

International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board

Academic Research Advisory Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

June 2026

Introduction and Purpose

1. The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) has established an Academic Research Advisory Group to facilitate, support and strengthen the IAASB's relationship with the auditing and assurance research community.
2. The Academic Research Advisory Group will serve as a consultative forum to inform and support the IAASB's standard-setting activities and initiatives.
3. The Academic Research Advisory Group achieves this purpose by:
 - Advising the IAASB on current and emerging issues in auditing, assurance, related services, and quality management that are identifiable from academic research.
 - Facilitating direct engagement with academic researchers whose areas of work are of relevance to the IAASB.
 - Providing a forum for members of the academic community to share research findings, insights, expertise, and advice, related to future and ongoing IAASB projects and initiatives.
 - Assisting the IAASB in contacting academics to facilitate outreach.

Organizational Structure

Membership

4. The Academic Research Advisory Group will consist of approximately 12 volunteer members, drawn from leading academic and research associations and universities from a variety of geographical regions to ensure global representation.
5. Members are selected at the discretion of IAASB leadership, with attention given to areas of research expertise and methodological variety.
6. Members are appointed in their individual capacity and at meetings members are expected to express their individual views. Members are encouraged to reach out within their organizations and wider networks to inform their views shared at Academic Research Advisory Group meetings. Contributions will be valued for their academic rigor, independence, and relevance to implementation or practical challenges, or emerging areas or topics related to the IAASB remit. Because members serve in a personal capacity, substitutions are not accepted.

7. Members continue to serve on the Academic Research Advisory Group based on mutual agreement at the time of appointment, and at least annually thereafter, between IAASB leadership and the individual member.
8. The IAASB may, at its discretion, invite individuals or representatives of an organization to attend and participate in a specific meeting in which their contribution is useful to the topic under discussion.

Roles and Responsibilities

9. **Members:** Members will actively participate in meetings, consider different perspectives and contribute to a free exchange of ideas in a constructive manner. Members may provide input, share views and assist as contemplated in paragraph 3. Members may also encourage the involvement of the academic community on consultations issued by the IAASB, including by facilitating responses from the community to consultations. Members may also be requested to contribute to other matters related to IAASB projects, as appropriate.
10. **Staff:** IAASB Staff will moderate the discussions to meet the purpose of the Academic Research Advisory Group, as well as participate and contribute during meetings of the group. IAASB Staff will also provide administrative support, including organizing meetings, preparing agendas, and documenting discussions.
11. **Academic Research Advisory Group Board Member(s):** As well as participating and contributing during meetings of the group, the Board Member(s) will advise the Academic Research Advisory Group and IAASB Staff with respect to the activities of the group in meeting its purpose. The Board Member(s) will also serve as a liaison with other Board members, including providing or facilitating updates or presentations, as appropriate, at Board meetings.

Meetings and Exchange

12. The Academic Research Advisory Group will meet virtually at least two times *per annum*.¹ Additional meetings may be held to align with when certain input may be needed in relation to specific IAASB projects or other initiatives.
13. Meetings will typically last for approximately 2 hours and–may be recorded for internal IAASB purposes only.
14. The Academic Research Advisory Group may leverage digital platforms (e.g., Teams) for regular exchange of information or ideas in between meetings, as appropriate.
15. Meeting agendas will be distributed in advance. Members may be invited to provide short briefing notes or perspectives, to facilitate discussions.
16. Meeting highlights will be circulated to all members.

Amendment or Modification of the Terms of Reference

17. IAASB leadership may amend, modify, or update these terms of reference at their discretion, including determining when any changes will take effect and directing for the updated terms of reference to be posted on the IAASB website.

¹ Meetings may be cancelled when no relevant activities have occurred.