



Allocations for the 2023 Performance-Based Research Fund

The Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) allocated \$315 million in 2023.

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) allocated:

- › \$303.04 million to 8 universities (96.2%)
- › \$9.3 million to Te Pūkenga – New Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga) (2.9%)
- › \$1.53 million to 11 private training establishments (PTEs) (<1%)
- › \$1.14 million to 2 wānanga (<1%).

From 2022 to 2023 funding slightly decreased for Te Pūkenga (by \$212,219, 2.2%), Universities (by \$319,017, 0.1%). Funding increased significantly, in terms of percentage, for Wānanga (by \$0.35 million, 44.9%), and PTEs (by \$177,853, 13.2%).

Quality Evaluation (QE) allocations in 2023

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 PBRF fund. 2022 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 2023 as outlined below:

| Sector | QE Funding (\$m) |
|--------------|------------------|
| Universities | \$165.7 |
| Te Pūkenga | \$6.3 |
| PTEs | \$0.91 |
| Wānanga | \$0.33 |
| Total | \$173.25 |

External Research Income (ERI) allocation increased for three sectors in 2023...

The ERI 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 PBRF fund.

In 2023 universities received \$62.4 million; a decrease (0.1%) compared to 2022. Funding increased from 2022 to 2023 for Te Pūkenga (by \$28,885, 7.4%), wānanga (by \$16,852, 25.8%), and PTEs (by \$3,335, 3.9%).

... and External Research Income earned increased for all sectors except Wananga...

ERI earned by all sectors in 2023 totaled \$769.65 million, an increase of 11.3% on 2022 earnings. From 2014 the annual total ERI earned by all sectors has continually increased.

From 2022 to 2023, the university sector increased its ERI earnings by \$79.5 million (11.7%) to \$759.21 million. This sector has increased its ERI earnings in each of the last eight years.

With the inclusion of four new Institutes of Polytechnics (from the 2018 QE round, which are now part of Te Pūkenga), ERI earned significantly increased to \$4.8 million in 2023. Between 2019 and 2023 Te Pūkenga maintained a level of ERI earnings between \$4.1 million and \$4.8 million. The ERI earned in 2023 was \$4.78 million, an increase of \$0.64 million (15.4%) on the 2022 figure of \$4.14 million.

In 2023, the wānanga sector decreased its ERI earnings by 27.8% to \$4.62 million compared to the 2022 figure of \$6.39 million. Over the period 2019–2023, the wānanga sector experienced a significant increase in ERI earnings from \$0.46 million to \$4.62 million.

From 2019 to 2023, ERI earned from the PTE sector was maintained between \$0.77 million and \$1.04 million. The inclusion of three new PTEs (from the 2018 QE round) increased ERI earned to \$0.77 million in 2019. In 2023, ERI earnings were \$1.04 million, an increase of \$47.4 thousand (4.8%) on 2022 earnings.

Research Degree Completion (RDC) allocation increased for all sector except university and Te Pūkenga

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 2023. Universities received \$74.9 million, Te Pūkenga received \$2.59 million, wānanga received \$0.73 million, and PTEs received \$0.53 million.

Between 2022 and 2023 RDC funding decreased by \$0.24 million (-8.5%) for Te Pūkenga, and \$0.27 million (-0.4%) for universities. Funding increased for wananga by \$0.34 million (85.6%), and PTEs by \$0.17 million (49%).

The total number of Research Degree Completions increased in 2023

RDCs increased incrementally over the period 2015 (3,992) to 2019 (4,183). However, it experienced a sharp drop by 10% between 2019 and 2020, down to 3,717. Although RDCs gradually increased over the next three years and reached 3,975 in 2023, they have not returned to the same level before COVID-19.

In comparison to 2022, only RDCs by European ethnicity had a significant increase, 282 (15.8%) while other Ethnicities underwent reductions: Other ethnicities decreased by -31 (-12.8%), Asian ethnicity by -124 (-10.3%), Pacific People by -11 (-8.8%), Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (MELAA) ethnicity by -18 (-7%) and Māori by -9 (-3.3%).

In 2023, “Natural and Physical Science” and “Society and Culture” retained their positions as the highest and second highest RDC producing field (946 and 861 respectively) followed by “Health” (526), “Creative Arts” (405), “Engineering and Related Technologies” (351), and “Architecture Building” (257). The top six positions have not changed since 2020.

Compared to 2022, the RDC growth rates varied across fields of study. Some fields of study experienced positive increases while others experienced decreases.

The biggest increase in RDCs occurred in “Mixed Field Programmes” (18, 72%) while other fields experienced small to medium increases such as “Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies” (19, 20%), “Natural and Physical Sciences” (85, 10%), “Society and Culture” (78, 10%), and “Health” (7, 2%).

“Architecture and Building” had the biggest decrease in RDCs (-46, -15%). “Education” and “Information Technology” experienced decreases of (-26, -13%) and (-17, 12%) respectively. Followed by “Management and Commerce” (-17, -9%), “Engineering and Related Technologies” (-27, -7%). There was also a small reduction in “Creative Arts” (-9, -2%).

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 are available in the [2023 PBRF Allocation Tables \(XLS, 162 KB\)](#).

This data has been compiled specifically to prepare the 2023 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.