


# Australia's research strength lays in science, according to first national assesment

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This week [THE](#) brings us the results of Australia's first ever national research assessment, which found research in the sciences stronger than in the humanities and social sciences.

The Excellence in Research for Australia ([ERA](#)) ranked biotechnology, earth sciences, physical sciences, chemical sciences, and environmental sciences as the top 5 fields of disciplines; history was the only humanities or social sciences discipline to crack the top 10. The national [report](#) outlines the indicators used; a mix of ranked outlets, citation analysis, research outputs, commercialization income and 'esteem measures,' however the executive director of the Australian Academy of the Humanities believes that the sciences drew more heavily on quantitative metrics while the social science s and humanities drew upon peer review, which generate 'generally more conservative' outcomes. The *Australian* newspaper has produced a league table based on an average of each university's scores, available [here](#).

Critics argue that the assessment and rankings [unfairly favour](#) the prestigious Group of 8 universities and is distorted by the much greater proportion of [funding](#) the Australian Research Council allocates to physical sciences

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