

ARC Research Environment Section: Guide for Applicants

The Research Environment section of the selection criteria is worth 10% for Linkage applications. Applicants generally write approximately half to one page for this section.

The Guide below is a Guide only. Each reviewer is different and will evaluate the same description differently.

Our view is that the reviewer needs to be aware of the big changes happening at ACU (paragraph 1), but is also interested in the achievements, vibrancy, and intellectual vigour of the discipline/research group within which you are embedded (paragraph 2). This is particularly crucial, will need to be convincing, and will need to demonstrate to the reviewer that the funded project will be located in an intellectually rich and secure environment.

It is suggested that applicants address the key areas outlined below (where relevant). Within each section are points applicants may wish to consider and some examples of text that may be adapted for use. These should be tailored to the particular research areas, your individual circumstances and your proposal.

Research Environment

(This section sets the ACU context and it is recommended that it be included):

Paragraph 1:

The Australian Catholic University is undergoing significant research transformation and intensification. The research budget of the university has increased substantially in recent years. This has been accompanied by the recruitment of high profile researchers across a number of disciplines that are aligned with the university mission and core strengths. ACU is providing significant funding to newly established research Institutes: in the last 18 months seven new Institutes have been established all led by Directors and Centre leaders of international standing and repute. This has been accompanied by the appointment of high profile researchers, postdoctoral fellows and PhD scholars. The allocation of internal research funding has also been revised with funding allocated to support research excellence and mission. Consequently, the profile of research active staff at the university is undergoing radical change, and is being accompanied by a dramatic cultural shift across the university. Together, these strategies are making a significant contribution to building intellectually vigorous research environments as well as critical mass in areas that are important for the university.

Paragraph 2:

This section is about you and your Group/ Centre/ Discipline/Program. You need to spend considerable time on this paragraph making the following points where possible:

1. This project falls under the targeted area of **{list the relevant area of research concentration – Theology & Philosophy; Health; Education or Common Good and Social Justice or a**

combination if applicable} and will benefit from the focus by ACU on bringing high quality researchers to support this area.

2. The National/international status of your group. Are the staff well-known? What has been their impact? What are their h indices? Average citations? Or average number of publications in journals ranked A*/A (using whatever ranking system works for you). You should mention any 0.4 appointments who are part of your centre or group, especially as these are usually very prominent in their field, and especially if their work is aligned with yours.
3. What funding comes to your group from either ACU or other external (category 1 preferably) sources? List numbers of ARC grant holders e.g Discovery Grants, Linkage Grants, DECRA's, Future Fellows.
4. An ERA ranking of 3 or higher can be referred to if you wish (only 2103 or 2204), but in our view is secondary to the status and impact of group members.
5. What is the growth in PhD numbers for your group? Describe your seminar series and the visitors who come to the group.
6. State that your research environment is highly productive, collegial, multi-disciplinary, supportive of senior and junior staff etc.
7. Finally, but equally important, describe your external environment. Who are your international or other prominent national collaborators?

Research Environment at the Partner Organisation(s)

Describe the Research Environment at the Partner Organisations(s)