



Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) 2018 Quality Evaluation results

Results and funding

How much is the Quality Evaluation worth to the tertiary education sector?

The PBRF is one of the largest the TEC manages. The periodic Quality Evaluation informs the funding allocation of 55%* of the PBRF. Based on the last Quality Evaluation, which was held in 2012, that equated to over \$1 billion over a six-year funding period.

PBRF funding is determined by the Government through its annual Budget. In 2019, the PBRF will provide \$315 million.

*The other parts of the PBRF are Research Degree Completion (25%) and External Research Income (20%).

What tertiary education organisations (TEOs) participated and how can I find out their results?

For the 2018 Quality Evaluation, 36 TEOs participated – more than ever before and up from 27 in 2012. Participating TEOs in 2018 included 14 ITPs, 12 PTEs, all eight universities, and two wānanga.

Information about individual TEO results can be found in the [PBRF 2018 Quality Evaluation results](#) section of the TEC website.

How many researchers participated in the 2018 Quality Evaluation?

The total number of staff members, participating through their TEO, was 8,269*.

*This total number is before full-time employment weighting has been applied and includes researcher Evidence Portfolios (EPs) awarded funded and unfunded Quality Categories.

How does the PBRF Quality Evaluation funding breakdown for TEOs?

Based on the results of the 2018 Quality Evaluation, universities will receive the bulk (95.7%) of PBRF Quality Evaluation funding in 2019. Outside of the university sector, only Unitec New Zealand will receive greater than 1.0% of the total funding available through the PBRF. See the *Improving Research Quality: The results of the PBRF 2018 Quality Evaluation* for information on individual TEOs.

Why do universities receive most of the funding?

TEOs have a range of important roles and purposes, including research, teaching and service to the community. The type and focus of a TEO may impact on the number of PBRF-eligible staff and funded Quality Categories.

As the largest contributors to the New Zealand research environment, universities are also the largest recipients of funding through the PBRF. The results of PBRF Quality Evaluations; however, reflect that many non-university TEOs actively support a research culture and contribute quality outputs to the research environment.

Have there been improvements in research quality since the Quality Evaluations were established?

Yes, there have been four Quality Evaluations (2003, 2006, 2012 and 2018) and in each Quality Evaluation we have seen an increase in research quality across the tertiary education sector.

The 2018 Quality Evaluation continues this trend with 55.9% of PBRF-eligible staff awarded the two highest Quality Categories (an A or a B) compared with 53.3% in 2012. Between 2012 and 2018 the percentage of EPs awarded an A Quality Category increased by 39.9%, while EPs awarded a B Category increased by 17.5%.

How do TEOs receive the funding?

PBRF funding is paid through each TEO's Investment Plan. A TEO's delivery of the plan is monitored by the TEC.

Why is the TEC choosing to release demographic information now? What does it show? How will it be used?

Previous Quality Evaluation reports have not included funded Quality Categories by demographics, specifically gender, ethnicity and age. Changes to our reporting framework provided an opportunity for us to review previous data sets. Results and demographic data sets are useful in showing trends within the sector and may help inform future policy and decision making.

Demographic trends we have identified in this evaluation are greater gender parity, with women making up 42.9% of funded researchers up from 38.8% in 2012 and minor increases in the number of researchers who identify as Māori or Pacific. There is still a disproportionately small number of Māori and Pacific researchers participating in the PBRF. We will work with the Ministry of Education to try and address this for any future rounds.

Process

What were the outcomes of the complaints process?

The TEC accepted and investigated 16 complaints from participating TEOs concerning possible administrative or procedural errors.

An overview of the outcome of the complaints process and any required actions can be found in Appendix 5 of the *Improving Research Quality: The results of the PBRF 2018 Quality Evaluation*.

When is the next Quality Evaluation?

No decisions have been made on when, or if, a future Quality Evaluation will be held. After each Quality Evaluation, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has led a review on the policy and operational policy settings for the PBRF. In mid-2018, MoE announced it would conduct a similar review following the 2018 Quality Evaluation. The review is currently underway.

The Terms of Reference for the 2019 PBRF Review are available on the [Ministry of Education's website](#).

Are the Quality Categories of individual researchers made publicly available?

No, the PBRF Quality Evaluation has confidentiality policies that include not making Quality Category information about individual researchers publicly available.

Can researchers find out their own results?

Individual researchers participating in the 2018 Quality Evaluation can request more detailed information on the assessment of their EP as submitted by their employing TEO.

- › TEOs cannot request this information on behalf of their current or previous staff members.
- › Staff members can request information for the 2018 Quality Evaluation by completing and submitting this form, which is available in the [PBRF 2018 Quality Evaluation](#) section of the TEC website. You can also request this form from your TEO's PBRF contact person.
- › The form for requesting previous Quality Evaluation results can be downloaded from the TEC website in the section [Researchers' requests for assessment information](#).

What TEOs are eligible for the PBRF? Why don't all TEOs participate?

All New Zealand-based TEOs with degree-granting authority to teach degree-level courses that are in receipt of Student Achievement Component (SAC) funding are entitled to participate in the PBRF Quality Evaluation process.

Research is vitally important for TEOs that provide degree and postgraduate-level teaching and learning, and this is particularly the case for universities. Because TEOs have a range of other roles and purposes, including teaching and service to the community, some may choose not to participate in the PBRF Quality Evaluation due to the costs and required resources, current priorities or other considerations.

How is research assessed in the Quality Evaluation?

TEOs determine which staff members are eligible to participate and whether their research is likely to receive a funded Quality Category. EPs from these staff members are then compiled by the TEO and submitted to the TEC.

For the 2018 Quality Evaluation, there were 13 peer-review panels that were based on defined subject areas. Each EP was submitted to a panel and selected subject area based on the staff member's field of research. Each EP was then assigned by the peer-review panel Chair to a lead and secondary panellist and, if required, a cross-referral panellist(s) for a preliminary assessment.

EPs were then assessed by the whole peer-review panel at a panel meeting. At the end of the panel meeting, a final Quality Category was confirmed for each assessed EP.

How does the TEC ensure the integrity of the process?

The TEC ensures the integrity of the Quality Evaluation in three ways:

- › a moderation process that focuses on the consistency of the standards applied by panels
- › an internal process assurance to ensure the integrity of the process run by the TEC
- › an audit of data submitted by participating TEOs.

Other

How are the PBRF 2018 Quality Evaluation results useful to students and their supporters?

The results of the PBRF 2018 Quality Evaluation may be of interest to those students who are planning to undertake postgraduate studies. While these results are just one part of the information a student could use to make decisions about further tertiary study, they are helpful if you wish to understand the research strengths of individual TEOs.

Other information that will be useful when thinking about tertiary study includes:

- › [educational performance reports](#) on individual TEOs
- › individual TEO websites
- › feedback from current or recent graduates of an organisation
- › the [New Zealand Qualifications Framework](#) lists all qualifications available in New Zealand
- › [Education Counts](#) contains a large amount of data about tertiary education in New Zealand
- › the [TEC's Careers website](#) offers information on careers, as well as study and training options.