



# Allocations for the 2021 Performance-Based Research Fund

The Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) allocated \$315 million in 2021.

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) allocated:

- › \$303.75 million to 8 universities (96.4%)
- › \$9.24 million to 14 institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs) (2.9%)
- › \$1.25 million to 11 private training establishments (PTEs) (<1%)
- › \$750,102 to 2 wānanga (<1%).

From 2020 to 2021 funding increased for ITPs (by \$523,288, 6.0%) and PTEs (by \$15,427, 1.3%), and decreased for universities (by \$430,372, less than 0.5%) and wānanga (by \$108,343, 12.6%).

## Quality Evaluation (QE) allocations in 2021

The Quality Evaluation component of the PBRF comes from an assessment of the research performance of staff at eligible tertiary education organisations (TEOs). This component is used to allocate 55 percent (\$173.25 million) of the fund. 2021 funding allocations for the QE measure are based on the results of the 2018 QE, and all providers have received the same amount of funding annually from 2018 to 2021.

Universities received \$165.7 million, ITPs \$6.3 million, PTEs \$909,209 and wānanga \$327,439.

## External Research Income (ERI) funding increased for three sectors in 2021 ...

The External Research Income component of the PBRF is an annual measurement of the amount and type of income for research received by participating TEOs from external sources. This component is used to allocate 20 percent (\$63 million) of the fund.

In 2021 universities received \$62.5 million, a minimal decrease (0.1%) compared to 2020. Funding increased from 2020 to 2021 for ITPs to \$362,736 (16.2%), wānanga \$55,985 (14.4%) and PTEs \$85,470 (31.1%).

## ... and External Research Income earned increased for all sectors

ERI earned by all sectors in 2021 totalled \$660.90 million, an increase of 8.58% on 2020. From 2013 the annual ERI earned across all sectors has continually increased.

From 2020 to 2021, the university sector increased its ERI earned by \$50 million (8.3%) to \$654.0 million. This sector has increased its ERI earnings in each of the last nine years.

With the inclusion of four new ITPs (from the 2018 QE round), ERI earned significantly increased to \$4.1 million in 2019. Between 2014 and 2018 the ITP sector had maintained a level of ERI earnings between \$2.1 and \$2.4 million. 2021 ERI earned was \$5.10 million, a significant increase of \$1.43 million (39.0%) on the 2020 figure of \$3.67 million.

In 2021 the wānanga sector increased its ERI earnings by 44.2% to \$1,065,832, compared to the 2020 figure of \$720,222. Over the period 2017–19 the wānanga sector had maintained its level of ERI earnings between \$460,000 and \$535,000.

From 2014 to 2018 ERI earned for the PTE sector was maintained between \$328,279 and \$382,349. The inclusion of three new PTEs (from the 2018 QE round) increased ERI earned to \$770,548 in 2019. In 2021, ERI earnings were \$683,807, an increase of \$128,630 (23.2%) on 2020.

## Research Degree Completion (RDC) allocations increased for the ITP sector ...

The Research Degree Completions element of the PBRF is a yearly measurement of the number of PBRF-eligible postgraduate research-based degrees completed at participating TEOs.

The TEC allocated \$78.750 million in RDC funding in 2021 and, of this, universities received \$75.53 million, ITPs \$2.59 million, wānanga \$366,678 and PTEs \$258,472.

Between 2020 and 2021 RDC funding increased by \$472,811 for ITPs, and decreased for universities, PTEs and wānanga by \$352,587, \$4,851, and \$115,373 respectively.

## ... also, the total number of Research Degree Completions increased in 2021

RDCs increased incrementally over the period 2014 (3,975) to 2019 (4,183). In 2021, RDCs (3,877) increased marginally by 4% compared to 2020 (3,717), however they have not returned to the same level before the pandemic, with a total of 4,183 RDCs in 2019.

Compared to 2020, RDCs for Māori students increased by 11 (4.4%), Pacific people by 37 (30.8%), Asian students by 88 (7.7%), and for Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (MELAA) students by 44 (17.4%). They decreased for European students (-104, -5.1%).

In 2021, Natural and Physical Sciences (837) and Society and Culture (716) continued to produce the highest numbers of RDCs, followed by Health (548), Creative Arts (468) and Engineering and Related Trades (356).

Compared to 2020, larger increases in RDCs occurred in Architecture and Building (45, 17.9%), Information Technology (19, 16.8%), Mixed Field Programmes (3, 13.0%), Creative Arts (48, 11.4%) and Natural and Physical Sciences (78, 10.3%).

Education had a large decrease in RDCs (-38, -19.4%), as did Management and Commerce (-28, -11.5%), with smaller decreases in Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies (-5, -3.8%) and Society and Culture (-8, -1.1%).

The remaining fields of study increased by single digits.

## Further information

For more information on the PBRF, see [Performance-Based Research Fund](#).

For other publications relevant to the PBRF, including previous allocations and annual reports, see [Resources and publications](#).

Detailed allocations and completions information is available in the [2021 PBRF Allocation Tables \(XLS, 225 KB\)](#).

*This data has been compiled specifically to prepare the 2021 PBRF Annual Report. It uses administrative data collected by the TEC for the purposes of funding tertiary education and relies on the accuracy of data reported by TEOs. Care should be taken when making comparisons with data collected or compiled for other purposes.*