THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA
CREATE CHANGE

2024 ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) Outcomes - Key Findings

October 2023

This information should be read in conjunction with the ARC Selection Outcome Reports for 2024 DECRA, available from the ARC website.

(https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/funding-outcome/selection-outcome-reports/selection-report-discovery-early-career-researcher-award-2024)

CRICOS code 00025B

Executive Summary

- The ARC DECRA is awarded to the highest quality early career researchers who are to be Australia's future research leaders.
- The DECRA Fellow already has promisingly strong credentials.
- This is evidenced through:
  - What the DECRA has done to date (quality, innovation, leadership)
  - The innovative nature of the proposed research program
  - How the Fellow and program will add capability and innovation to Australia's research base.
- The success rates for females applying for DECRAs are strong.

DECRA Scheme Overview

- Up to 200 DECRAs awarded each year.
- The Award aims to advance quality early career researchers in a supportive research environment to build capability and capacity in Australia.
- Funding for three years including:
  - Salary ($112,897 including 30% on-costs – DE24 rate)
  - Up to $50,000 per annum project funding.

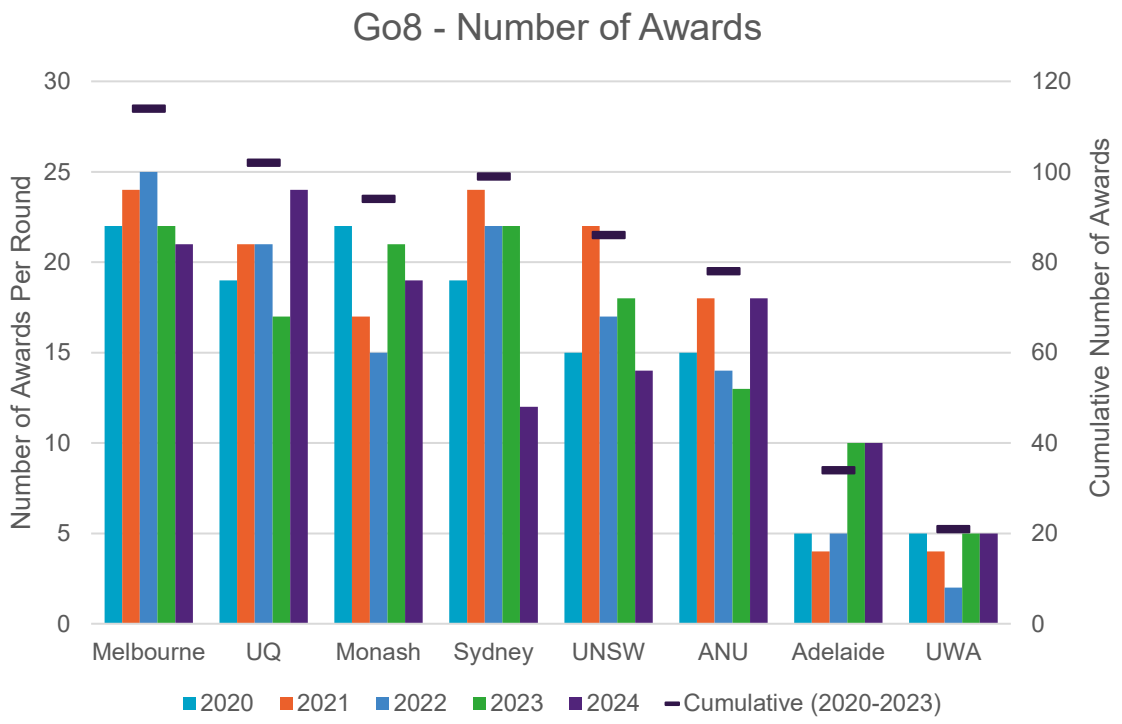
DE2024 Assessment Criteria

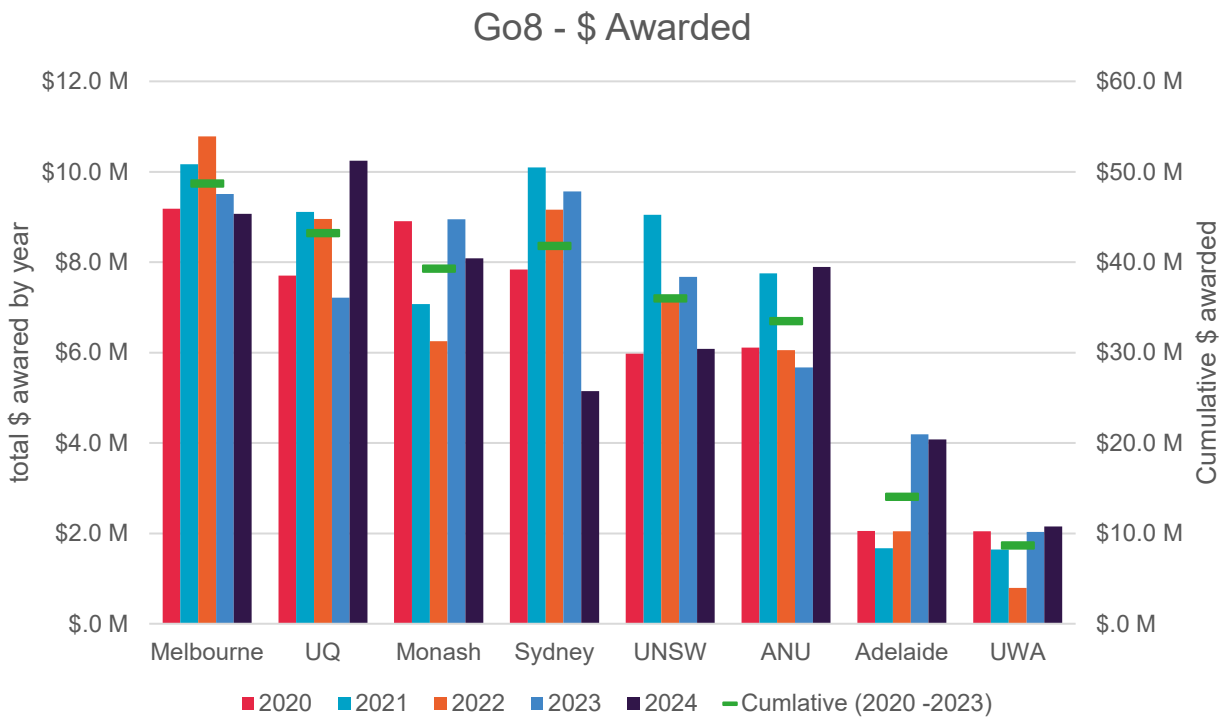
Assessment Criteria	Weighting
Investigator/Capability	50%
Project Quality and Innovation	25%
Benefit	15%
Feasibility	10%

The information presented in these slides is sourced from UQ data, the ARC and SciVal. UQ Supporting Guides and other helpful resources are available from the UQ R&I web page.

ARC DECRA – UQ Performance

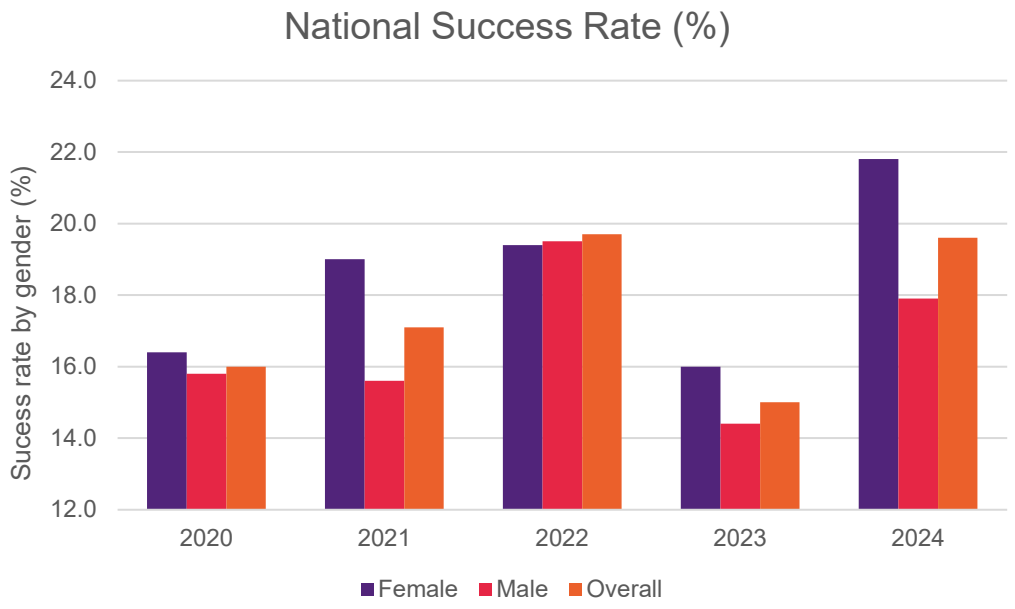
- Nationally, and within the GO8, UQ ranked first for both number of awards (24) and funds awarded
- UQ received $10,241,825 in DE24.
- UQ is first on the number of awards and second in terms of dollars awarded over cumulative DECRA rounds.

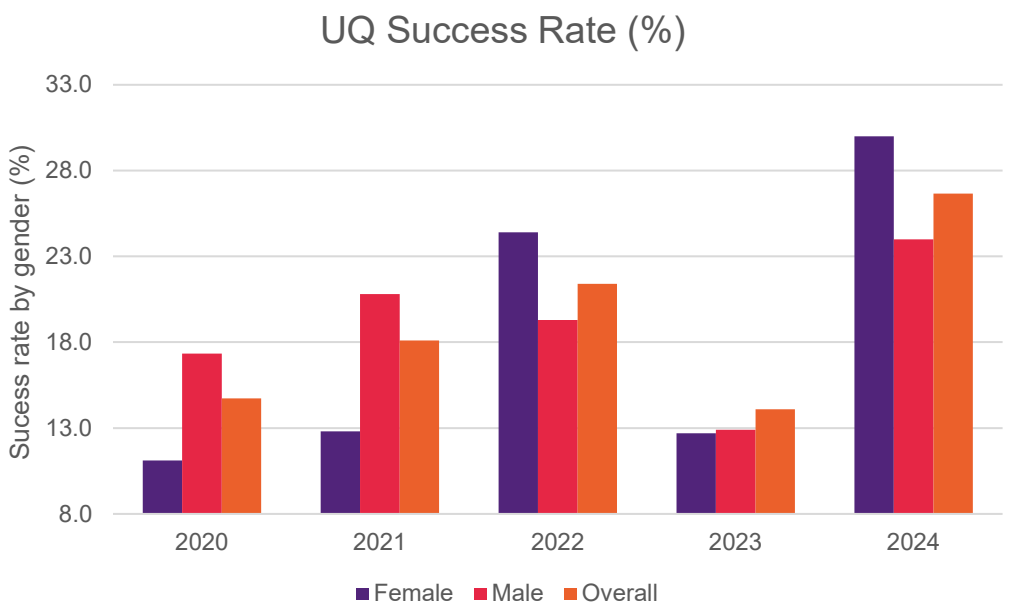




DE24 – National Success by gender

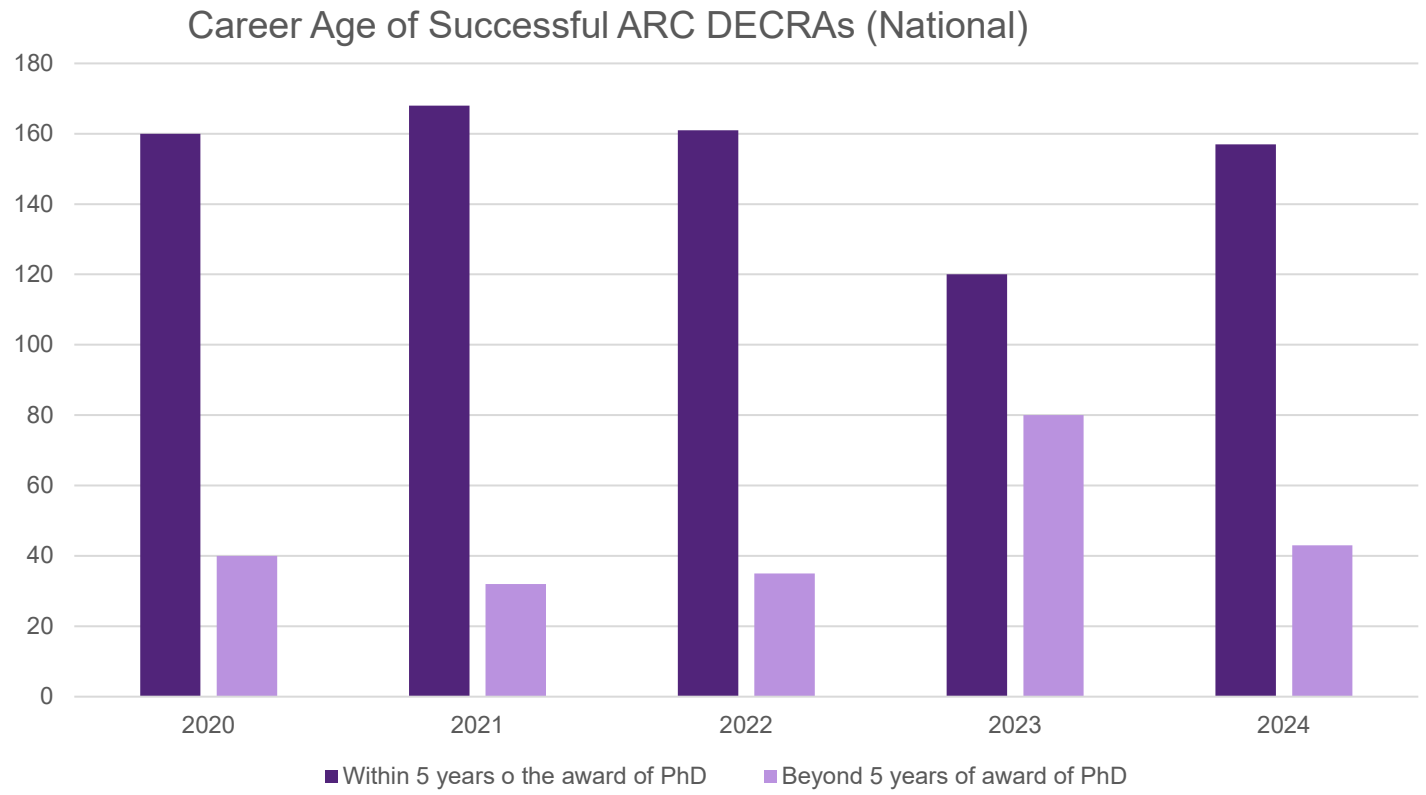
- Of the 1023 candidates who applied for a DECRA in 2024, 42.6% were female and 56.2% were male.
- Nationally, the success rate has averaged 21.8% for females, 17.9% for males.
- At UQ, the success rate has averaged 30.0% for females and 24.0% for males.





DE24 – Success by career age

- Of the 200 fellowships awarded nationally in DE23, 157 candidates were within five years of PhD award.

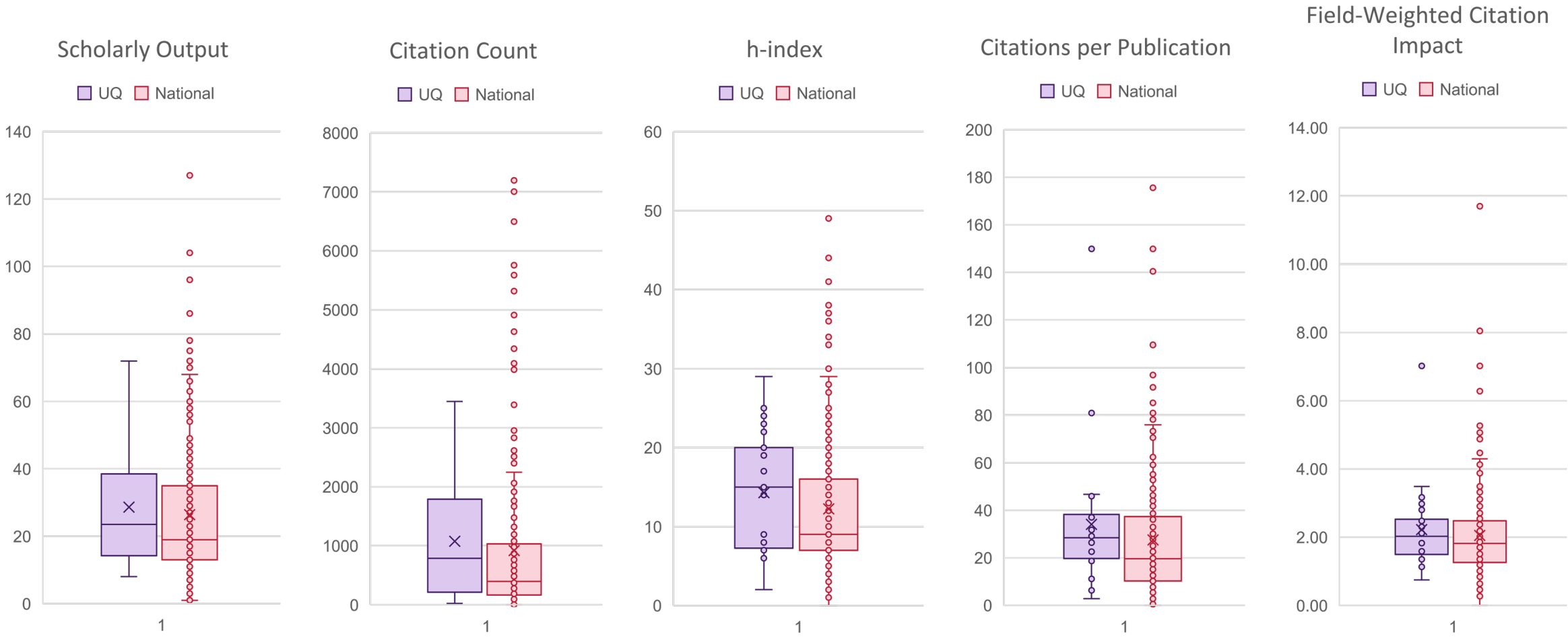


DE2024 Successful DECRAs –Publication Profile (National Data)

	h-index	Publications	Citations	Citations per publication	Field-Weighted Citation Impact
Average	13	30	1295	30.4	2.20
Median	10	19.5	401.5	19.95	1.82

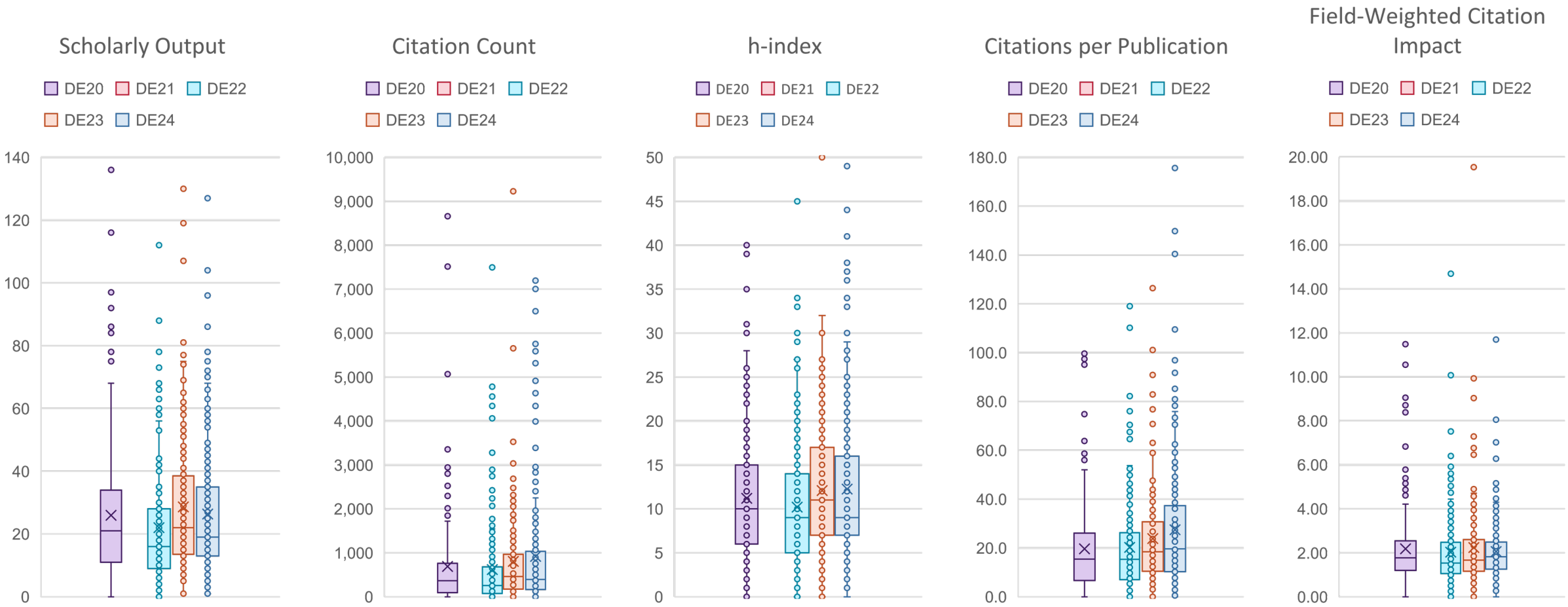
**Publication profile DE24 Fellows; UQ Library SciVal-sourced data (as at 4 October 2023)*

DE2024 Publication Benchmarking



three DECRAs are excluded as outliers.
*The box-and-whisker plot shows the minimum, first quartile, median, third quartile, and maximum; **x** is the mean.*

DE Publication Benchmarking – 5-year trends



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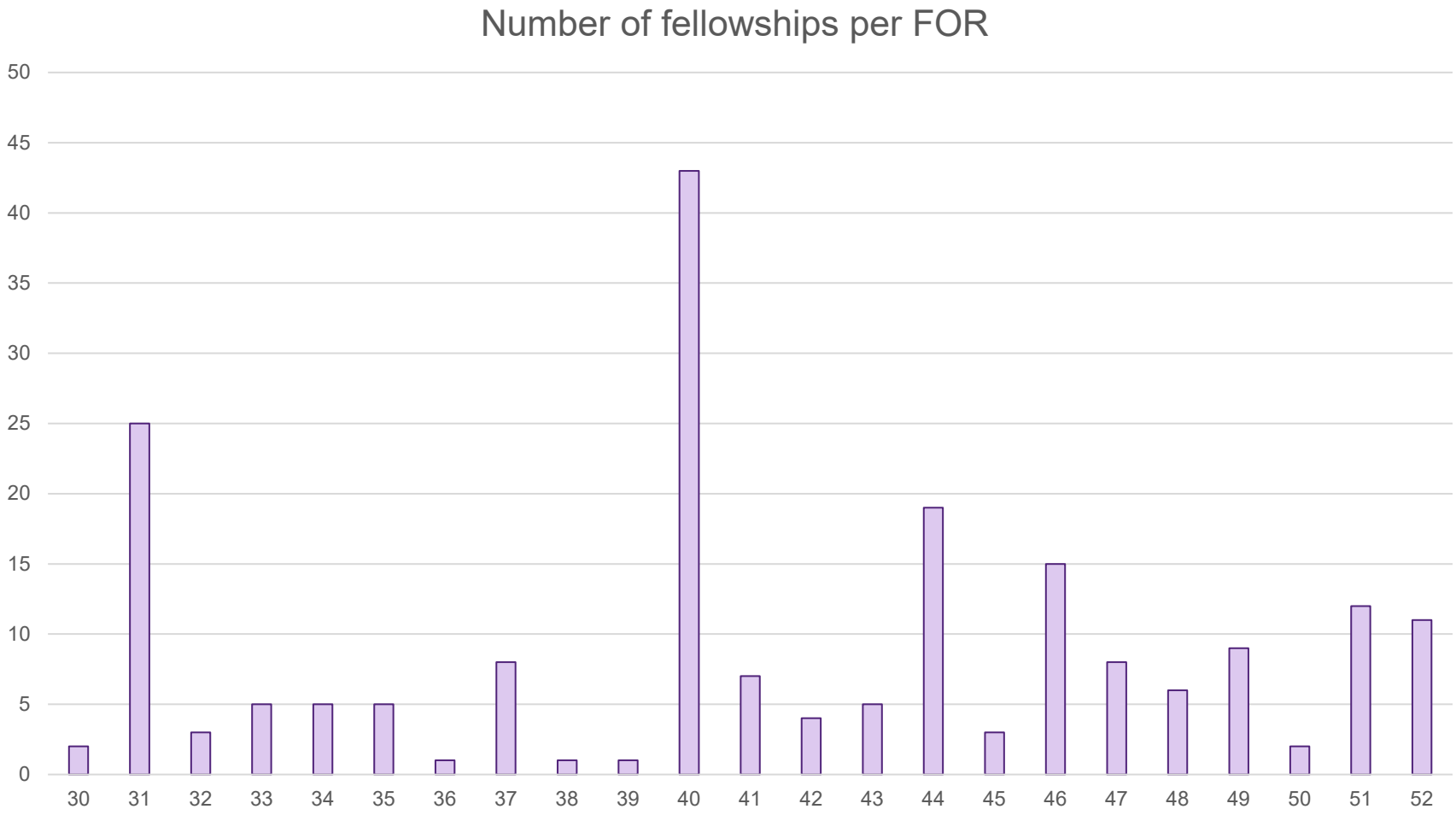
DE24 Benchmarking by FOR



FoR	FoR Division
30	Agricultural, Veterinary and Food Sciences
31	Biological Sciences
32	Biomedical and Clinical Sciences
33	Built Environment and Design
34	Chemical Sciences
35	Commerce, Management, Tourism and Services
36	Creative Arts and Writing
37	Earth Sciences
38	Economics
39	Education
40	Engineering
41	Environmental Sciences
42	Health Sciences
43	History, Heritage and Archaeology
44	Human Society
45	Indigenous Studies
46	Information and Computing Sciences
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52	Psychology

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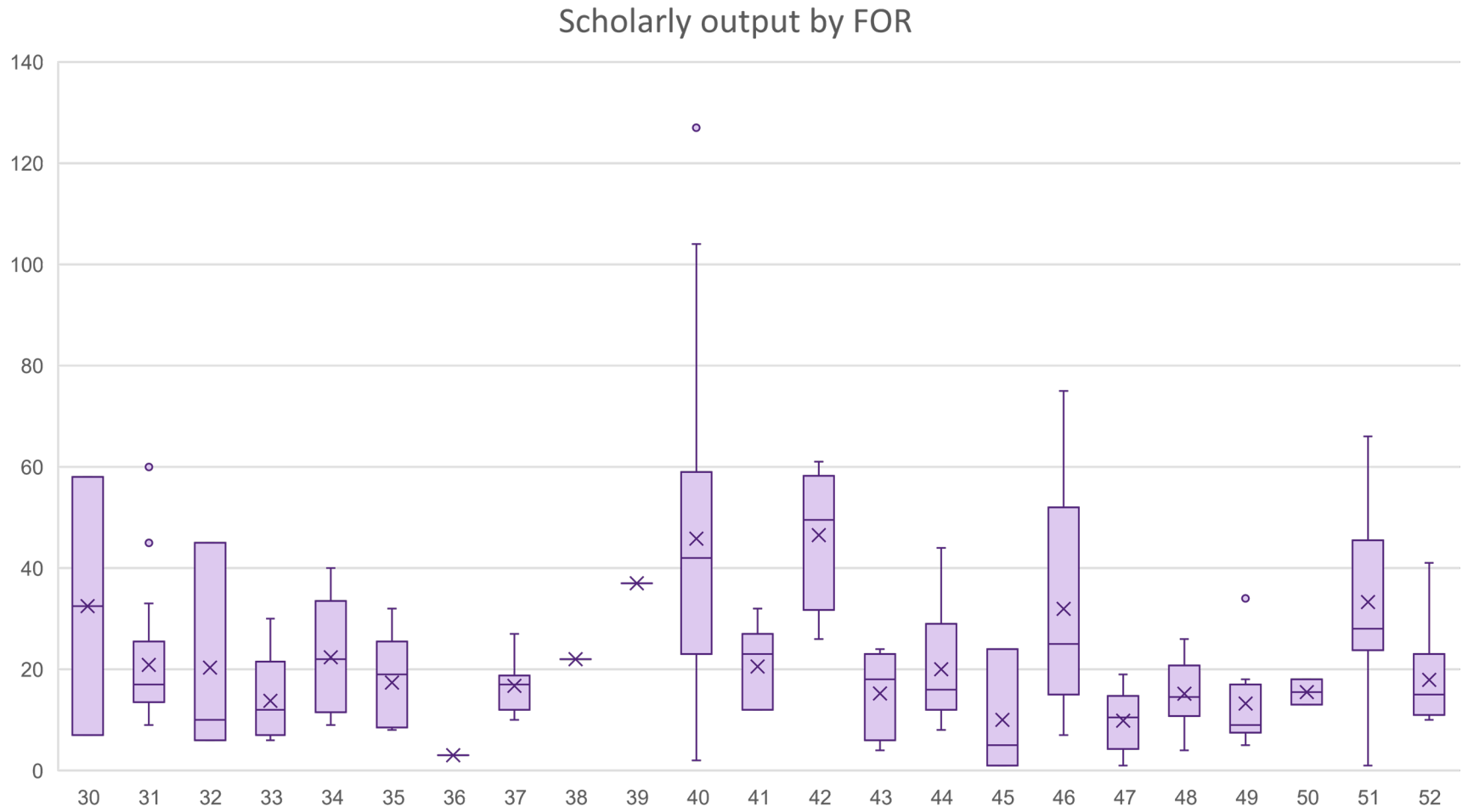

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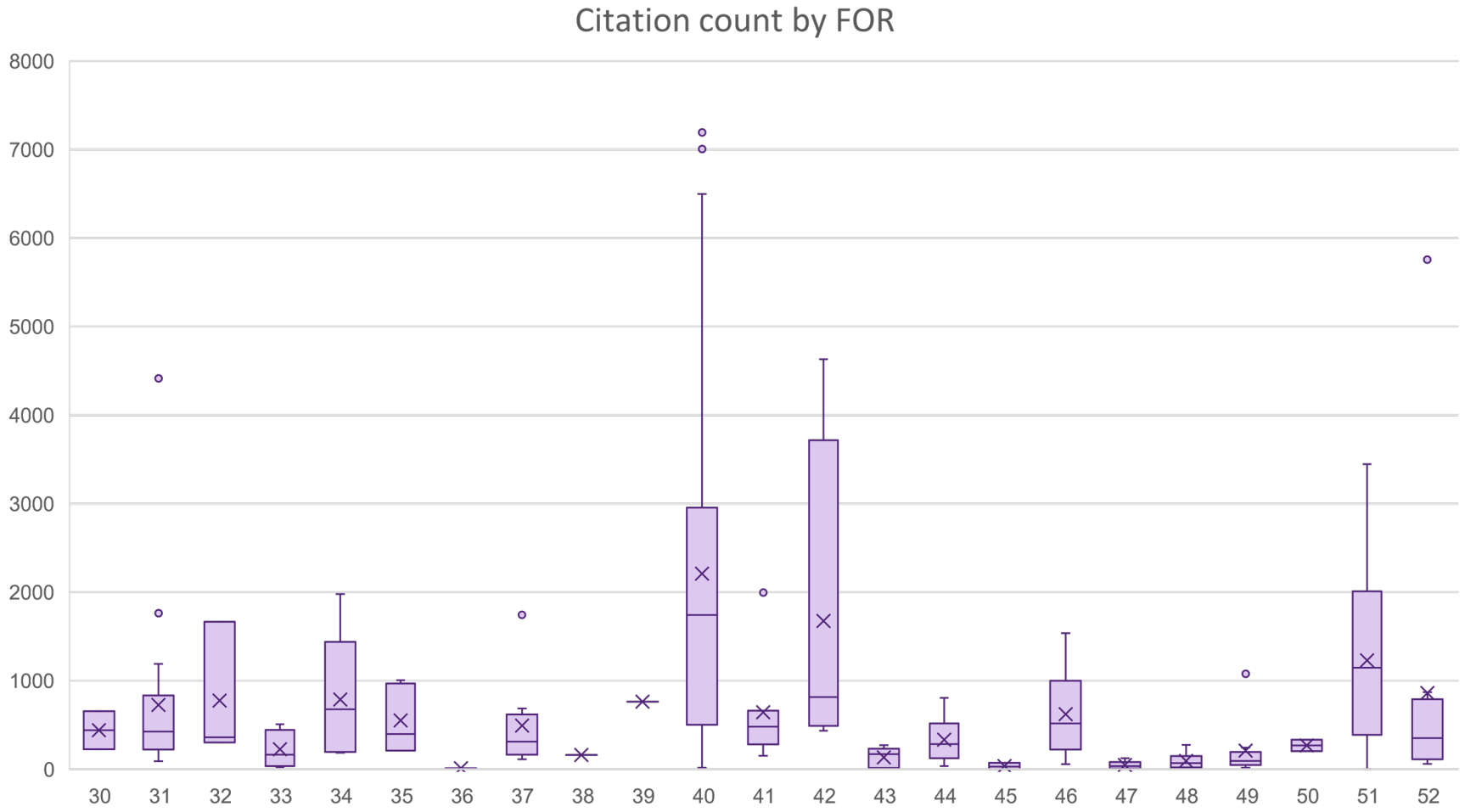

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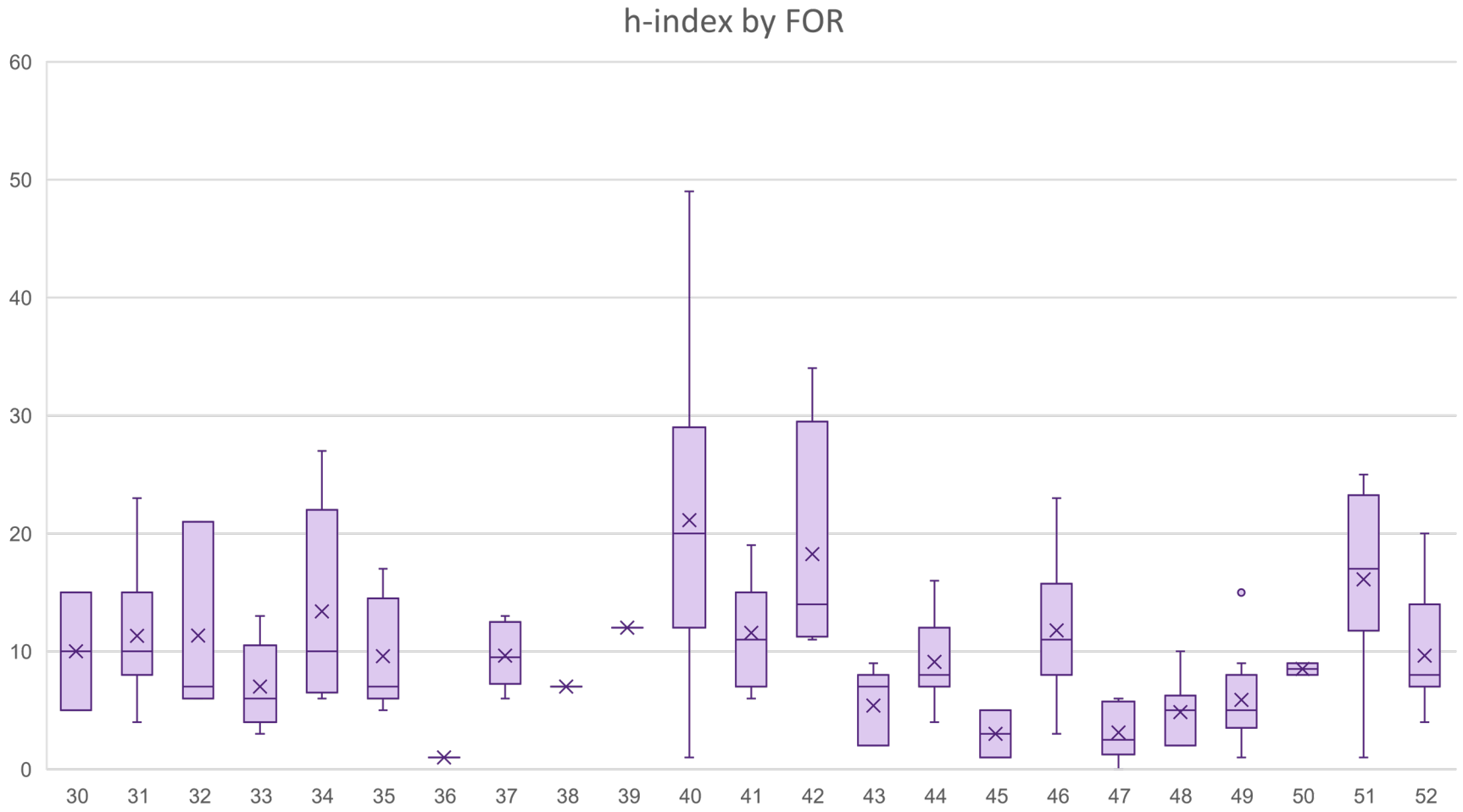

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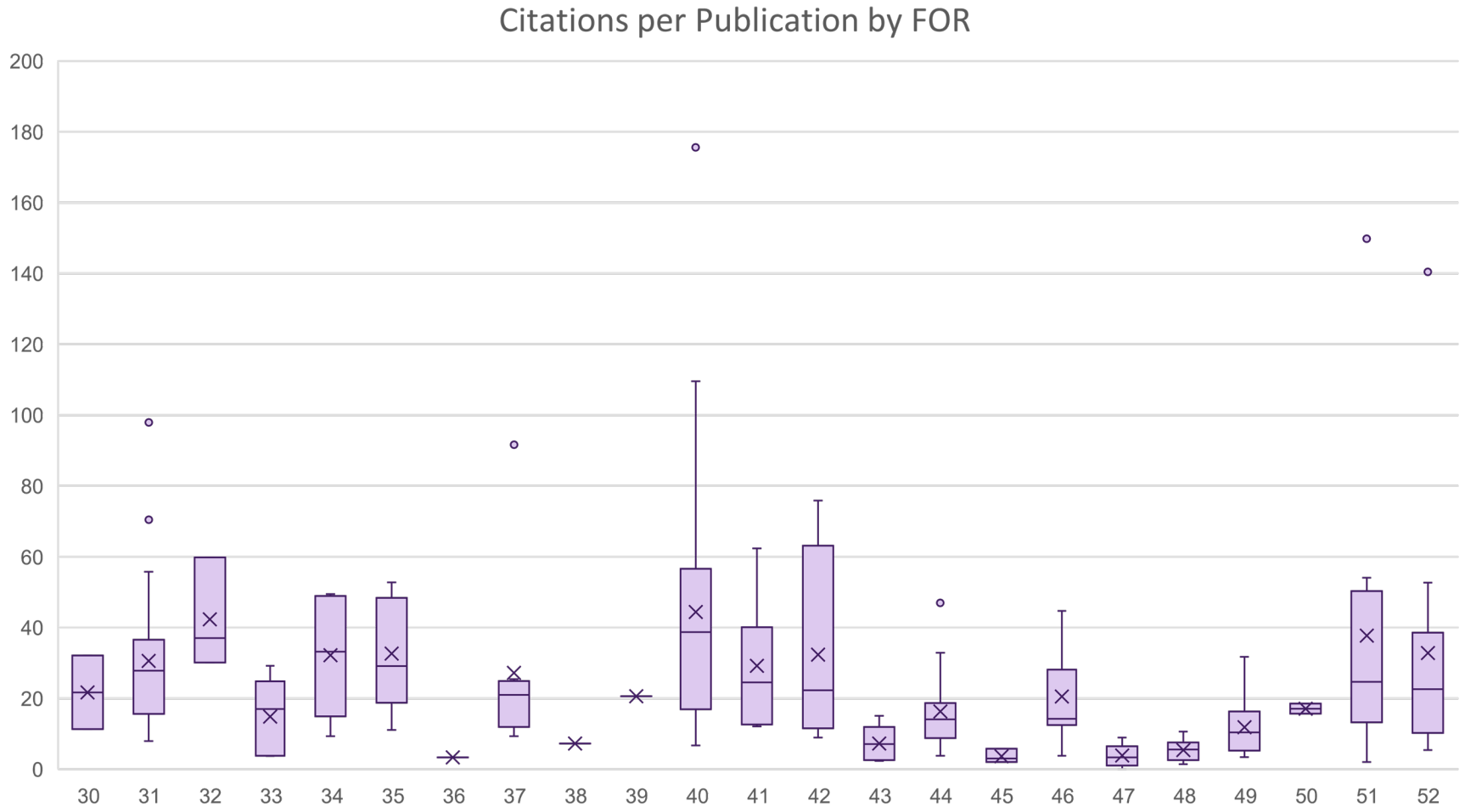

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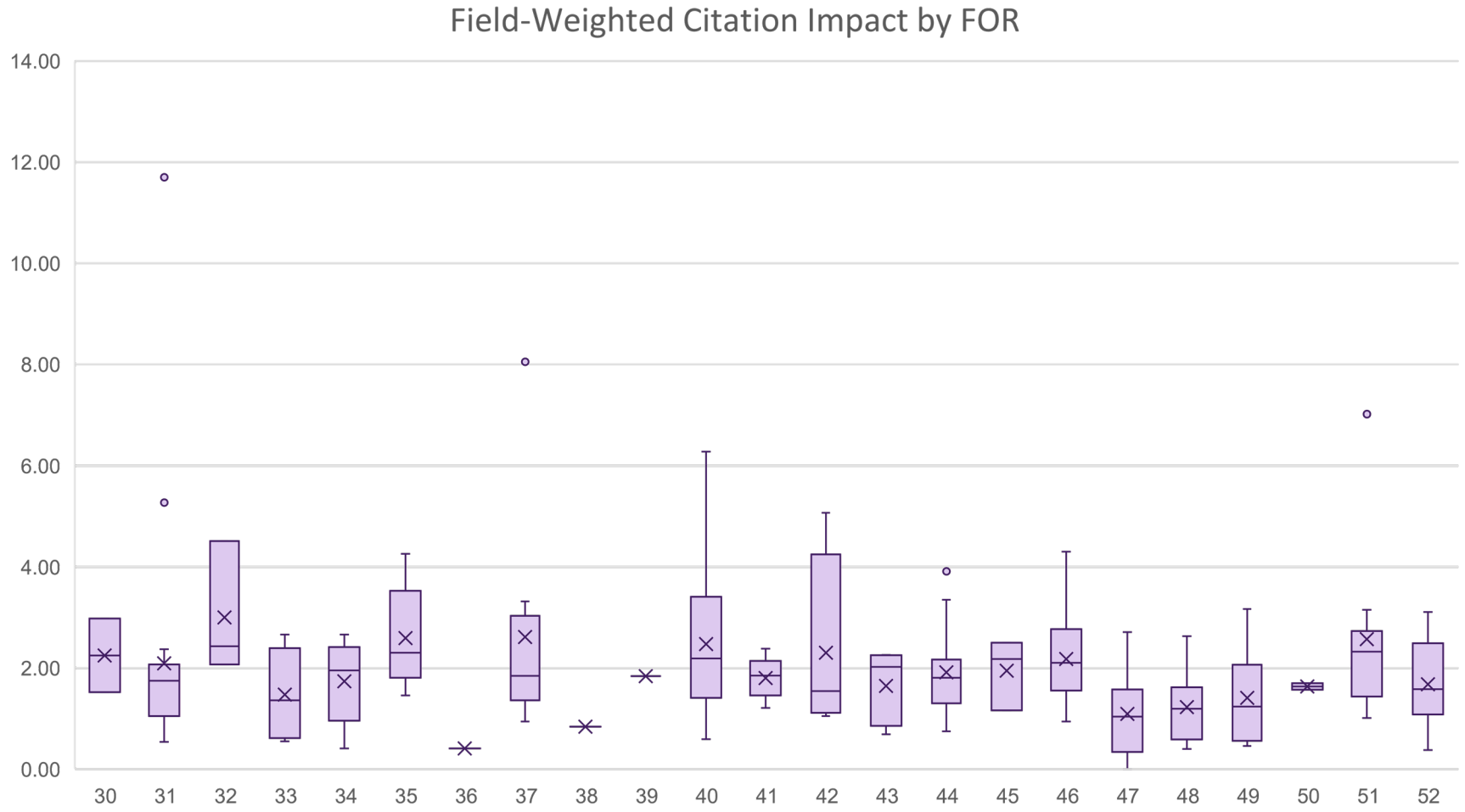

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DE2024 Publication Data – Overall Quality & International Collaboration

	Outputs in Top 1 citation percentile (%)	Outputs in Top 5 citation percentile (%)	Outputs in Top 10 citation percentile (%)	Publications in Q1 Journal Quartile by CiteScore (%)	International Collaboration (%)	Academic-Corporate Collaboration (%)
Average	3.9	14.4	26.0	77.0	47.3	3.7
Median	0	12.5	24.7	82.2	47.15	0

- DECRA Awardees are trending to:
  - having a strong outputs presence in the top 1% - 10% citation percentiles
  - Already having an international collaborative network

**Publication profile 2024 ARC DECRA Fellows; UQ Library SciVal-sourced data (as at 4 October 2023).*

What else matters?

It is not just your publication record…

You need to show leadership capabilities:

- Where have you been and how have you made the most of these opportunities?
- How is the cumulative experience rolling together to position you as an emerging leader?
- How have you helped build capacity and capability beyond your immediate research project/group?
- How is your leadership being recognised – by your peers and beyond?

You need to show that you are an emerging thought leader for Australia's research future:

- How have your research contributions been recognised by your peers and beyond?
- How has it benefitted the community (peer and broad) to date?
- Demonstrate your capability through the significance and innovation of your approach and execution
- Show that you are practical in approach (feasibility) and the benefits to Australia because of you and your project

- Significant guides and resources are available on the UQ R&I templates for ARC DECRA applicants.

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UQ R&I contacts: ARCfellowships@research.uq.edu.au

UQ R&I web page:

https://research.uq.edu.au/research-support/research-management/funding-schemes/australian-research-council-arc/discovery-early-career-researcher-awards