



Research Block Grants

Introduction

As part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda, announced in 2016, the Australian Government implemented changes to research block grant (RBG) arrangements. The new programs are effective from 1 January 2017 and are designed to drive greater research-industry engagement by substantially boosting incentives for collaboration with business and organisations which use the outcomes of research.

From 2017, RBGs will comprise two new streamlined programs:

- **The Research Training Program (RTP)** that replaces three current programs - Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA), International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS), and the Research Training Scheme (RTS)
- **The Research Support Program (RSP)** that replaces three current programs - Joint Research Engagement (JRE), Research Infrastructure Block Grants (RIBG) and Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE).

The RTP scheme will support domestic and overseas students undertaking higher degrees by research (HDR) while the RSP will support the systemic cost of research for universities.

The changes are in response to a number of recommendations from the 2015 Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements, and the Review of Australia's Research Training System.

The new programs provide more flexibility in the duration and level of support for HDR student scholarships, enhance incentives for greater end-user engagement, and boost the incentives for HDR completions by Indigenous students.

Universities receive a single annual grant amount for each RBG program driven entirely by their performance compared to the national share of research income and HDR student completions. The Government announces the next year's grant amounts each December.

The Government uses data collected in Higher Education Data Collections to calculate each institution's national share. Research income data is collected through the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC), and HDR student completions is collected through the Higher Education Student Data Collection (HESDC).

The allocation takes into account a rolling average of a University's performance over a two year period, with a two year lag before funding is allocated due to the statutory reporting timeframes for research metrics. For example, 2017 RBG allocations reflect 2014-2015 performance, 2018 RBG allocations will reflect 2015-2016 performance, and so on.

Internal Faculty Distribution

The University of Adelaide's internal distribution of the RBGs to Faculties follows the same formula as the Government's Allocation Calculation, so each Faculty is allocated funding on an as earned basis and receives a share of RBG funding using a rolling average of the last two years of available research income and HDR Completions data. This allows Faculties to benefit from the share of RBGs they contributed to according to their individual performance.

Research Support Program (RSP)

The Research Support Program (RSP) provides block grants, on a calendar year basis, to Universities to support the systemic costs of research not supported directly through competitive and other grants.

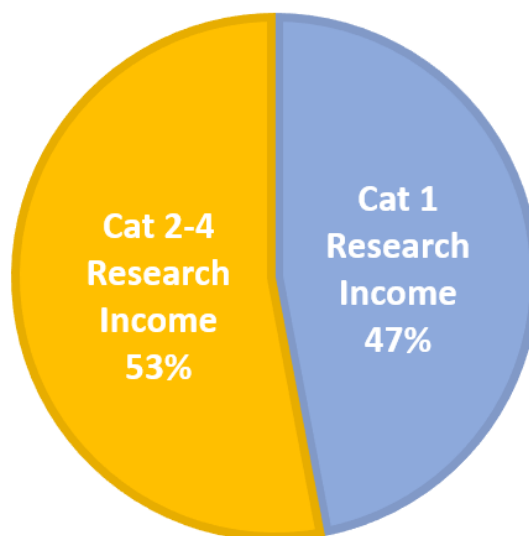
The objectives of the RSP are to:

- Provide a flexible funding stream to support the systemic costs of research by Universities, including the indirect costs of Australian competitive grant research
- Support the delivery of world class research
- Support collaboration between Universities and industry and other research end-users.

Allocation Calculation

The allocation formula for each Institution is:

- 47% Category 1 Research Income**
- 53% Category 2-4 Research Income**



The allocation takes into account a rolling average of a University's performance over a two year period, with a two year lag before funding is allocated due to the statutory reporting timeframes for research metrics. For example, average research income for the years 2015 and 2016 will drive a University's funding in the year 2018, research income from 2016 and 2017 will contribute to funding in 2019, and so on. Once the University's national share is calculated, this share is applied to the total pool of funding to estimate the institution's allocation.

Research Training Program (RTP)

The Research Training Program (RTP) provides block grants, on a calendar year basis, to Universities to support both domestic and overseas students undertaking HDRs.

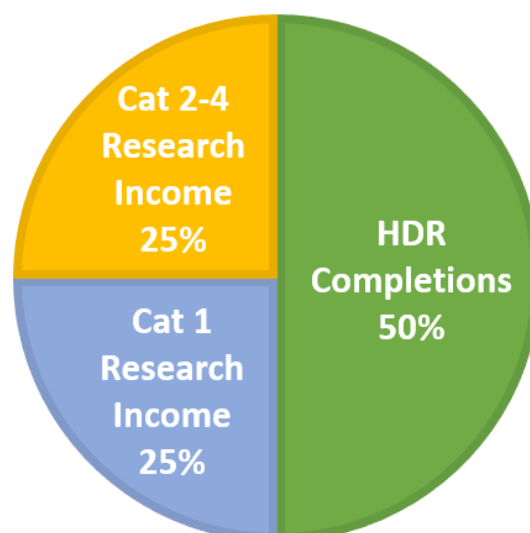
The objectives of the RTP scheme are to:

- Provide flexible funding arrangements to support the training of domestic and overseas students undertaking HDRs
- Deliver graduates with the skills required to build careers in academia and other sectors of the labour market
- Support collaboration between Universities and industry and other research end-users
- Support overseas students undertaking HDR studies at Australian Universities

Allocation Calculation

The allocation formula for each Institution is:

- 50% Weighted HDR completions**
- 25% Category 1 Research Income**
- 25% Category 2-4 Research Income**



HDR Completions are weighted by level of course (ie Doctorate or Masters Degree by research) and/or by course cost (ie whether the course is identified as a high cost course or a low cost course). The allocation takes into account a rolling average of a University's performance over a two year period, with a two year lag before funding is allocated due to the statutory reporting timeframes for research metrics. For example, average HDR completions over the years 2015 and 2016 drive a University's funding in the year 2018, HDR completions from 2016 and 2017 will contribute to funding in 2019, and so on. Once the University's national share is calculated, this share is applied to the total pool of funding to estimate the institution's allocation.