

Research Classifications

FIELDS OF RESEARCH

(FoR)

Research within the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) is classified according to three descriptors:

- Type of Research;
- Fields of Research; and
- Socio-Economic Objective.

What is an FoR?

The FoR classification allows for research and development activity to be categorised according to common knowledge domains and/or methodologies used in the research and development activity. The categories in the classification include major fields and related sub-fields of research and emerging areas of study investigated by businesses, universities, tertiary institutions, national research institutions and other organisations.

How are FoR codes structured?

The FoR code is a hierarchical structure comprising three levels, at the broadest level are Divisions (2 digits), these represent subject areas or a research discipline. At the next level are Groups (4 digits), and finally Fields (6 digits) that allow the greatest level of refinement.

Level	Example
Division	40 Engineering
Group	4001 Aerospace Engineering
Field	400101 Aerospace materials

Guidelines for classifying by FoR

Use of the following general procedures is recommended to assist you with ensuring consistent and successful use of the classification. A research project or program is to be allocated to a FoR field in a hierarchical manner. This is achieved by:

- first determining the division in which the largest component of the research project or research program is being performed; then
- determining the most relevant group within that division; and then
- determining the most relevant field within that group.

If the project or program is sufficiently large or complex (in terms of research areas) then multiple fields should be selected and attributed with a proportion assigned. If the disaggregation is difficult, consideration of relative importance may indicate a primary field only (whether a specific or more general subject focus).

Where a defined field cannot be identified within a group for a research project or research program, the 'not elsewhere classified' category at the field level can be used, which is a code that always ends with "99".

ECU's [Research Activity System \(RAS\)](#) allows for the selection of up to three FoR codes at the four-digit level. If more than one FoR is selected, it will also be necessary to add appropriate percentage assignments. ECU's [Research Management System \(RMS\)](#) allows for the selection of multiple six-digit FoR codes.

Further information: <https://bit.ly/3dUFACs>

FoR Codes: <https://bit.ly/2WCCWvd>

FoRs - 2008 vs 2020 Codes: <https://bit.ly/3bXODDe>