

Tiers for the Australian Ranking of ICT Conferences

Overall criterion: Quality of the papers

Tier A+

Typically a Tier A+ conference would be one of the very best in its field or subfield in which to publish and would typically cover the entire field/subfield. These are conferences where most of the work is important (it will really shape the field), where researchers boast about being accepted, and where attendees would gain value from attending even if they didn't have a paper themselves. Acceptance rates would typically be low and the program committee would be dominated by field leaders, including many from top institutions. Tier A+ conferences would be highly represented in the CV of a junior academic (assistant professor) aiming for tenure at a top 10 US university.

**** These are the conferences where people from overseas congratulate you on getting in and you shout drinks to the research group****

Tier A

Publishing in a Tier A conference would add to the author's respect, showing they have real engagement with the global research community and that they have something to say about problems of some significance. Attending a Tier A conference would be worth travelling to if a paper was accepted. Typical signs of a Tier A conference are lowish acceptance rates and a program committee and speaker list which includes a reasonable fraction of well known researchers from top institutions (as well as a substantial number from weaker institutions), and a real effort by the program committee to look at the significance of the work.

Tier B

Tier B covers conferences where one has some confidence that research was done, so publishing there is evidence of research-active status (that is, there is some research contribution claimed, and a program committee that takes its job seriously enough to remove anything ridiculous or ignorant of the state of art), but it's not particularly significant. This is where PhD students might be expected to send early work; it also includes places whose main function is the social cohesion of a community. Typical examples would be regional conferences or international conferences with high acceptance rates, and those with program committees that have very few leading researchers from top international institutions.

Tier L

These are local conferences which may be important for the social cohesion of the local community and for networking. Many were "one off" but are included for historical reasons.

Tier C

All the rest.