Communications engineering	4905 Statistics
4008 Electrical engineering	5001 Applied ethics
4009 Electronics, sensors and digital hardware - new code	5002 History and philosophy of specific fields
4011 Environmental engineering	5003 Philosophy
<b>4012 Fluid mechanics and thermal engineering</b>	5101 Astronomical sciences
4014 Manufacturing engineering	<b>5102 Atomic, molecular and optical physics</b>
4016 Materials engineering	5104 Condensed matter physics
4017 Mechanical engineering	<b>5107 Particle and high energy physics</b>
4018 Nanotechnology	<b>5108 Quantum physics</b>
4019 Resources engineering and extractive metallurgy	5110 Synchrotrons and accelerators
4106 Soil sciences	5201 Applied and developmental psychology
4203 Health services and systems	<b>5202 Biological psychology</b>
4207 Sports science and exercise	5203 Clinical and health psychology
4402 Criminology	5204 Cognitive and computational psychology
4404 Development studies	5205 Social and personality psychology
	5299 Other psychology

The ARC is committed to improving the diversity of membership on the ARC College of Experts and encourages qualified people from a broad range of groups to nominate. This includes but is not limited to:

- Gender diversity
- People of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin
- Industry
- Public sector organisations

The ARC College of Experts is supported and coordinated by the Chief Research Officer and ARC Executive Directors who have scheme and interdisciplinary responsibilities at the ARC. Nominees are encouraged to contact the relevant Executive Director to discuss how their expertise fits into the selection panels and the time commitment involved in becoming an ARC College of Experts member. Please direct your inquiries to [college@arc.gov.au](mailto:college@arc.gov.au).

## Commencement

Members of the ARC College of Experts are generally appointed for a three-year term.

An induction workshop is scheduled for September/October 2025. Successful nominees must be available to commence in early 2026, to assign and assess applications for funding, as well as to be available for at least one selection meeting each year. Please note that all Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings are currently conducted via videoconference and members must be available for these, where relevant.

## Time Commitment

Members of the ARC College of Experts may be appointed to form a SAC. SAC membership requires a significant time commitment, including working to specified, non-negotiable timeframes. SAC meetings are held throughout the year to recommend applications for funding under the National Competitive Grants Program. Members must be available to attend at least one of these meetings each year and undertake assignments, assessments, and moderations in preparation for the meetings. The duration of a SAC meeting is dependent on the volume of applications to the scheme; high-volume schemes may require up to five meeting days. SAC members will be advised of the anticipated duration of the meetings when receiving an invitation to join the panel.

ARC College of Experts members may be called upon to assign, read and assess, up to 200 funding applications and between 30 and 60 Expressions of Interest, each year. The number of meetings, volume of assignments and assessments vary per year according to the scheme and the number of applications received from different discipline areas.

Members of the ARC College of Experts will be requested to indicate their availability for meetings each year over a three-year period. Members of the ARC College of Experts are not eligible to sit on a SAC for a scheme where they are an applicant in that scheme round. This strengthens the probity of the selection process, further increasing the integrity of ARC decision-making processes. However, being a member of the ARC College of Experts does not exclude individuals from applying for funding from the ARC.

In all circumstances where members are assigning, assessing or moderating, the [ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy](#) applies.

## Remuneration

ARC College of Experts members will be remunerated through sitting fees and reading rates. Sitting fees are guided by the ARC Administrative Arrangements for Committees and received per day for meetings attended. ARC College of Experts members serving on a SAC are paid a sitting amount of \$565 per day (GST exclusive) for up to ten (10) days per calendar year. The position of Panel Chair is paid an amount of \$635 per day (GST exclusive) for the period that the member holds this position, for up to 10 days per calendar year. ARC College of Experts members will be paid \$45.45 (GST exclusive) for each completed assessment as Carriage 2, and \$90.90 (GST exclusive) for Carriage 1. ARC College of Experts members will be paid \$20.00 (GST exclusive) for each completed Expression of Interest assessment.

There may be instances where additional assessments for applications are required at short notice where insufficient assessments have been received through the normal external assessor process.

If applicable the ARC will cover reasonable travel costs for attendance at selection meetings in Canberra.

## Nomination Submission

Nominations **must** be submitted electronically by the nominee's primary employer (an approved nominator or delegate — see Table 1) to the ARC via the [ARC's Research Management System \(RMS\)](#) by **5:00pm (AEST) Thursday 17 April 2025**. Nominations will not be accepted directly from nominees (except those submitting as self-employed). Nominees who hold an honorary or adjunct appointment or other affiliation with a higher education institution are encouraged to apply through that institution.

The Nomination Form is available on RMS. For more information, please see the Instructions to Applicants on the ARC website.

Late nominations will not be accepted. Amendments, replacements or additions to 2026 Nomination Forms will not be accepted after closing, unless invited by the ARC.

Table 1: Approved nominators are:

<u>Primary Employer</u>	<u>Approved Nominators</u>
Higher education institution	Vice-Chancellor/Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) or equivalent
Industry or business	Chief Executive Officer or equivalent
Government	Agency Head / Deputy Secretary or equivalent
Self-employed	Self-nominator

## Advice on outcomes of the nomination process

It is anticipated that successful nominees and nominating primary employers will be advised of the outcome in September/October 2025.

## Confidentiality

The ARC will treat information contained in nominations as strictly confidential. However, nominated referees may be contacted to discuss the suitability of nominees.

## Privacy

The information collected may be passed to third parties for the purposes of obtaining an assessment of the nomination.

The ARC is bound by the provisions of the *Privacy Act 1988*. Section 14 of the *Privacy Act 1988* contains the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) which prescribe the rules for handling personal information.

## References

For more information about the nomination process and the ARC College of Experts, please visit [ARC College of Experts page](#) or email any queries to [college@arc.gov.au](mailto:college@arc.gov.au).

Successful nominees into the College of Experts will need an up-to-date RMS account. If you do not already have an RMS account please use the [RMS Register New User page](#) to request one.

More information on how to create an RMS profile is contained in the [RMS User Management Guide](#), on the RMS Information page under the heading Key documents and links.

## **Contacts**

Please direct your inquiries to [college@arc.gov.au](mailto:college@arc.gov.au) or phone 02 6287 6600.