

Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC)

Definition of Funding Categories 1, 2, 3 and 4:

The following information is taken from the 2015 HERDC Specifications Document. Please visit <http://education.gov.au/higher-education-research-data-collection> for more detailed information.

- Category 1: Australian competitive grants
- Category 2: Other public sector research income
- Category 3: Industry and other research income
- Category 4: CRC research income

Category 1: Australian competitive grants

Grants which are listed on the **Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR)** are classified as “Category 1” grants. The ACGR is available to download at:

<http://education.gov.au/australian-competitive-grants-register>

Grants listed on the ACGR must meet a number of criteria, including being nationally competitive, for research only, nationally advertised and available to universities throughout Australia, having a well-defined mechanism for competition, selection by a well-qualified panel, and in most cases, the funding scheme must have an annual budget of \$1 million or more. Typical examples of these are ARC and NHMRC grants.

Category 1 grants also return a higher percentage to the University as part of the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) return and block grant funding process, and are exempt from having to include indirect costs of research. *(Please note, grants that are not classified as Category 1 must include indirect costs in the proposal budget where the funding rules permit. Where these costs cannot be included, the researcher or School/Faculty will be required to meet these costs).*

Category 2: Other public sector research income

Category 2 comprises of the following funding types:

Australian government – Non Category 1: Income for the purposes of conducting research received from the Australian Government, whether via programs, grants or contracts, that are not eligible for inclusion as Category 1 research income.

State or Territory government: Income for the conduct of research received from state or territory government departments or agencies, whether via programs, grants or contracts.

Local government: Income for the conduct of research received from local government departments or agencies, whether via programs, grants or contracts.

Government business enterprises: Income for the conduct of research received from enterprises that are wholly or partly owned or funded by Commonwealth, state or territory, or local governments; have a board; and operate on a profit or cost-recovery basis.

Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs): Research income from CRCs in which the reporting Higher Education Provider was not defined within the Commonwealth Agreement as “The Researcher” or a “Participant” (i.e. was not a signatory to the Commonwealth Agreement, a CRC Participants Agreement, or a Company Constitution during the reporting period).

Category 3: Industry and other research income

Category 3 comprises of the following funding types:

Australian:

- Contract research income from industry or non-government agencies
- Research grants from non-government agencies
- Donations and bequests for research from Australian businesses, Australian non-profit organisations or Australian individuals
- Income from syndicated research and development arrangements
- Funds for tuition fees that domestic fee paying students (non Commonwealth supported) pay to their Higher Education Provider.

International A:

- Competitive grants, peer reviewed grants for research from non-Australian industry or Government agencies including non-Australian industry collaborative research grants.
- Grants that can be included are those where:
 - a) funds are provided on a competitive basis and are clearly for the conduct of research only; and
 - b) there is a well-defined mechanism for competition and selection by a well-qualified panel.
- Grants that are not eligible are those that provide:
 - a) grants in kind such as the use of facilities, equipment etc. or subsidised travel or accommodation; and
 - b) funding wholly or mainly for infrastructure purposes.

International B:

- Contract research provided by non-Australian industry or Government agencies including non-Australian industry collaborative research grants.
- Non-competitive grants for research from non-Australian industry or Government agencies including non-Australian industry collaborative research grants.
- Donations and bequests for research that have been received from non-Australian businesses, not-for-profit organisations or non-Australian citizens.

International C:

- Funds received for providing the cost of an international student's fee-paying place (but excluding Commonwealth supported places).

Category 4: CRC Research income

Category 4 comprises of the following funding types:

- Research income derived from Australian Government grants to Cooperative Research Centres.
- Research income derived from non-Higher Education Provider members of Cooperative Research Centres.
- Research income derived from external parties contributing to Cooperative Research Centres.