



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Research Council**

# **ARC College of Experts Nominations 2026**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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The ARC is seeking nominations from suitably qualified and experienced individuals, with peer review and research leadership experience, to join the 2026 ARC College of Experts. The nomination period will open on **3 March 2025** and will close at **5.00pm (AEST) Thursday 17 April 2025**.

All nominees should read the Nomination Kit and Instructions to Applicants available on the [ARC website](#).

If you have questions that are not answered in this document, please contact the Program Design and Engagement team ([college@arc.gov.au](mailto:college@arc.gov.au)).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Institutional Support

#### **What level of institutional support do I need to demonstrate in the application?**

As stated in the Nomination Kit, there is a significant time commitment required by ARC College of Experts members. Approval of your nomination by an appropriate authority from your institution is an acknowledgement that the institution is supportive of you becoming a member of the ARC College of Experts and the commitment that it will require. No additional articulation is required.

### Payment

#### **What remuneration do ARC College of Experts receive?**

ARC College of Experts members serving on a Selection Advisory Committee 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 other Carriage, and \$90.90 (GST exclusive) for Carriage 1 assessments. ARC College of Experts members will be paid \$20.00 (GST exclusive) for any Expression of Interest assessments they complete.

#### **How are remuneration payments paid?**

Where ARC College of Experts are affiliated with an organisation, the ARC makes the payments in accordance with ARC's contract with that organisation. It is at the discretion of the organisation how payments are then managed and attributed internally. For self-employed ARC College of Experts members, the ARC will enter into a contract with that individual.

### Recruitment

#### **How many nominations does the ARC usually receive each year and how many will be recruited in the 2026 round?**

The ARC typically receives around 400 - 500 nominations each year. This year we anticipate appointing approximately 130 new members from the pool of nominees, to replace members of the ARC College of Experts who will be completing their appointments and to meet the breadth of expertise required.

### Referees

#### **Who should I ask to be my referee? Can I have an international referee?**

As specified in the Instructions to Applicants, you must provide details of three referees who can comment on your performance against the selection criteria. One referee must be your current or most recent supervisor. International referees may

be included but are not required. At least two of your referees should be Australian based.

It is important that any referee has an understanding of the role of ARC College of Experts members and can speak to your skills in assessment, your judgement, your discretion, your ability to work within a committee and your ability to meet strict deadlines.

It is recommended that you look at the selection criteria which can be found in the sample application form on the ARC website. This will assist you in choosing and briefing suitable referees.

### **Do all referees need to write a referee report?**

No, referees will be asked to provide a verbal report. The ARC will approach referees for shortlisted nominees only.

## [Selection Advisory Committee](#)

### **What is a Selection Advisory Committee?**

A Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) is a committee that makes funding recommendations to the Minister for Education (in the case of Centres of Excellence and the Industrial Transformation Research Program) or the ARC Board for applications submitted under all other schemes of the National Competitive Grants Program. ARC College of Experts members will be selected to become members of SACs for a particular scheme round. For some schemes, SACs may also include some non-College members.

## [Skills and experience](#)

### **Will you take into consideration the existing track record of a nominee as an ARC Detailed Assessor? Is there any expected number of detailed assessments a nominee is required to provide before one can apply to the ARC College of Experts?**

It is beneficial if nominees have peer review experience with the ARC, but this is not essential and peer review experience with other funding bodies is highly relevant too. The ARC will take the reliability of a nominee as an ARC Detailed Assessor into account, where applicable, but not the number of assessments completed as this differs significantly across schemes and research areas and is not comparable.

### **What does the ARC mean by "a strong emphasis placed on multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary expertise"?**

Members of the ARC College of Experts are expected to assess applications across a wide range of research areas as a generalist (General Assessor). Nominees should demonstrate their experience in conducting inter-disciplinary, multi-

disciplinary and/or cross-disciplinary work, and their ability to assess applications as a generalist as this is a critical part of the role.

**What type of information is being requested about research across multiple sectors?**

The ARC recognises the diversity of skills amongst the research community, and this question is seeking information on where nominees have expertise across and between different parts of the research and innovation system, including within academia and industry, nationally and internationally. This is an opportunity to build the future profile of the ARC College of Experts and is an important aspect of the ARC College of Experts, but is not a selection criterion in this round.

**If my nomination is unsuccessful, will I be provided with feedback and should I apply again?**

The ARC conducts the ARC College of Experts nomination process on an annual basis. In selecting the new ARC College of Experts members, we will take into account the skills and experience of all nominees as well as discipline coverage and diverse representation across the ARC College of Experts. The selection each year is a competitive process which is influenced by the expertise of the departing and remaining members and the projected disciplinary requirements for future assessment rounds.

Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to re-apply in future rounds as their individual skillset may be needed in a different year. The ARC will not provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

**Who selects the members of the ARC College of Experts?**

The ARC Board will appoint the members of the ARC College of Experts, informed by an internal selection process involving the ARC Chief Research Officer, ARC Executive Directors and referee reports of shortlisted nominees.

**Travel**

**Can you confirm whether ARC College of Experts members will attend selection meetings in person in Canberra or online?**

The ARC currently conducts SAC meetings via videoconference. Each time an ARC College of Experts member is appointed to a SAC, the ARC will advise in advance the SAC meeting arrangements.

The ARC will cover reasonable domestic travel costs, if applicable, for attendance at SAC meetings in Canberra.

**Workload**

**Is the level and depth of reading required by a SAC member (General Assessor), equivalent to providing a detailed assessment?**

There is quite a significant difference between the Detailed Assessor role and that of a SAC member who provides a general assessment.

A Detailed Assessor is expected to read the application and provide a written assessment and scores against the selection criteria. A SAC member will read the application, and the detailed assessments for that application, as well as the applicant's rejoinder, where applicable, and then provide scores against the selection criteria. In addition, a SAC member is expected to prepare for the selection meeting, including careful consideration of the budgets of highly ranked applications and communicating with other SAC members. At the selection meeting SAC members must be ready to discuss the applications they have been assigned to and make funding recommendations, as well as contribute to overall discussions.

**What is the expected workload for a member of the ARC College of Experts?  
Are members expected to be available all year round?**

The individual workload of ARC College of Experts members is difficult to quantify in hours and may vary across schemes and years. ARC College of Experts members may be called upon to assign, read and assess, between 150 and 200 funding applications depending on the schemes they are assigned to, and 30 to 60 Expressions of Interest, each year. The number of meetings, volume of assignments and assessments vary per year according to the scheme and number of applications received from different discipline areas. The ARC seeks to balance workloads across ARC College of Experts members and members should expect to join at least one SAC meeting most years.

As a rough guide to informing your decision to submit a nomination, the College might be considered a time commitment in the order of 0.2 FTE across the course of three years. The work is cyclical rather than constant. Please also note that you are remunerated for this work. The ARC will approach all members of the ARC College of Experts each year to request their availability for the upcoming year. While members are expected to be largely available, they may advise of any planned periods of unavailability.