



## Allocations for the 2020 Performance-Based Research Fund

The Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) allocated \$315 million in 2020.

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) allocated:

- › \$304.19 million to 8 universities (96.6%)
- › \$8.72 million to 14 institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs) (2.8%)
- › \$1.24 million to 11 private training establishments (PTEs) (<1%)
- › \$858,445 to 2 wānanga (<1%)

The number of TEOs eligible to receive PBRF funding for the period 2019 to 2025 increased by eight to thirty-five, following the completion of the 2018 Quality Evaluation.

From 2019 to 2020 funding increased marginally for universities (by \$1.2 million, less than 0.5%), increased more significantly for PTEs (by \$88,748, 7.7%) and wānanga (by \$127,075, 17.3%), and decreased for ITPs (by \$1.4 million, -13.9%).

### Quality Evaluation (QE) allocations in 2020 – all sectors receive the same funding as 2019

The Quality Evaluation component of the PBRF comes from an assessment of the research performance of staff at eligible TEOs. This component is used to allocate 55 percent (\$173.25 million) of the fund. 2020 funding allocations for the QE measure are based on the results of the 2018 QE, and all providers received the same amount of funding as in 2018 and 2019.

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

### External Research Income (ERI) funding was similar to 2019...

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.

All sectors received a similar percentage of the 2020 ERI funding, compared to 2019. Universities received \$62.5 million, ITPs \$312,260, wānanga \$48,955 and PTEs \$65,192.

## ...with increased External Research Income earned for the university and wānanga sectors...

ERI earned by all sectors in 2020 totalled \$608.71 million, an increase of 0.94% on 2019. ERI earned across all sectors has continually increased from \$396.8 million in 2013.

From 2019 to 2020, the university sector increased its ERI earned by \$6 million (1.0%) to \$603.8 million. Although this was the lowest percentage increase since 2013, this sector has increased its ERI earnings in each of the last eight years.

The wānanga sector maintained its level of ERI earnings between \$460,000 and \$535,000 over the period 2017-2019. In 2020, ERI earnings for this sector were \$720,222, an increase of \$253,965 (54%) compared with 2019.

## ...and decreased earnings for ITPs and PTEs

The ITP sector maintained a level of ERI earnings between \$2.1 million to \$2.4 million over the period 2014-2018. The inclusion of four new ITPs (from the 2018 QE round) saw a significant increase in ERI earnings in 2019, up from \$1.67 million in 2018 to \$4.1 million. In 2020, ERI earnings decreased by \$434,726 (-11%) to \$3.67 million.

The PTE sector also maintained its level of ERI earnings between \$328,279 and \$382,349 over the period 2014-2018. 2019 ERI earned for this sector was \$770,548, an increase of \$388,199 on 2018 and mainly attributable to the inclusion of three new PTEs (from the 2018 QE round). In 2020, ERI earnings were \$555,177, a decrease of \$215,371 (-28%) on 2019.

## Research Degree Completion (RDC) allocations increased for universities, wānanga and PTEs...

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 2020 and, of this, universities received \$75.88 million, ITPs \$2.12 million, wānanga \$482,051 and PTEs \$263,323.

Between 2019 and 2020 RDC funding decreased by \$1.355 million for ITPs, and increased for universities, PTEs and wānanga by \$1.137 million, \$97,868 and \$120,110 respectively.

## ...however the total number of Research Degree Completions decreased in 2020

RDCs increased incrementally over the period 2014 (3,975) to 2019 (4,183). However, in 2020, the pandemic had a negative effect on research degree completions with a total of 3,717, a decrease of 466 on 2019 and the lowest completions result since 2011.

Compared to 2019, RDCs for Māori students increased by 14 (5.9%) and decreased for European (-379, -15.6%), Pacific People (-26, -17.8%), Asian (-167, -12.7%) and Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (MELAA) (-41, -13.9%).

In 2020, Natural and Physical Sciences (759) and Society and Culture (724) continued to produce the highest numbers of RDCs, followed by Health (539), Creative Arts (420) and Engineering and Related Trades (328).

Compared to 2019, increases in RDCs occurred in Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies (5, 4.0%) and Management and Commerce (26, 12.0%).

All other fields of study decreased as follows: Natural and Physical Sciences (-134, -15.0%); Society and Culture (-108, -13.0%); Health (-52, -8.8%); Engineering and Related Technologies (-50, -13.2%); Education (-45, -18.7%); Architecture and Building (-45, -15.2%); Information Technology (-31, -21.5%); Creative Arts (-12, -2.8%), and; Mixed Field Programmes (-11, -32.4%).

## Further information

More information on the PBRF can be found [here](#).

Other publications relevant to the PBRF, including previous allocations and annual reports, can be found [here](#).  
Detailed allocations and completions information is available in the [2020 PBRF Allocation Tables](#) (Excel, 416Kb).