



Category 1- Australian Competitive Research and Data Income Classification

Since July 2018, the Department of Education and Training has implemented a self-assessment system for universities to determine which of their Research & Experimental income can be classified as Category 1 – Australian Competitive Grant Income Higher Education Research Data Collection.

To be categorised as Category 1- Australian Competitive Research and Data Income, we must fulfil specific criteria, outlined in the *Higher Education Research Data Collection Specifications for the collection of 2020 data, November 2020*, found here: <https://www.dese.gov.au/research-block-grants/resources/higher-education-research-data-collection-specifications-collection-2020-data> These are addressed below.

1. Are the funds provided on a nationally competitive basis?

Yes, every application is rated and assessed against all applications for that grant type.

2. Are the funds for research?

Yes, all funds are directed towards research as specified in the signed *Letter of Acceptance* of offer by funding recipients.

3. Is the scheme nationally advertised and available to all Australian Universities/HEPs?

Yes, all of our funding opportunities are advertised on our website, grant portal, and via national mass email to the MS research community.

4. Does the scheme have a well-defined mechanism for

- **competition?**

Yes; we have publicly available selection criteria against which all funding applications are assessed. Our funding process includes publicly available rules stating how assessments are conducted including provisions to manage conflicts of interest which are binding on the selection panel. (See MS Australia Funding Process: <https://grants.msaustralia.org.au/protected/resource/eyJ0ZnJlljogMTAyMzYzNzkyLCAidnEiOiAxNzY2Njh9/>)

- **selection by a qualified panel?**

Yes; following external independent review (2-3 national and international experts in the field for all grants apart from postgraduate scholarships) the grants are assessed and scored by our Research Management Council, who are expert senior researchers within the fields of MS and neuroimmunology (including clinician-researchers across a range of specialties, including neurologists, immunopathologists, physiotherapists, psychologists) including representation of people living with MS. The RMC makes the final funding recommendation.

5. Are the funds provided through direct payment to the HEP?

Yes

In accordance with the criteria outlined above, all of MS Australia's grants are classified as Category-1 Australian Competitive Research and Data Income.

Further information on Category 1 classification can be found at <https://www.dese.gov.au/research-block-grants/selfassessed-australian-competitive-grant-income>