



PBRF Quality Evaluation 2025 FAQs

These FAQs are for Research Directors and Managers who are leading PBRF preparations, as well as for staff members who are developing their Evidence Portfolios. This document will be updated regularly as decisions are made about the Quality Evaluation 2025 design.

Key Messages

- › The TEC is currently convening the Sector Reference Group (SRG) for the PBRF Quality Evaluation 2025.
- › The SRG will make recommendations to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) on the design and implementation of the Quality Evaluation 2025. No details other than those already agreed by Cabinet can be confirmed before this process has taken place.
- › The SRG will meet between September 2021 and June 2023. We anticipate that “In principle” decisions will be published on the website as they are made during this period.

FAQs

What is the role of the Sector Reference Group?

The SRG will:

- › advise the TEC on the operation and design of the Quality Evaluation 2025;
- › contribute critical sector expertise and knowledge towards the implementation of Cabinet’s decisions on the PBRF; and
- › advise how best to respond to recommendations for process changes made by the moderators, peer review panels and panel secretariat in the Quality Evaluation 2018.

What is the timeframe for the Sector Reference Group?

The SRG will convene in September 2021 and will meet until June 2023, when the final Guidelines for the Quality Evaluation 2025 will be published. The TEC and the SRG Co-chairs are currently in the process of appointing SRG members.

How can I have input into the Quality Evaluation 2025 design?

The SRG will carry out its work through a process of considering options, agreeing a public consultation paper, and making final recommendations to the TEC following consultation outcomes. This means that there will be regular opportunities for sector and public input into the development of the Guidelines.

The SRG will determine the issues it needs to consider to address Cabinet’s directions and the recommendations for process change, as well as the order in which those issues will be addressed. The first public consultation paper will cover these issues, and we anticipate it will be released in October 2021.

When will decisions on the Quality Evaluation 2025 design be made available?

The TEC has committed to publishing the final Guidelines in June 2023. As in previous Quality Evaluations, we anticipate the TEC will release “In principle” decisions as they are signed off, so that the sector can commence planning as soon as possible. Until these decisions are made, the TEC is not able to confirm details of the Quality Evaluation design and operation.

What is the staff census date and the submission date?

We anticipate that Quality Evaluation 2025 will follow a similar timetable to Quality Evaluation 2018, when the staff census date was 14 June 2018, and the final submission deadline was 16 July 2018. However, we will not be able to confirm key dates for 2025 until the SRG has made recommendations on the relevant issues.

How many Examples of Research Excellence and Other Examples of Research Excellence are permitted within an Evidence Portfolio?

Cabinet has agreed to replace the Nominated Research Output section with an Examples of Research Excellence (ERE) section. Each Evidence Portfolio may include up to four EREs. The definition and scope of an ERE is to be determined by the SRG, and as such is not yet available. However, the Cabinet direction is clear that the new definition should be broader than the Nominated Research Output definition, and will include traditional research outputs.

Cabinet has also agreed to replace the Other Research Output section with an Other Examples of Research Excellence (OERE) section. Each Evidence Portfolio may include up to twelve OEREs. The definition and scope of an OERE is to be determined by the SRG, and as such is not yet available. However, the Cabinet direction is clear that the new definition should be broader than the Other Research Output definition, and will include traditional research outputs.

More information

- › Changes to the PBRF 2025 agreed by Cabinet, including a link to the final report of the PBRF Review Panel and the Cabinet paper, are summarized on the Ministry of Education website:
<https://www.education.govt.nz/further-education/policies-and-strategies/review-of-the-performance-based-research-fund-3/>
- › Information about the Sector Reference Group is available on the TEC website:
<https://www.tec.govt.nz/funding/funding-and-performance/funding/fund-finder/performance-based-research-fund/sector-reference-group-srg-2025/>

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