

The Early Career Researcher (ECR) committee for the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science (ARCCSS)

What is the ECR committee?

The ECR committee brings together one student and one postdoc from each node of the ARCCSS (i.e. UNSW, ANU, Monash, Unimelb, UTAS). As there are five nodes, a total of 10 members constitute the ECR committee at any one time. ECRs are defined as researchers currently undertaking postgraduate study or who are nominally 5 years post-PhD. The latter category takes into account career breaks, parental/carers' leave, and part time status. Committee members meet via video conference approximately every two months and a representative from the committee attends each chief investigator meeting of the Centre of Excellence (also with a frequency of two months). Members are expected to be actively involved in issues brought to the committee's attention and in projects assigned or adopted by the committee.

What does the ECR committee do for ECRs?

The ECR committee provides a platform for cross-institutional, *non-research* related discussions between the ECRs and between those ECRs and the executive committee of the ARCCSS. These may include matters relating to career development, social events, working arrangements, funding and extracurricular activities, just to name a few. The ECR committee provides a *formal communication channel* between ECRs and the executive committee of the ARCCSS. Thus, the ECR committee takes any concerns, suggestions or feedback to the ARCCSS executive committee, and vice versa, on a regular basis.

How does the ECR committee benefit committee members?

The standard duration of tenure on the ECR committee is one year. However, members may stay on longer if they choose particularly if no other ECRs at their node are eager to take their place. First and foremost the ECR committee provides its members a chance to represent their fellow ECRs on any issues that arise, ensuring that their time at the ARCCSS is as pleasant and productive as possible. It also provides its members leadership experience and insight into how the ARCCSS operates and into the issues involved in managing a research centre.