

ABDC Journal Quality List

2025 review report



ABDC JQL Review — March 2026

ABDC AUSTRALIAN
BUSINESS DEANS
COUNCIL

About the Australian Business Deans Council

The Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) is the collective voice of Australian business schools. We champion quality and impact in business education and research, driving excellence and innovation to benefit students, industry, and society.

The ABDC's 37-member business schools educate 16% of all domestic university students and 39% of international students.

As their peak body, ABDC's role is to ensure that those with political, social, cultural and economic influence appreciate and support the contribution that business education makes to Australia's future.

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Acknowledgements

The ABDC gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the Steering Committee and subject matter panels who oversaw the 2025 Journal Quality List (JQL) review.

The utilisation of peer assessment in addition to established, international journal metrics to identify quality outlets for the publication of business research sets the ABDC JQL apart. The ABDC thanks the academics across business and related disciplines who volunteered their time to contribute to the 2025 review.

In this exercise the steering committee and review panels were assisted by Bokyung Lee (Research Assistant) and Caroline Falshaw (ABDC Executive Officer), who provided secretariat, research and editorial support.

JQL Steering Committee

- Professor Noel Lindsay, University of Adelaide (ABDC President)
- Professor Tracy Taylor, RMIT University (BARsNet Chair)
- Professor Snejina Michailova, University of Auckland
- Ramin Bokaian, Chartered Association of Business Schools (CABS)
- Professor Andrew O’Neil, Australian Catholic University

JQL Review Panels

Panel name (FoR Code)	Panel
Accounting, auditing and accountability (3501)	<p>Panel Chair: Professor Greg Shailer, Australian National University</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Mandy Cheng, University of New South Wales • Professor Gary Biddle, University of Melbourne • Professor Hadrian Djajadikerta, Curtin University
Finance including actuarial studies (3502)	<p>Panel Chair: Professor Jerry Parwada, University of New South Wales</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Henk Berkman, University of Auckland • Professor Eliza Wu, Sydney University
Business systems in context, commercial services, transportation, logistics and supply chains (3503, 3504, 3509)	<p>Panel Chair: Professor John Nelson, University of Sydney</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assoc. Professor Bo Du, Griffith University • Assoc. Professor Pierre van der Eng, Australian National University • Assoc. Professor Hassan Gholipour Fereidouni, Western Sydney University • Professor Dayna Simpson, Monash University
Human resources and industrial relations (3505)	<p>Panel Chair: Professor David Fan, RMIT University</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assoc. Professor Nikola Balnave, Macquarie University • Professor Kerry Brown, Edith Cowan University • Professor Jimmy Donaghey, Adelaide University • Professor Kate Hutchings, Griffith University
Marketing (3506)	<p>Panel Chair: Professor Sharon Purchase, University of Western Australia</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Sean Sands, Swinburne University of Technology • Assoc. Professor Park Thaichon, University of Southern Queensland

Panel name (FoR Code)	Panel
Strategy, management and organisational behaviour (3507)	<p>Panel Chair: Professor Peter Galvin, Edith Cowan University</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Heath McDonald, RMIT University • Professor Hussain Rammal, Adelaide University • Assoc. Professor Vanessa Ratten, La Trobe University • Professor Keith Townsend, Griffith University • Professor Sarah Wright, University of Canterbury
Tourism and other commerce (3508, 3599)	<p>Panel Chair: Professor Marianna Sigala, University of Newcastle</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assoc. Professor William Cheung, University of Auckland • Professor S. Mostafa Rasoolimanesh, Edith Cowan University • Dr Aaron Tham, University of the Sunshine Coast
Economics including statistics (3801, 3802, 3803, 3899, 4905)	<p>Panel Chair: Professor Pushkar Maitra, Monash University</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assoc. Professor Elena Capatina, Australian National University • Professor Mark Harris, Curtin University • Professor Alfredo Paloyo, University of Wollongong • Professor Ronald Peeters, University of Otago
Information Systems (4609)	<p>Panel Chair: Professor Julia Kotlarsky, University of Auckland</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Babak Abedin, Macquarie University • Professor Sabine Matook, University of Queensland • Assoc. Professor Mary Tate, Victoria University of Wellington
Business and taxation law (4801)	<p>Panel Chair: Professor Dale Pinto, Curtin University</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Adrian Sawyer, University of Canterbury • Assoc. Professor Sonali Walpola, Australian National University • Assoc. Professor Yan Xu, University of New South Wales

Introduction

The first ABDC Journal Quality List (JQL) was released in 2008. In establishing a Journal Quality List, the ABDC provided an evidence-informed guide about the quality of scholarly journals relevant to business-related disciplines in Australia and New Zealand, at a time when metrics were not widely available.

The ABDC JQL was subsequently reviewed in 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2022. Underpinning each review is the assessment of journals by scholarly peers and expert input, in conjunction with established metrics.

While the ABDC JQL is globally recognised, it is fundamentally a resource developed by and for the Australian and New Zealand scholarly community. This is reflected in the classification of journals by field of research (FoR) codes established by the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC), and the inclusion of titles with regional relevance.

The ABDC JQL should be used responsibly and is not designed to be the singular voice about the quality of journals listed. The JQL considers the ever-changing nature of journals in the business and management domains and associated disciplines, and thus undertakes regular assessments, such as this 2025 review, to maintain its relevance and rigour.

Guiding principles

A key determinant of the credibility of the ABDC Journal Quality List is the principled approach taken to the inclusion and exclusion of journals and the determination of ratings by experts. Under the review Terms of Reference, panels were expected to adhere to the following principles in their deliberations:

- **Transparency** — Recommendations and decisions will be made in accordance with the agreed process and method outlined in these terms of reference. Expert panels report on their process of deliberations and the rationale for recommendations.
- **Consistency** — Recommendations and decisions will have methodological consistency informed by globally recognised and externally validated journal ranking lists, appropriate and select citations metrics and, expert peer review when required.
- **External validation** — The recommendations of the expert panels will be externally validated by the ABDC JQL Steering Group, which will include an international advisor. The international advisor will be a recognised academic not formally affiliated with any Australian or New Zealand universities.
- **Stability** — The 2022 JQL is accepted as a strong foundation for undertaking the 2025 review.

Aims of the 2025 JQL review

Following the interim review undertaken in 2022, the 2025 review represents a full evaluation of the ABDC JQL, the first since 2019. The scope of this review extends beyond adjustments to journal rankings to include the addition and removal of titles, making it a comprehensive assessment. Expert panels, each aligned with the relevant FoRs, were convened to:

- Revise the rankings of currently listed journals;
- Include new, relevant, refereed journals, including those in business education, interdisciplinary domains, and practitioner-focused outlets;
- Exclude non-relevant or low-quality journals;
- Remove likely predatory or overly aggressive journals;
- Amend FoR classifications for listed journals;
- Update journal details such as titles and publishers where applicable.

Journal rankings defined

Panel recommendations considered the following percentage thresholds, which provided a general guide on judgments in each discipline, while at the same time ensuring a degree of consistency across the panels in outcomes:

- **A***: the highest quality category, representing the top 5–7% of the journals assigned to an individual FoR. These are journals that are internationally recognised as exemplars of excellence in their FoR.
- **A**: the second highest quality category, representing the next 15–25% of the journals assigned to an individual FoR. These are journals that have among the highest citation metrics within their FoR.
- **B**: the third highest quality category, representing approximately the next 35–40% of the journals assigned to an individual FoR. These are journals with good to excellent metrics and reputation.
- **C**: the fourth highest quality category, representing the remaining recognised quality journals assigned to an individual FoR. This may include excellent practitioner-oriented journals.
- **Unrated and/or unlisted journals**: There will be a range of relevant journals deemed not to reach the quality threshold level and therefore not included in JQL. These will include predatory/illegitimate outlets.

Substantive business element

In addition to quality indicators, the key criteria for adding journals to the JQL is that they contain a substantive business element.

In the submission process, the substantive business element will need to be evidenced by > 50% of articles over three years written by business and management faculty, or > 50% of articles over three years being of a business or management nature.

Where a journal has been in existence for < three years, the substantive business and management element test applies to the time of the journal's existence.

FoR codes

Journals that are relevant to more than one FoR code are assigned a FoR code in a custodian role. For example, while the journal Accounting and Finance is highly relevant to both 3501 Accounting and 3502 Finance; the accounting panel is deemed the custodian of this journal.

Submissions made about journals already ranked by the ABDC were assigned to the expert panels according to the FoRs identified in the 2022 list.

For journals not already ranked, submitters were asked to nominate a FoR for the relevant panel to consider. In some cases, there was negotiation between panels regarding FoR allocation.

Method

To support the evaluation of each FoR code, a research assistant supplied the necessary datasets. First, each panel received a comprehensive compilation of journal ranking information, including:

- Harzing's List of Lists, incorporating VHB 2024, EIJ 2024, AJG 2024, META 2023, FNEGE 2022, HCRES 2021, DEN 2021, CNRS 2020, and FT 2016, to facilitate cross-referencing with major international journal rankings.

In addition, upon request, panels were provided with extended bibliometric indicators, including:

- Impact Factor, Impact Factor excluding self-citations, total number of articles published, H-index, SNIP, SJR, CiteScore, and other relevant metrics.

These indicators were sourced from Clarivate’s Journal Citation Reports (JCR), Elsevier’s Scopus Sources, SCImago Journal Rank (SJR), and the Chartered Association of Business Schools (CABS) Academic Journal Guide (AJG).

Stakeholder submissions

The ABDC opened an online submission process in April 2025. Submissions were invited from the following stakeholder groups:

- An ANZ business school or faculty deemed to have a legitimate interest in the disciplines covered by the ABDC JQL.
- A relevant peak body representing ANZ academics.
- An individual or group of like-minded academics with formal affiliation/s to universities based in ANZ.

Submissions received from stakeholders outside these groups were not considered.

Form	Valid submissions received
Form A: New journal submission	307
Form B: Rating change submission	649
Form C: Change of FoR	29

Panel assessment

Panel Chairs and members were formally appointed following an invitation for expressions of interest from business schools in Australia and New Zealand.

In constituting the review panels, the JQL Steering Committee and ABDC Executive Committee had regard to gender balance and geographic representation across Australia and New Zealand and across university groups.

Under the Terms of Reference, each review panel was required to:

- Meet a minimum of three times, and
- Consider the inclusion of business and management education, interdisciplinary, and practitioner journals that are relevant to the associated FoR(s).

The panels were also invited to consider:

- **Rankings across the FoR** — removing out-of-print, predatory, or irrelevant journals.
- **New journals** — publications less than three years old generally should not be included unless there is a compelling reason to do so.
- **Multidisciplinary journals** — opening channels for discussion between panels to ensure collaborative decision making.

Initial submissions closed on 28 May 2025. The expert panels were then given 12 weeks to determine recommendations. These recommendations were reviewed by the Steering Group. A process of cross-referencing and checking was undertaken to ensure that:

- FoRs were correctly allocated for each listed title.
- Out-of-print journals were identified and removed.
- Any anomalies, such as duplicate or inconsistent recommendations, were identified and remedied.

In January 2026 the ABDC released the draft recommendations for changes to the ABDC JQL. Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on any factual errors in the draft list.

The ABDC JQL Steering Group, comprising Australian and International advisors, reviewed the draft recommendations, and provided written reports on the 2025 ABDC JQL. Their task was to review the recommendations and identify any anomalies considering rankings across the list. The steering group took responsibility for the Journal Quality List recommendations submitted to the ABDC Executive Committee for final approval.

On 25 March 2026 the ABDC Executive Committee endorsed the 2025 Journal Quality List for release on 31 March 2026.

Outcomes

The 2025 review builds on previous reviews, with incremental changes made to the list:

- 120 titles are newly introduced
- 149 titles are removed
- 111 titles are upgraded
- 27 titles are downgraded
- 19 titles are reallocated to a better fitting FoR code

ABDC JQL rankings by FoR

FoR		Total titles	A*	A	B	C
3501	Accounting, auditing and accountability	149	14	32	43	60
3502	Banking, finance and investment	170	16	41	56	57
3503	Business systems in context	26	0	12	8	6
3504	Commercial services	87	2	17	37	31
3505	Human resources and industrial relations	102	6	30	37	29
3506	Marketing	149	11	38	57	43
3507	Strategy, management and organisational behaviour	410	48	96	129	137
3508	Tourism	72	6	17	26	23
3509	Transportation, logistics and supply chains	80	10	15	33	22
3599	Other commerce, management, tourism and services	189	10	70	68	41
3801	Applied economics	533	47	92	176	218
3802	Econometrics	32	8	6	7	11
3803	Economic history	32	5	8	10	9
3899	Other economics	106	0	7	27	72
4609	Information systems	127	11	33	36	48
4801	Commercial law	301	18	85	86	112
4905	Statistics	85	7	31	25	22

ABDC JQL rankings over time

List	Total journals	A* %	A %	B %	C %
2016	2,777	6.9	21.1	29	42.8
2019	2,681	7.4	24.3	31.7	36.6
2022	2,680	7.4	24.4	31.9	36.2
2025	2,652	8.3	23.7	32.5	35.5

Journal movement between ranks — new journals and upgrades

New → C	84	C → B	49	B → A	33	A → A*	26
New → B	26	C → A	1	B → A*	1		
New → A	10	C → A*	0				

Journal movement between ranks — Downgrades

A* → A	1	A → B	11	B → C	9
A* → B	0	A → C	4		
A* → C	2				

Conclusion

To view the 2025 JQL, please visit the ABDC website: <https://abdc.edu.au/abdc-journal-quality-list/>. The JQL page includes links to previous reviews, and a consolidated list with rankings from reviews dating to 2010.

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