Call for Expressions of Interest (EoI)

National Computational Merit Allocation Scheme (NCMAS)

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Membership (2025–2028)

Introduction

The National Computational Merit Allocation Scheme (NCMAS) provides merit-based access to Australia's premier national supercomputing resources. These resources are available to researchers at Australian universities and publicly funded research agencies and are hosted at the major national computational facilities developed through significant Commonwealth Government investment via the NCRIS and Super Science initiatives. Operations are sustained through collaborations involving leading research universities and national agencies.

In 2026 round, resource allocations will be available at the two national peak computing facilities:

- **National Computational Infrastructure (NCI)**, based at The Australian National University, Canberra
- **Pawsey Supercomputing Research Centre**, based in Perth

Role of the NCMAS Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

All resource allocations under NCMAS are based on research merit and determined by an independent peer-review process conducted by the NCMAS Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). Secretariat services are provided jointly by NCI and Pawsey.

SAC members are appointed for a four-year term, comprising an initial two-year period with the possibility of renewal for an additional two years, subject to the outlined criteria. The Chair and Deputy Chair are appointed from within the SAC membership for a two-year term via the application process.

Applications are screened and final decisions made by the **NCMAS Executive Committee**, which includes the Chair and Deputy Chair of NCMAS, along with representatives from NCI and Pawsey.

Call for Expressions of Interest: NCMAS SAC Membership (2025–2028)

NCMAS is now inviting Expressions of Interest for SAC membership for the 2025–2028 term.

Current members who have served one two-year term are encouraged to express interest in serving a second term. To do so, please notify the NCMAS Secretariat at:

ncmas-secretariat@anu.edu.au

Call for New SAC Members (2025–2028)

We encourage applications from individuals who:

- Are well-positioned to contribute to the goals of the scheme
- Share the vision of Australia's national computational facilities and their co-investing partners to ensure equitable, merit-based access to world-class research infrastructure

Eligible applicants include qualified researchers in any computationally or data-intensive science or engineering discipline.

Priority in this NCMAS SAC EoI call will be given to expertise in the following ANZSRC 2020 Fields of Research:

- **4012: Fluid Mechanics and Thermal Engineering**
  - 401213: Turbulent flows
  - 401204: Computational methods in fluid flow, heat, and mass transfer (incl. computational fluid dynamics)
  - 401299: Other (not elsewhere classified)
- **5101: Astronomical Sciences**
  - 510109: Stellar astronomy and planetary systems
  - 510104: Galactic astronomy
  - 510103: Cosmology and extragalactic astronomy
- **3702: Climate Change Science**
  - 370201: Climate change processes
- **5104: Condensed Matter Physics**
  - 510403: Condensed matter modelling and density functional theory
- **3407: Theoretical and Computational Chemistry**
  - 340701: Computational chemistry

Diversity is important for NCMAS. Domain experts from underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

Note: SAC membership is honorary. Travel and accommodation for meetings will be covered by the scheme.

Application Requirements

Expressions of Interest must include:

1. A **curriculum vitae**, including a comprehensive list of publications and competitive grant funding
2. A **brief statement** (no more than one page) detailing relevant expertise aligned with the selection criteria. Please indicate the fields in which you are particularly well qualified to assess applications, preferably identified using ANZSRC 2020 4-digit group codes.

Submission deadline:

5:00 PM AEST, Friday, 5 September 2025

Send to: **ncmas-secretariat@anu.edu.au**

For further enquiries, contact NCMAS Secretariat: **ncmas-secretariat@anu.edu.au**

NCMAS SAC Chair:	Professor Julio Soria
NCMAS SAC Deputy Chair:	Professor Andrew Ooi

Selection Criteria

Expressions of Interest will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Research Excellence

- Quality and impact of research achievements, relative to opportunity
- Evidence of publications in high-impact journals
- Success in securing competitive research funding

2. Computational and/or Data-Intensive Expertise

- Demonstrated experience in relevant computational or data-intensive fields
- Proven track record in utilising large-scale computing or data infrastructure
- Experience in developing or implementing computational software (as appropriate)

3. Breadth of Experience

- Capacity to assess a wide range of scientific proposals, including outside one's primary discipline

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Committee Composition and Diversity

The SAC must collectively possess the breadth of expertise necessary to evaluate the full range of NCMAS applications. Selection will also aim to ensure diversity, including in gender, discipline and geographic representation.

Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

SAC members are permitted—and encouraged—to apply for NCMAS allocations. However, they must recuse themselves from assessing any applications:

- They are directly associated with (including those from their own research group)
- That involve recent collaborators (within the past five years)

All conflicts of interest must be declared when assessment tasks are assigned.

Members must treat all application materials and committee discussions as strictly confidential. To preserve the independence of the SAC, facility staff may advise the committee but may not serve as members.

NCMAS Allocation Assessment Criteria

The current Assessment Criteria are set out below and may be updated from time to time.

1. Project Quality and Innovation

- Research significance and originality
- Advancement of knowledge
- Potential contribution to national research priorities

2. Investigator Record

- Research performance relative to opportunity
- Publications, grants, recognition, and esteem indicators

3. Computational Feasibility

- Feasibility of the proposed work within the requested resources
- Demonstrated code scalability and system suitability
- Effective and efficient use of resources
- Relevant HPC experience

4. Benefit and Impact

- Potential for impactful outcomes and broad societal or economic benefits

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SAC Meetings

The NCMAS SAC convenes annually in-person, typically in **Canberra (NCI)**, though meetings may also be held in **Melbourne** or **Perth**, usually in **late November or early December**. Additional ad hoc meetings may be conducted via teleconference as required.