

## PBRF INFORMATION

### WHAT IS PBRF?

**Performance-Based Research Fund** was designed by the Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Tertiary Education Commission with the intention of funding research in New Zealand's degree-granting institutions.

In order to meet the aims of PBRF, the prime focus is on rewarding and encouraging excellence in:

- Production of high-quality research articles, books and other forms of research outputs;
- The production and creation of leading-edge knowledge;
- The application of that knowledge;
- The dissemination of that knowledge to students and the wider community;
- Supporting current and potential researchers (eg postgraduate students) on creation, application and dissemination of knowledge.

From: [PBRF Guidelines 2006](#)

## What are the aims of PBRF?

The main aims of PBRF, as agreed by Government are to:

- Increase the average quality of research;
- Ensure that research continues to support degree and postgraduate teaching;
- Ensure that funding is available for postgraduate students and new researchers;
- Improve the quality of public information on research output
- Prevent undue concentration of funding that would undermine research support for all degrees or prevent access to the systems by new researchers;
- Underpin the existing research strength in the education sector.

From: [PBRF Guidelines 2006](#)

## What are the Key Elements of PBRF?

The PBRF **funding formula** is based on three elements or measures:

**Quality Evaluation:** The assessment of the research quality of TEO staff members based on peer review. 60%

A **Postgraduate Research Degree Completions** (RDC) measure: the number of postgraduate research-based degree's completed by the TEO. 25%

An **External Research Income** (ERI) measure: the amount of income for research purposes received by the TEO from external sources 15%

**Total Weighting for the three measures of funding** 100%

From: PBRF Guidelines 2006

## What Counts as Research?

For the purposes of the Performance-Based Research Fund, research is original investigation undertaken in order to contribute to knowledge and understanding and, in the case of some disciplines, cultural innovation or aesthetic refinement.

It is an **independent**, creative, cumulative and often long-term activity conducted by people with specialist knowledge about the theories, methods and information concerning their field of enquiry.

The term **independent** should not be construed to exclude collaborative work.

From: PBRF Guidelines 2006

## What are Research Excluded Activities?

The following activities are excluded from the Definition of Research **except where they are used primarily for the support, or as part of research and experimental developing activities**:

- Preparation for teaching;
- The provision of advice or opinion (**except where it is consistent with the PBRF's Definition of Research**);
- Scientific and technical information services;
- General purpose or routine data collection;
- Standardisation and routine testing (**but not including standards development**);
- Feasibility studies (**except into research and experimental development projects**);
- Specialised routine medical care;
- The commercial, legal and administrative aspects of patenting, copyrighting or licensing activities;
- Routine computer programming, systems work or software maintenance (**but NOTE that research into and experimental development of, for example, applications software, new programming languages and new operating systems is included**);
- Any other routine professional practice (eg in arts, law, architecture or business) that does not comply with the PBRF Definition of Research.

From: PBRF Guidelines 2006

## What is the Research-Based Degree Completions Measure?

The Postgraduate Research-Based Degree Completions (RDC) measure is a measure of the number of research-based postgraduate degrees completed (including but not restricted to PhD or Masters programmes) within a TEO with an externally assess wholly research component greater than or equal to 0.75 EFTS (equivalent full-time status) or more.

From: **PBRF Guidelines 2006**

RDC's not only boost the prestige and funding of Massey University, but also increase the individual profile of the PBRF-Eligible staff who support and supervise this study. **RDC activities can be included in your Evidence Portfolio under Contribution to the Research Environment.**

## What is Quality Evaluation?

There are two key principles underpinning the eligibility of a staff member to participate in the Quality Evaluation:

- The individual is expected to contribute to the learning environment at degree level;

### **AND/OR**

- The individual is expected to make a sufficiently substantive contribution to research activity.

An **Evidence Portfolio** (EP) forms the basis of the Quality Evaluation measure.

From: **PBRF Guidelines 2006**

TEC will report on Final Quality Evaluation Data at various levels at the conclusion of the PBRF Census. Therefore, there is a direct correlation between Quality Evaluation, Evidence Portfolio's and the League Tables published by TEC.

## What is an Evidence Portfolio?

An Evidence Portfolio is a key component to the Performance-Based Research Fund, and has three components. The assessment of the EP is based on allocating points for each of the three components.

- **Research Outputs** (RO): the outputs of a staff member's research; 70%
- **Peer Esteem** (PE): an indication of the quality of the research of the staff member, as recognised by their peers; 15%
- **Contribution to the Research Environment** (CRE): the staff member's contribution to a vital high-quality research environment, both within the TEO and beyond it. 15%

**Total Weighting for the Evidence Portfolio components 100%**

The PBRF is primarily concerned with quality. The Evidence Portfolio should provide an overview of a staff members outputs and contributions during the assessment period. **Where a staff member has more material than can be included in the Evidence Portfolio, they should select their best research outputs and their most significant examples of Peer Esteem and Contribution to the Research Environment from the assessment period.**

From: [PBRF Guidelines 2006\](#)



To find out more about Evidence Portfolio scoring refer to the [PBRF Panel Specific Information](#).

## An Evidence Portfolio's THREE Components?

**Research Outputs**: are the most important of the three assessment components of an Evidence Portfolio. This component measures the quality of research through focusing on an assessment of research outputs.

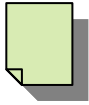
To find out more about RO's refer to the Research Management Services, [Fact Sheet: Research Outputs](#)

**Peer Esteem**: is used as an indicator of the quality of the staff member's research. It is concerned with the recognition of the staff member's research by their peers (rather than esteem for the staff member's other activities within the TEO, their subject area, or the academic community).



- To find out more about Peer Esteem refer to the [PBRF Information: What is Peer Esteem?](#)
- To find out more about Peer Esteem and the RIMS environment refer to the [RIMS User Guide: Peer Esteem and Contribution to the Research Environment](#)

**Contribution to the Research Environment:** is concerned with the staff member's contribution to a vital, high-quality research environment. Active research environments are a key outcome sought from the PBRF.



- To find out more about Contribution to the Research Environment refer to the [PBRF Information: What is Contribution to the Research Environment?](#)
- To find out more about Contribution to the Research Environment and the RIMS environment refer to the [RIMS User Guide: Peer Esteem and Contribution to the Research Environment](#)

## What can WE / I do Right Now?

Although your Evidence Portfolio is an important component of the PBRF process and imperative for the PBRF Census we recommend that your energies and focus, at this time, would be best spend in pursuit of:

- 👉 Continued Quality Research – be that individually or collaboratively.
- 👉 Continued mentoring New and Emerging Researchers.
- 👉 Continued support and supervision of your postgraduate students towards Degree Completion.
- 👉 Continued publication of quality Research Outputs.
- 👉 Continued submission of Research Outputs to Andrena (**Drena**) **Clarke, Research Management Services, PNI23, Manawatu Campus.**
- 👉 Continued entry of Peer Esteem and Contribution to the Research Environment via the Massey Website @ <http://www.massey.ac.nz>



Click on the Research Tab on the Selection Ribbon at the top of the page



Click on Performance-Based Research Fund



Click on RIMS Tab at the bottom of the page

Alternatively you may wish to go directly to  <http://rims.massey.ac.nz>