

# 2023 RESEARCH QUALITY ASSURANCE

In 2023, the University conducted a research quality assurance exercise to monitor the effectiveness of its research plans, and to measure the extent to which research meets the world standard threshold in the fields of education in which we teach. The research quality assurance exercise encompasses internal assessments of the quality of the research outcomes completed by the Faculties of Bond University as well as external reviews conducted by independent expert assessors.

The quality of research at Bond was last externally assessed as part of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Excellence in Research for Australia Assessment (ERA) 2018. This historical assessment has limited current relevance as it relates to research outcomes during the reference period 2011 – 2016. Bond University has implemented many research improvement initiatives since that time. Our research plans have included strategies to recruit and retain talented researchers, develop research capacity and introduction of research quality assurance policies and processes to further enhance research performance. These initiatives have resulted in significant improvements in research outcomes across all areas of the University. For example, in 2023 more than 65% of Bond research was published in the top quartile of research journals in the world. Bond was well prepared for the intended 2023 ERA and was anticipating favourable assessments. Unfortunately, the intended 2023 was cancelled, and the ARC has not yet firmly committed to the nature and timing of future nationwide assessments. In the absence of an external review process, such as the ERA, the University must provide other verifiable evidence of the quality of the research we conduct.

The methodology employed for the Research Quality Assurance Exercise is based on the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) methodology, incorporating the same length of timeframes, research metrics and independent expert reviews.

## Results

Bond University conducts research across ten of the broad fields of research (FORs) set out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The research outcomes for six of those FORs have been assessed by the responsible Bond University Faculty as well as an independent external expert for each FOR. The results of those assessments are that the research outcomes for four of the FORs are rated as being 'above world standard', and that the research outcomes for two of the FORs are rated by the independent experts as being 'at world standard'. The remaining four FORs were not assessed because Bond does not conduct material volumes of research in these areas, so it is not possible to reasonably rate the research. These results indicate that our strategy of focusing on areas of strength and our research plans have been successful in improving the overall research outcomes for the University.

*Table 1 presents a comparison of Bond's 2018 ERA results to our 2023 quality assurance assessment.*

## Alignment with teaching

Bond University delivers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in six broad fields of education (FOE). Nine of the FORs for Bond research map to those six FOEs. The assessed ratings of research outcomes for six of the nine FORs indicate that Bond has 'above world standard' research supporting four of the FOEs and 'at world standard' research supporting one FOE. The results, presented in Table 2, support the conclusion that Bond University conducts at least 'world standard' research in support of five of the six FOEs in which we teach. This means that 96% of the students at Bond University are enrolled in the five fields of education that are supported by 'world standard' or better research outcomes. These results indicate that the University research outcomes have well exceeded the TEQSA threshold standards minimum benchmark of 50%.

**Table 1: Comparison of Bond's 2018 ERA results to 2023 Quality Assurance Assessment**

\* The 2018 comparison results are notional because the FOR codes have changed.

2020 FOR Code Description		2018 Notional*	2023 Research Quality Assurance Result
<b>Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine</b>			
32	Biomedical and Clinical Sciences	4	4
42	Health Sciences	4	4
<b>Bond Business School</b>			
35	Commerce, Management, Tourism and Services	2	4
<b>Faculty of Society and Design</b>			
33	Built Environment and Design	2	4
44	Human Society	1	Not Assessed
52	Psychology	2	3
36	Creative Arts and Writing	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
47	Language, Communication and Culture	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
<b>Faculty of Law</b>			
48	Law and Legal Studies	3	3
<b>Not Faculty Specific</b>			
39	Education	1	Not Assessed

**Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2018 Rating Descriptors**

Rating	Descriptor
5	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of outstanding performance <b>well above world standard</b> presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
4	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance <b>above world standard</b> presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
3	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of average performance <b>at world standard</b> presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
2	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance <b>below world standard</b> presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
1	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance <b>well below world standard</b> presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.

**Table 2: Summary of Bond University 2023 Research Quality Assurance Findings**

Fields of Education in which Bond Teaches	Percentage of Students within FOE	Field of Research in which Bond conducts research	Independent Assessment	Broad Field of Education Assessment
<b>06 HEALTH</b>	<b>33%</b>			<b>Above World Standard</b>
0601 Medical Studies		32 – BIOMEDICAL AND CLINICAL SCIENCES	Above World Standard	
0617 Rehabilitation Therapies 0699 Other Health		42 – HEALTH SCIENCES	Above World Standard	
<b>01 Natural and Physical Sciences</b>	<b>5%</b>			<b>Above World Standard</b>
0199 Other Physical Sciences		32 – BIOMEDICAL AND CLINICAL SCIENCES #	Above World Standard	
<b>04 Architecture and Building</b>	<b>8%</b>			<b>Above World Standard</b>
0401 Architecture and Urban Environment 0403 Building		33 – BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN)	Above World Standard	
<b>08 Management and Commerce</b>	<b>24%</b>			<b>Above World Standard</b>
0801 Accounting 0803 Business and Management 0805 Sales and Marketing 0811 Banking, Finance and Related Fields 0899 Other Management and Commerce		35 - COMMERCE, MANAGEMENT, TOURISM AND SERVICES	Above World Standard	
<b>09 Society and Culture</b>	<b>31%</b>			<b>At World Standard</b>
0901 Political Science and Policy Studies 0903 Studies in Human Society 0915 Language and Literature 0911 Justice and Law Enforcement 0999 Other Society and Culture		44 – HUMAN SOCIETY	Not Assessed	
0909 Law		48 – LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES	At World Standard	
0907 Behavioural Science		52 – PSYCHOLOGY	At World Standard	
<b>10 Creative Arts</b>	<b>4%</b>			<b>Not Assessed</b>
1007 Communication and Media Studies		36 – CREATIVE ARTS AND WRITING	Not Assessed	
		47 – LANGUAGE, COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE	Not Assessed	