Australian Government Specifications for Categories of Research

The University of Canberra must report all research income to the Australian Government via the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) which is part of the funding calculation for universities. This data collection comprises research income and research publications data. The HERDC specifications control the collection of higher education research data and are designed to ensure the Australian Government’s research block grants are allocated in a fair and transparent way and to support the policy intent of the funding. To read more about HERDC specifications and what may be included as research or not, and under which category, you may read the HERDC specifications document available here – be sure to read the latest one.

Category 1: Australian Competitive Grants

Category 1 consists only of those research schemes/programs listed on the Australian Competitive Grants Register

To find out if your funder is listed click here. For example an ARC or NHMRC grant.

Grants received from the Australian Government and not included in the latest ACGR may be eligible for inclusion in Category 2: Other Public Sector Research Income.

Category 2: Other Public Sector Research Income

Category 2 includes:

- any other research income received from the Australian Government that is not eligible for inclusion as Category 1 research income
- research income from Australian Government business enterprises
- research income (including contract research) from both state and local governments
- research income from state government business enterprises
- research income from partly government owned or funded bodies
- research income from CRCs in which the University was not a core participant or participant (i.e. was not a signatory to the Commonwealth Agreement during the reporting period).

Category 3: Industry and Other Research Income

Industry and Other Research Income must be categorised in the following subcategories:

Australian:

- Contracts
- Grants
- Donations, bequests and foundations

International A: Competitive, Peer-Reviewed Research Grant Income

Competitive, peer reviewed grants for research from non-Australian industry or non-Australian Government agencies including non-Australian industry collaborative research grants.

International B: Other Income
Any other income research income from non-Australian Industry or Governments that cannot be included in International A research income such as:

- Contracts
- Grants
- Donations, bequests and foundations

**Additional Subcategory Explanatory Material**

**Australian:**

- contract research income provided by industry or other non-government agencies
- grants for research other than government provided grants (which should be reported in either Category 1 or Category 2)
- donations and bequests for research from Australian business, Australian non-profit organisations and Australian individuals
- income received from syndicated research and development arrangements.

Many research income arrangements involve grants covered by a contract. In categorising funds as either contract research income or grant income, universities should regard:

- funding for research where the project was developed primarily by the funding agency, or jointly by the funding agency and the investigator(s) as contract research income
- funding for research where the project was developed primarily by the investigator(s) as grant income.

**International A:**

- Competitive grants, peer reviewed grants for research from non-Australian industry or non-Australian Government agencies including non-Australian industry collaborative research grants.
- In order to qualify for inclusion in this category the granting schemes must comply with the following criteria:
  
  a. Funds must be provided on a competitive basis and clearly be for research only
  b. The funding scheme must have a well-defined mechanism for competition and selection by a well-qualified panel
  c. Grants in kind such as the use of facilities, equipment etc. or subsidised travel or accommodation are not eligible
  d. Funding schemes used exclusively to fund student scholarships are not eligible
  e. Schemes that provide funding wholly or mainly for infrastructure purposes are not eligible.

**International B:**

- contract research provided by non-Australian industry or non-Australian Government agencies including non-Australian industry collaborative research grants
- non-competitive grants for research from non-Australian industry or non-Australian Government agencies including non-Australian industry collaborative research grants
- donations and bequests for research from non-Australian business, non-Australian non-profit organisations, and non-Australian individuals.
Category 4: Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Research Income

Under Category 4: CRC Research Income, universities must report the research income received for the financial year from a CRC in which they were a 'core participant' (for CRCs funded prior to the 2006 CRC selection round) or 'participant' (for CRCs funded in the 2006 selection round). A university is regarded as a core participant or participant if it is a signatory to the CRC's Commonwealth Agreement.

Income received from CRCs in which the reporting university is not core participant or participant must be reported under Category 2: Other Public Sector Research Income.

Others

Non-HERDC categories

Infrastructure

Funding received from Infrastructure may fall under any of these categories or not, depending on the source of funding. For e.g. Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) is not included in Government reporting under the HERDC categories. However other funding for Infrastructure may be under

Education Investment Fund

NeCTAR, AURIN are such sources of funding

Grants from the following Department of Education programs:

- Research Training Scheme (RTS)
- Joint Research Engagement (JRE)
- Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE)
- Research Infrastructure Block Grants (RIBG)
- Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA)
- International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS)
- Collaborative Research Networks (CRN)