



Calculating Research Support Program grant amounts for 2022, 2023 and 2024 grant years

This document provides practical guidance on how Research Support Program grant amounts for 2022, 2023 and 2024 grant years are calculated as set out in the [Other Grants Guidelines \(Research\) 2017](#)

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Overview

For the 2022, 2023 and 2024 grant years, funding for the Research Support Program (RSP) is allocated based on the relative performance of higher education providers (HEPs) in earning research income.

The RSP allocations are calculated in the following stages:

1. Calculating a HEP's percentage share of competitive and engagement income.
2. Calculating a HEP's base grant amount.
3. Applying rounding to calculate a HEP's final RSP grant amount.

Data used

Research Income

Research income collected as part of the [Higher Education Research Data Collection](#) (HERDC) comprises two categories for the purposes of calculating RSP:

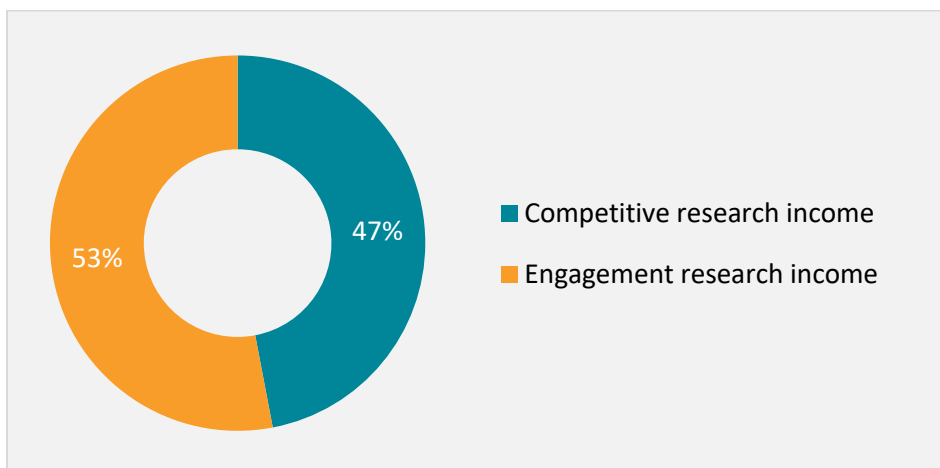
1. **Competitive income** – the amount of research income classified as Category 1 in HERDC.
2. **Engagement income** – the amount of research income classified as Categories 2, 3 and 4 in HERDC.

Funding drivers

A HEP's base grant amount is based on its share of each funding driver relative to other HEPs. Each funding driver accounts for a proportion of the overall RSP funding pool.

The base grant amount is comprised of 2 funding drivers:

1. **Competitive research income** – 47%
2. **Engagement research income** – 53%



Part 1: Calculating a HEP's percentage share of competitive and engagement income

Calculation steps

Step 1 - For each grant year, a HEP's share of COMPETITIVE income is calculated by the sum of that HEP's Category 1 income for the two most recent years divided by the sum of Category 1 income for all eligible HEPs for the two most recent years of data. For example, if the grant year is 2024, Category 1 income data from 2021 and 2022 (the two most recent years) will be used to calculate the share.

Step 2 - For each grant year, a HEP's share of ENGAGEMENT income is calculated by the sum of that HEP's Category 2, 3 and 4 income for the two most recent years divided by the sum of Category 2, 3 and 4 income for all eligible HEPs for the two most recent years of data.

Working example

Where the HEP has research income in the two most recent years comprising:

- Competitive income: \$36,000,000 and \$44,000,000
- Engagement income: \$30,000,000 and \$40,000,000

And the total research income for all eligible HEPs in the two most recent years is:

- Competitive income: \$1,900,000,000 and \$2,100,000,000
- Engagement income: \$3,400,000,000 and \$3,600,000,000

Step 1 – calculate the HEP's share of COMPETITIVE income

$$\begin{aligned} \text{COMPETITIVE share for a HEP} &= \frac{(\$36,000,000 + \$44,000,000)}{(\$1,900,000,000 + \$2,100,000,000)} \\ &= \frac{\$80,000,000}{\$4,000,000,000} \\ &= 2\% \text{ share} \end{aligned}$$

Step 2 – calculate the HEP's share of ENGAGEMENT income

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ENGAGEMENT share for a HEP} &= \frac{(\$30,000,000 + \$40,000,000)}{(\$3,400,000,000 + \$3,600,000,000)} \\ &= \frac{\$70,000,000}{\$7,000,000,000} \\ &= 1\% \text{ share} \end{aligned}$$



Part 2: Calculating a HEP's base grant amount

Calculation steps

Step 1 - A HEP's competitive component is calculated by multiplying 47 per cent of the RSP funding pool by the HEP's share of COMPETITIVE income.

Step 2 - A HEP's engagement component is calculated by multiplying 53 per cent of the RSP funding pool by the HEP's share of ENGAGEMENT income.

Step 3 - These two amounts are added together to determine a HEP's base grant amount.



Working example

Step 1 – calculate the HEP's competitive component where the total RSP funding pool is \$1,000,000,000

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{HEP competitive component} &= 47\% \times \$1,000,000,000 \times \text{COMPETITIVE share} \\
 &= 47\% \times \$1,000,000,000 \times 2\% \\
 &= \$470,000,000 \times 2\% \\
 &= \$9,400,000
 \end{aligned}$$

Step 2 – calculate the HEP's engagement component where the total RSP funding pool is \$1,000,000,000

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{HEP engagement component} &= 53\% \times \$1,000,000,000 \times \text{ENGAGEMENT share} \\
 &= 53\% \times \$1,000,000,000 \times 1\% \\
 &= \$530,000,000 \times 1\% \\
 &= \$5,300,000
 \end{aligned}$$

Step 3 – calculate the HEP's base grant amount

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{HEP base grant amount} &= \$9,400,000 + \$5,300,000 \\
 &= \$14,700,000
 \end{aligned}$$



Part 3: Applying rounding to calculate a HEP's RSP grant amount

The RSP grant amount is calculated by rounding down the base grant amount.

Calculation steps

Step 1 – The RSP base grant amount for each HEP is rounded down to the nearest dollar.

Step 2 – The rounded down RSP base grant amount is subtracted from the unrounded RSP base grant amount. The difference in cents between a HEP's rounded down and unrounded RSP base grant amount is its remainder. The sum of all remainders is the unallocated dollars.

Step 3 – Each HEP is ranked in descending order based on their remainder's closeness to 100 cents.

Step 4 – One dollar is assigned to each HEP's rounded RSP base grant amount in order of ranking until all unallocated dollars are exhausted. Each HEP's RSP grant amount is equal to the rounded down RSP base grant amount plus any whole dollars.

Working example

Where there are three HEPs with the following RSP base grant amounts:

- University A: \$8,250,000.61
- University B: \$7,500,000.92
- University C: \$5,750,000.47
- TOTAL: \$21,500,002.00

Step 1 – round the RSP base grant amount for each HEP down to the nearest dollar.

- University A: \$8,250,000.61 rounds down to \$8,250,000
- University B: \$7,500,000.92 rounds down to \$7,500,000
- University C: \$5,750,000.47 rounds down to \$5,750,000
- ROUNDED DOWN TOTAL: \$21,500,000.00

Step 2 – subtract the rounded down RSP base grant amount from the unrounded RSP base grant amount. The sum of all remainders is the unallocated dollars.

- University A: \$8,250,000.61 - \$8,250,000 = 0.61
- University B: \$7,500,000.92 - \$7,500,000 = 0.92
- University C: \$5,750,000.47 - \$5,750,000 = 0.47

Unallocated dollars = (0.61 + 0.92 + 0.47) = 2.00



Step 3 – rank HEPs in descending order based on their remainder’s closeness to 100 cents.

- University B: 92 cents
- University A: 61 cents
- University C: 47 cents

Step 4 – assign one dollar to each HEP’s rounded RSP base grant amount in order of ranking until all unallocated dollars are exhausted. Calculate each HEP’s RSP grant amount by adding the rounded down RSP base grant amount and any whole dollars assigned.

Assigned dollar:

- University B: \$1
- University A: \$1
- University C: \$0

Final RSP base grant amount:

- University A: $\$8,250,000 + \$1 = \$8,250,001.00$
- University B: $\$7,500,000 + \$1 = \$7,500,001.00$
- University C: $\$5,750,000 + \$0 = \$5,750,000.00$
- TOTAL: $\$21,500,002.00$

