

**From:** [Snejina Michailova](#)  
**To:** [Business School Staff](#)  
**Cc:** [Associate Deans Research](#)  
**Subject:** ADR Update #8: Research Translation Awards, Research Analytics, ECRC and MCR updates, Visiting Scholar Programme, Horizon Europe, etc.  
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### **2024 Aotearoa Business and Economics Research Translation Awards**

Congratulations to Dr Johnny Chan (ISOM), who won the Mid-Career Researcher Award in the 2024 Aotearoa Business and Economics Research Translation Competition. His submission was entitled "Unmasking Online Hate: How AI Helps Spot Hidden Toxicity". The celebration took place 25 October at the University of Canterbury (UC). All eight business schools in New Zealand participated in the competition that aims to recognise New Zealand Business School researchers who communicate complex business and economics research to the public in accessible language. A panel of current and past Associate Deans Research discussed research translation and impact at the awards event.

We will continue to strongly support the initiative in 2025. Once the eight Associate Deans Research have decided which Business School will take the lead next year, I will let you know. So far, we have led three times and AUT and UC each once. Information about the last year's competition is available [here](#).

### **Research Analytics**

A Business School team has been working on automating data collection and visualisation of our journal articles publishing performance over the last 20 years. The aggregation of data that is publicly available via Discovery Profiles and Google Scholar accounts is presented 'live' in several Power BI dashboards and Gephi network visualisations. This allows us to see how we, as a Business School, have been and are performing in terms of publishing journal articles and how we are domestically and internationally connected in this regard. The automation enables the visualisation of aggregate performance across rankings (e.g., ABDC, FT50, UTD24) and can be distilled down to departments and disciplinary areas. These analytics help us answer questions, such as 'What journals are our researchers prioritising when submitting their work?', 'What publication trends do we observe?', 'Do A\* journal articles get cited more often?', etc. The Research Analytics project enhances transparency and offers hard evidence that can inform many of our research-related decisions about prioritising research initiatives, research funding, etc.

The Research Analytics group has so far presented this work to part of the Executive Team (Dean, Deputy Deans, and HoDs), the Faculty Research Committee, the team that coordinated the preparation of accreditation documents, and the Disciplinary Area Leads. The discussions at these meetings have led to ongoing platform improvement. The group currently focuses on investigating whether/how we can extend the automation to possibly also include the publication of books, book chapters, and conference papers. The team will take the opportunity to present its work widely to the Business School.

### **From the Early Career Researchers Committee**

At our 7<sup>th</sup> Early Career Researchers (ECRs) Symposium, we interacted with representatives from some of the Research Centres and Research Beacons. Together with Dr Lisa Callagher (MIB) and Dr Alan Toy (ComLaw), both from the MCR Taskforce, we explored ways to establish a scholarly identity in all facets of our portfolios. We also hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> off-site annual writing retreat in October. 12 ECRs from various departments attended, with Prof Michael Myers offering valuable insights on publication strategies for high-impact journals. We had 14 colleagues on our waiting list to attend the writing retreat, so the interest in this has grown.

The ECRC has teamed up with colleagues across the Science, Arts, Engineering, Law, and Medical and Health Sciences faculties to cultivate cross-faculty, interdisciplinary collaborations in an Emerging Researchers Network. We plan to host our first welcoming event in February next year.

### **From the MCR Taskforce**

9 mid-career researchers (MCRs) attended the MCR off-site writing retreat in August. All participants made excellent progress with their research, and some new research collaborations were formed. The opportunity to write in a conducive setting was greatly appreciated and the overall feedback was highly positive.

The MCR Taskforce is making the most of the last couple of months of 2024:

- With Dr Yat Ming Ooi (MIB), we are hosting a half-day workshop on 6 November about "Sustaining Academic Excellence: Impact and Career Growth for Mid-Career Researchers". This is an interactive session with [Prof Anne-Laure Mention](#) who leads the Horizons 2020 OpenInnoTrain Project and Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Scheme. If you are curious about enhancing your research impact or how schemes like Horizon Europe support MCRs' aspirations, please register for this workshop via the invite in your calendar sent out 17 October.
- Cohort #2 of the MCR Development Programme (funded by the Research and Integrity Office (RIO) and the Business School) completes its 4<sup>th</sup> and final workshop 13 November. The first two workshops addressed the topics of wellbeing

and aligning teaching and research at the mid-career stage. They were co-facilitated by [Assoc Prof Roger Booth](#) (Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, UoA) and [Prof Danna Greenberg](#) (Associate Dean of Faculty, Babson College) who are international experts in their respective fields. The 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop focused on service and citizenship at the mid-career stage. 18 Business School MCRs are participants in the 2024 Programme, and we are working on the 2025 edition. For more information you can contact [Dr Lisa Callagher](#).

- We are working on a schedule of activities for 2025. Please contact any MCR taskforce member if you are hosting colleagues interested to engage on MCR-related matters. The Taskforce members currently are Drs [Alan Toy](#), [Shahper Richter](#), [Fred Ng](#), [Diandian Ma](#), and [Lisa Callagher](#).

#### **Visiting Scholars Programme: Plans for 2025**

The Business School Visiting Scholars Programme has taken-off. The Faculty Research Committee (FRC) has so far considered 5 applications and funded 3. As the interest in this scheme is growing, the Committee decided at its meeting yesterday that the Programme will continue in 2025.

In the next ADR Update I will provide all details, but here is a summary of the key changes we will implement next year. There will be two competitive funding rounds – 1 March and 1 September. The March deadline is for visits planned during the year of application; the September one is for visits planned to take place in the first half of 2026. Visits of 3-4 weeks (but no less) will be considered; applicants will need to consider additional alternative funding if they opt for longer visits. The visits need to be relevant to researchers beyond a single department and be carefully planned with clearly specified intended research outputs as well as other activities (joint grant writing, research seminars, guest lectures, etc.). We encourage interested applicants to talk with their departmental FRC representative.

#### **Horizon Europe Updates**

25% of Horizon Europe bids that involve NZ Institutions have been successful since NZ became an associated country in Pillar 2 in 2023. A number of these include social sciences disciplines. The official launch of new funding calls for 2025 will be early next year, with calls scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year. The '[Forecast Priorities by Thematic Cluster](#)' [document](#) identifies likely themes and focus areas.

If interested, now is critical time to explore networks and build/utilise relationships with potential collaborators for future calls. Here are a few ideas on how to do this:

- Register on the [Horizon Europe website](#)
- Make yourself findable by adding keywords and "Horizon Europe" to your Discovery Profile (and update your ORCID profile)
- Create a 1–2-page promo sheet for your group that you can share with possible collaborators
- Find research groups with track records of Horizon Europe funding
- Join a Horizon Europe or other collaboration network (e.g. crowdhelix.com)
- Contact your local cluster [National Contact Point](#)

Please direct any questions to [international.research@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:international.research@auckland.ac.nz)

#### **Finance year-end**

We are doing well in terms of financial discipline in our research spending. It is, however, imperative to continue to do so for the rest of this year in relation to research expenditure for RDF contestable projects, departmental RDF allocations, Research Centres RDF support initiatives, and other RDF non-contestable funds approved in 2024 (including research assistance, editing services, open access, and the visiting scholars programme). Recipients of this year's funding are urged to reconcile any outstanding expenses promptly, including casual staff timesheets. The deadline for making purchases and submitting invoices for payment is 12 December. Post this date, expenditures may not be processed in time to be charged to the 2024 budget. All approved funding is strictly for expenses incurred within 2024 and cannot be claimed in 2025. If, for any reason, you are no longer using the amount awarded (only for RDF non-contestable initiatives), please contact [Juan](#) asap. In that way, we can reallocate funding towards other research-related initiatives.

#### **University Research Funding team – Visit to the Business School (details below)**

The Research Funding Team from RIO will be presenting an overview of the Spencer Foundation. The presentation will highlight key funding opportunities, including the Field-Initiated Research Programmes and the new Transformative Grant Programme, designed to support innovative and bold research projects on systematic changes. While the foundation is focused on education, researchers from a variety of disciplines – such as psychology, sociology, economics, business, and others – are encouraged to apply as long as their work contributes to understanding and/or improving education. The Research Funding Team will also offer practical insights on constructing a successful Spencer proposal, share reviewer feedback, and guide attendees through the Spencer Foundation's portal and budget-building process. This will provide valuable knowledge for researchers interested in applying for Spencer funding, noting the accessibility of these opportunities to a broad range of disciplines.

The team will also offer insights about other international schemes and support offered at the central level primarily targeted to the Business School research. If you are interested to attend, please contact [Juan](#). He will send you the calendar invitation.

#### **Upcoming research events and deadlines**

5 November 9 am – 4 pm: Unlocking Research Impact Workshop for PhDs and ECRs with Prof Anne-Laure Mention, RMIT University, Room 260 – 040B

6 November 9.30 am – 12.30 pm: Sustaining Academic Excellence: Impact and Career Growth for MCRs, Prof Anne-Laure Mention, RMIT University, Room 260-040B

7 November 1 – 2pm: Crafting and Implementing Impact Narratives: Lessons from Horizon Europe Research Programmes, Prof Anne-Laure Mention, RMIT University; hosted by Europe Institute and FRC. Room 260-005. Register [here](#)

13 November 11 am – 12 pm: University Research Funding team, Room 260-6115.

19 November 10 am – 12 pm: Media Training Session for Academics. Register [here](#).

19 November 2.30 – 4 pm: AI in Health Research Workshop. Register [here](#).

29 November: [Global Research Engagement Fund](#), \$10,000 to \$25,000 to support applicants working towards a pre-identified collaboration or funding opportunity to develop new and emerging research partnerships with international collaborators.

Take good care,  
Snejina

This Update is intended to keep University of Auckland Business School staff informed about research developments, news, events, and funding opportunities. The Update has been issued since 2018. You can view editions from 2022 onwards on the [Research section of the Business School internet pages](#).