



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

**Linkage Program Grant Guidelines
(2024 edition – Variation 1)
Industrial Transformation Research Program
(ITRP)
Industrial Transformation Research Hubs
Industrial Transformation Training Centres**

Opening date:	Available on GrantConnect
Closing date and time:	Available on GrantConnect
Commonwealth policy entity:	Australian Research Council
Enquiries:	Researchers are required to direct requests for information to the Research Office within the Administering Organisation. ARC Contacts are on the ARC website.
Date guidelines released:	
Type of grant opportunity:	Restricted competitive

Australian Research Council Act 2001

I, Jason Clare, Minister for Education, having satisfied myself of the matters set out in section 58 of the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*, approve these grant guidelines under section 59 of that Act.

Dated 19 August 2025

Jason Clare
Minister for Education

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1. Linkage Program: Industrial Transformation Research Program processes

The Linkage Program supports the Australian Government's objectives for research and innovation.

This grant program contributes to the ARC's Outcome 1, which is to grow knowledge and innovation through managing research grants, measuring research excellence and providing advice. The Industrial Transformation Research Program is funded within the Linkage Program.



The grant opportunity opens.

We (the ARC) publish the grant guidelines and advertise on GrantConnect.



You (the Administering Organisation) complete and submit an application.

You work with Partner Organisations to complete an application on the ARC's Research Management System (RMS), addressing eligibility, the National Interest Test and the assessment criteria.



We manage the assessment of all applications.

We manage the assessment of applications against eligibility criteria and assessment criteria. Your application may be assigned to Detailed Assessors to undertake in-depth assessments. You will have an opportunity to respond to any Detailed Assessors' written comments through a rejoinder. Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) members will then assess Your application, consider any Detailed Assessors' ratings and comments and Your rejoinder and assign a final score.



We make grant recommendations.

The SAC considers all applications and recommends those to be funded, including the level and duration of funding for each project, to the ARC Accountable Authority. The ARC Accountable Authority then makes an assessment and recommendation to the Minister. In making recommendations to the Minister, the ARC Accountable Authority considers the SAC's advice, compliance with the eligibility criteria and grant application process, alignment with Australian Government priorities and any other due diligence matters. The ARC Accountable Authority may consider advice from other Commonwealth agencies and make its own independent enquiries.



Grant decisions are made.

The Minister decides which applications are approved, and the level of funding and duration of funding for each approved project. If the Minister decides not to fund a project for reasons relevant to security, defence or international relations of Australia, the Minister must notify the ARC Accountable Authority, advise the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security and take other steps required under the ARC Act.



We notify You of the outcome.

We advise You if Your application was successful or not through RMS.



We enter into a grant agreement with You.

We will enter into a grant agreement with You through RMS, if You are successful.



Delivery of the grant.

You undertake the grant activity and report to Us as set out in Your grant agreement. We manage the grant, monitor Your progress and make payments.



Evaluation of the grant opportunity.

We evaluate the specific grant activity and the grant opportunity as a whole.
We will use information You provide to Us through Your reports to inform evaluations.

2. About the grant program

- 2.1 The Linkage Program is one of two Programs under the ARC National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP). Information about the Linkage Program is available on the ARC website.
- 2.2 The ARC administers funding of excellent pure basic, strategic basic and applied research in all disciplines under the NCGP, excluding medical research. The ARC does not fund experimental development.

About the Industrial Transformation Research Program grant opportunities

- 2.3 The Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP) encourages and supports university-based researchers and industry to work together to address a range of strategic government priorities to transform Australian industries.
- 2.4 The current Industrial Transformation Priorities identified by Us align with the priority funding areas under the National Reconstruction Fund (NRF):
 - i. renewables and low emissions technologies
 - ii. medical science*
 - iii. transport
 - iv. value-add in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors
 - v. value-add in resources
 - vi. defence capability
 - vii. enabling capabilities.

Further detail about the NRF priorities can be found at the Federal Register of Legislation.

* Applications which address the 'Medical Science' industrial transformation priority must take the ARC *Medical Research Policy* (2025 version) into consideration.

- 2.5 There are two schemes under the ITRP referred to in these Guidelines:
 - a. Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (Part A)
 - b. Industrial Transformation Training Centres (Part B).
- 2.6 The grant commencement date for each Research Hubs and Training Centres grant opportunity is available on the ARC website.
- 2.7 Research Hubs engage Australia's best researchers to develop collaborative solutions to the strategic Industrial Transformation Priorities. The focus is on the creation of industry and academic partnerships working together on research and development projects to create innovative and transformative solutions for industry.
- 2.8 Training Centres foster close partnerships between university-based researchers and industry, through creating and delivering innovative Higher Degree by Research (HDR) and postdoctoral training. Training Centres are to develop researchers with capability in end user research that is vital to Australia's future. In delivering this training, the Training Centre focuses its researchers on developing solutions relevant to the Industrial Transformation Priorities.

3. Grant amount and grant period

- 3.1. For each ITRP grant opportunity, applications will be considered for the levels and durations of funding listed in Parts A and B of these grant guidelines.

4. Eligibility criteria

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

- 4.1. We will only accept applications from the Eligible Organisations as identified in Appendix B. The Eligible Organisation that applies will be the 'Administering Organisation' (henceforth 'You').
- 4.2. If
- a. an application was submitted pursuant to these grant guidelines by either the University of Adelaide or the University of South Australia (collectively, 'Previous Universities') during the period that Adelaide University was being established and becoming operational; and
 - b. at the time that We award grants pursuant to these grant guidelines, one or more named participants on the application has transferred from one of the Previous Universities to Adelaide University,
- then We may award the grant to Adelaide University.

What are the eligibility requirements for applications?

- 4.3. The organisation roles available under the ITRP are:
- a. Administering Organisation;
 - b. Other Eligible Organisations;
 - c. Partner Organisations; and
 - d. Other Organisations.
- 4.4. Your application must:
- a. directly address one or more of the current Industrial Transformation Priorities;
 - b. nominate at least one Australian Partner Organisation; and
 - c. meet the participant requirements in Part A - Industrial Transformation Research Hubs or Part B - Industrial Transformation Training Centres.
- 4.5. You and each Other Eligible Organisation and Partner Organisation on an application must each commit a significant contribution of cash and/or in-kind and/or other material resources to the application having regard to the total cost of the proposed Research Hub or Training Centre and the relative contribution of any Chief Investigator(s) (CIs) or Partner Investigator(s) (PIs) at the organisation.
- 4.6. The minimum contribution required from each Eligible Organisation, Partner Organisation and/or Other Organisation is explained in the relevant Part of these grant guidelines.
- 4.7. You must ensure that any additional certification requirements, applied by the ARC as a result of findings of breaches of the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of*

Research (2018), are provided at the grant opportunity closing date for any named participant on an application.

Who is eligible to be a Partner Organisation?

- 4.8. A Partner Organisation is an Australian or overseas organisation, other than an Eligible Organisation, which satisfies the eligibility requirements for a Partner Organisation in 4.8-4.11.
- 4.9. A Partner Organisation cannot be:
- a. included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' (www.nationalredress.gov.au);
 - b. an Eligible Organisation;
 - c. a controlled entity of any Eligible Organisation; or
 - d. an entity (for example a joint venture) where more than 50% is owned by one or more Eligible Organisations.
- 4.10. Each Partner Organisation must:
- a. provide evidence of new or on-going collaboration directly with You and/or with an Other Eligible Organisation on the application; and
 - b. make a contribution of cash and/or in-kind and/or other material resources that is specific to the project, and having regard to the total cost of the project and not be part of a broader contribution to Your organisation or an Other Eligible Organisation
 - c. provide a Letter of Partner Organisation Certification, using the proforma provided on GrantConnect.
- 4.11. Partner Organisation cash contributions cannot:
- a. be sourced from funds awarded or appropriated by the Commonwealth or an Australian State or Territory Governments for the purposes of research, nor from funds previously used to leverage government research or research infrastructure funding; or
 - b. be a contribution to salaries for CIs and/or PIs on the application.

Who is eligible to be an Other Organisation?

- 4.12. Organisations that are not Eligible Organisations and not Partner Organisations but that are named as organisational participants on an application will be Other Organisations. Other Organisations are not required to make a cash or in-kind contribution to the project, but must be relevant to and involved in the research and training programs of the Research Hub or Training Centre.
- 4.13. An Other Organisation cannot be included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' (www.nationalredress.gov.au).

Who is eligible to be a named participant?

- 4.14. Roles that named participants may be nominated for under the ITRP are:
- a. Research Hub Director (Part A);

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- b. Training Centre Director (Part B);
 - c. Chief Investigators (CIs) (Parts A and B); and
 - d. Partner Investigators (PIs) (Parts A and B).
- 4.15. A project cannot commence until all named participants meet the eligibility criteria in these grant guidelines for the selected role they are to perform.
- 4.16. As at the grant commencement date, or if successful, at any time during the project activity period, named participants:
 - a. who meet the eligibility criteria to be a CI, cannot opt to be a PI;
 - b. who do not meet the eligibility criteria to be a CI, must be a PI.
- 4.17. All named participants in an application must have met their obligations regarding previously funded projects, including submission of satisfactory final reports to the ARC at the grant opportunity closing date and any relevant consequential actions that may have been applied under the *ARC Research Integrity Policy* (2023 version).

Research Hub and Training Centre Directors

- 4.18. To be eligible, the nominated participant for the Research Hub or Training Centre Director role must, as at the grant opportunity closing date and, if successful, for the project activity period:
 - a. meet the eligibility criteria to apply as a CI;
 - b. be employed by the Administering Organisation a minimum of 50% of Full Time Equivalent (0.5 FTE); and
 - c. commit a minimum of 0.5 FTE to the activities of the Research Hub or Training Centre.

Chief Investigators

- 4.19. CIs who are not the Research Hub or Training Centre Director must meet at least one of the following criteria as at the grant commencement date and, if the application is successful, for the project activity period:
 - a. be an employee for at least 0.2 FTE at an Eligible Organisation; or
 - b. be a holder of an honorary academic appointment (as defined in the Glossary) at an Eligible Organisation.
- 4.20. CIs must reside in Australia for more than 50% of the project activity period. Any significant absences including fieldwork or study leave directly related to the project must have approval from You and must not total more than half the project activity period. In extraordinary circumstances, a change may be approved by Us through a formal Variation request.
- 4.21. CIs must not undertake an HDR during the project activity period.

Partner Investigators

- 4.22. PIs may, or may not, be an employee of a Partner Organisation.

What are the limits on the number of applications and projects per named participant?

- 4.23. These limits only apply to Directors and CIs and are designed to ensure that named participants have the capacity to undertake each project.
- 4.24. A named participant can apply for and be concurrently funded through the Linkage Program for a maximum of 4 Linkage Program projects as a CI or Director. For the purposes of counting project limits, Linkage Program projects:
 - a. include CIs on Linkage Projects, ITRP and ARC Centres of Excellence projects;
 - b. include Directors on ITRP, Special Research Initiatives and ARC Centres of Excellence projects;
 - c. do not include CIs on LIEF, Special Research Initiatives, or LASP projects; and
 - d. do not include Fellows under the Industry Fellowships Program.
- 4.25. A named participant can be funded for a maximum of one Director role for a Linkage Program project. This includes ITRP, ARC Centres of Excellence and Special Research Initiatives.
- 4.26. A named participant on a Research Hub or Training Centre application may be named on other ARC grant opportunity applications and subject to the separate limits on those opportunities, those applications may be retained until the outcome of the relevant ITRP application is known.
- 4.27. All named participants on a successful ITRP application must meet the project limit requirements identified at 4.24 and 4.25 above before the project can start. Project limits can be met by relinquishing existing project(s), or relinquishing role(s) on existing projects, or withdrawing application(s) that would exceed the project limits. We reserve the right to determine which grants are to be relinquished.
- 4.28. It is Your responsibility to determine if applying for, or holding, a project under these grant guidelines will affect an individual researcher's eligibility for other ARC grant opportunities as other ARC grant opportunities may have different project limits. We reserve the right to change project and application limits in future grant opportunities.

5. What the grant money can be used for

Eligible grant activities

- 5.1. The Linkage Program supports research activities that meet the definition of 'research', as defined in the Glossary.
- 5.2. You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure items that directly support the project and in accordance with any additional special conditions in the grant agreement.
- 5.3. Eligible expenditure items may include:
 - a. salary support for other personnel, for example, research associates and assistants, a Manager, technicians and laboratory attendants but excluding the Director, CIs and PIs. Salary support must be at an appropriate level, including 30% on-costs, at the employing organisation;

- b. stipends for HDR students, at an appropriate level for the Eligible Organisation, but not less than the level indicated on the salaries and stipends page of the ARC website;
 - c. equipment (and its maintenance) and consumables, including specialised computer equipment and software essential for the project;
 - d. travel costs essential to the project, including economy travel costs for domestic and/or international travel and accommodation, not exceeding an average of \$20,000 per year of the project. The following travel costs are not counted towards the average of \$20,000 per year limit:
 - i. expenditure on field research essential to the project, including technical and logistical support, travel expenses (including accommodation, meals and incidental costs);
 - ii. reasonable essential costs to allow a participant who is a carer, or who personally requires care or assistance, to undertake travel essential to the project;
- 5.4. The Research Hubs and Training Centres grant opportunities include specific budget items for salary support, stipends and/or teaching relief as stated in Parts A and B of these grant guidelines.
- 5.5. Research Hubs and Training Centres are led by a Research Hub/Training Centre Director and may be supported by a Research Hub/Training Centre Manager to undertake the business management, corporate governance and administrative responsibilities. We encourage You to carefully consider including support for a Research Hub/Training Centre Manager in your application, to allow the Director to prioritise the strategic, research and training leadership tasks. It is up to You to determine the most appropriate team for your application.

Ineligible grant activities

- 5.6. You cannot request or use grant funds for:
- a. research activities, infrastructure or project previously funded or currently being funded through any other Commonwealth grant;
 - b. medical research, including clinical trials, as detailed in the *ARC Medical Research Policy* (2025 version) on the ARC website;
 - c. experimental development, as defined in the Glossary;
 - d. activities leading solely to the creation or performance of a work of art, including visual art, musical compositions, drama, dance, film, broadcasts, designs and literary works, unless those works are directly related to the project activities and demonstrably research based;
 - e. contracted research or consultancy arrangements where one or more Organisation(s) is seeking expert external assistance not available within their own organisation, in order to develop specific applications or outputs that involve little innovation or are low risk;
 - f. production of computer programs, research aids and tools; data warehouses, catalogues or bibliographies; or teaching materials, unless these meet the definition of research;

- g. basic facilities that must be provided (where relevant) and funded by You, Eligible Organisation and/or Partner Organisation and are not funded by the grant:
 - i. standard refurbishment costs of a laboratory;
 - ii. bench fees or similar laboratory access fees;
 - iii. access to a basic library collection;
 - iv. access to film or music editing facilities;
 - v. work accommodation (for example, laboratory and office space, suitably equipped and furnished);
 - vi. basic computer facilities such as desktop computers, portable computer devices, printers, word processing, and other standard software; and
 - vii. standard reference materials or funds for abstracting services;
- h. capital works and general infrastructure costs;
- i. costs not directly related to the project, including but not limited to professional membership fees, professional development courses, fees for patent application and maintenance, equipment for live music or drama performances, equipment for gallery and museum exhibitions, visas, relocation costs, entertainment costs, purchase of alcohol, insurance, mobile phones (purchase or call charges) and other indirect costs;
- j. fees for international students or the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) and Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) liabilities for students; and
- k. salaries and/or on-costs, in whole or in part, for Directors, CIs or PIs.

6. How to apply

Application process

- 6.1. **Instructions To Applicants** will be issued on the opening of the grant opportunity and applicants must follow the processes described in those Instructions, including regarding attachments to the application.
- 6.2. Your application must be completed in RMS. We will not accept late applications, other than in exceptional circumstances (such as due to natural disasters) in which case We will discuss this with You, and if We agree, invite You to make a late application.
- 6.3. You cannot change Your application after the closing date and time, unless invited to by the ARC.
- 6.4. We reserve the right to seek evidence to support the certification of applications at any point.
- 6.5. Questions during the application period should be directed to the Administering Organisation's Research Office. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions will be posted on GrantConnect.

National Interest Test statement

- 6.6. Applicants must provide a National Interest Test statement: a brief response that articulates the benefits of the proposed research in plain English in general terms beyond the period of the grant.

Timing of the grant opportunities

- 6.7. Schemes under these guidelines typically accept one round of applications each year.
- 6.8. You must submit Your application between the grant opportunity opening and closing date and time specified on GrantConnect.

7. The grant selection process

Eligibility and Assessment

- 7.1. We will review Your application against the eligibility criteria. If ineligible, We must not recommend the application for funding.
- 7.2. All applications will be considered through a competitive peer review process, based on :
 - a. how well it meets the weighted assessment criteria;
 - b. how it is ranked against other applications; and
 - c. whether it provides value for money (as defined in the Glossary).
- 7.3. Applications will undergo peer review assessment and recommendations will be made to the ARC Accountable Authority from a Selection Advisory Committee.
- 7.4. You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth). We will investigate any incomplete, inaccurate, false or misleading information and may recommend to the Accountability Authority that Your application not be considered further.
 - a. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes failure to disclose any conflict of interest of any named participant, including but not limited to matters described in clauses 3.1 and 3.3 of the *ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy* (2025) on the ARC website.
- 7.5. We may seek advice on security or other matters from Commonwealth agencies at any time during the process and may seek information from third party sources. We may seek information from You about activities and protections in line with that advice and other information.
- 7.6. During the assessment process, We may request additional information, which does not change the nature of Your application.

Who will approve grants

- 7.7. The ARC Accountable Authority will make recommendations for funding to the Minister, after considering the advice from peer review.
- 7.8. The Minister will decide which grants to fund and may at any time decide not to approve a grant for reasons relevant to the security, defence or international relations of Australia. The Minister's decision is final in all matters.
- 7.9. The outcome of all applications will be published in RMS.

Requests not to assess process

- 7.10. You may name up to three persons whom You do not wish to assess an application by submitting a 'Request Not to Assess' (RNTA) form in RMS as detailed on GrantConnect and the ARC website. This form must be received by Us in RMS two weeks prior to the grant opportunity closing date.
- 7.11. Only one request containing the names of up to three individual assessors may be submitted per application.
- 7.12. If a request includes the name of a current ARC College of Experts member, as listed on the ARC website or in RMS at the time of submitting the RNTA form, the request must be accompanied by comprehensive evidence justifying the request for the ARC College of Experts member or members named. If We consider the evidence is not sufficient for the named ARC College of Experts member or members, We will reject part, or all, of the request.
- 7.13. We have discretion about whether We accept or refuse a RNTA. We will not notify you of the outcome.

Rejoinder process

- 7.14. You will be given the opportunity to respond to assessors' written comments through a rejoinder. Names of assessors will not be provided. Further information on the rejoinder process is available on the ARC website.

8. Successful grant applications

Advice and announcement

- 8.1. If Your application is successful, We:
 - a. will give You a copy of the Minister's approval no more than 21 days after the Minister's decision;
 - b. may give You earlier notice of the Minister's approval and may impose a short embargo on announcements in order to enable parties to co-ordinate announcements; and
 - c. will list Your grant on GrantConnect no more than 21 calendar days after the date of effect.
- 8.2. We will publicise and report offers and grants awarded, including the following information about the project:
 - a. Your name and any other parties involved in or associated with the project;
 - b. named participants and their organisations;
 - c. the project description (the title and summary descriptions);
 - d. Your National Interest Test statement;
 - e. classifications and international collaboration country names; and
 - f. the ARC grant funding amount.

- 8.3. You should ensure information contained in the project title, summary descriptions and National Interest Test statement will not compromise Your requirements for confidentiality (such as protection of Intellectual Property).
- 8.4. We may publish a project description, including title and summary, which differs from that provided in the application.

Grant Agreements

- 8.5. You must enter into a grant agreement with Us to receive a grant.
- 8.6. We use the ARC Linkage Program ITRP grant agreement which contains standard terms and conditions that cannot be changed. A sample grant agreement is available on GrantConnect. Any special conditions attached to the grant will be identified in the grant offer.
- 8.7. You will have 30 calendar days from the date of the grant offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth.
- 8.8. We must execute a grant agreement with You before We can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of Your project expenditure until a grant agreement is executed. You must not start any activities until all third-party agreements are executed, unless otherwise specified in the grant agreement.

How We pay the grant

- 8.9. Payments will be made as set out in the grant agreement. Grant funding will typically be paid monthly through Our payment system to You.
- 8.10. The grant offer will specify the approved grant amount to be paid. We will not pay more than the approved grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, You must meet them.
- 8.11. Grant funding may be subject to indexation.
- 8.12. All amounts referred to in these grant guidelines are exclusive of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), unless expressly stated otherwise.
- 8.13. Any grant awarded will be subject to sufficient funds being available for the project, the provisions of the ARC Act and the continued satisfactory progress of the project.

Grant Agreement Variation

- 8.14. The Grant Agreement outlines the circumstances in which Variations must be submitted. Variations are subject to ARC approval and further information can be found in the Grant Agreement.

Responsibilities

- 8.15. All named participants in an application must take responsibility for the authorship and intellectual content of the application, appropriately citing sources and acknowledging all significant contributions, including from third parties.
- 8.16. Each Organisation must participate in the project for the project activity period unless otherwise approved by Us.

Director responsibilities

- 8.17. The Research Hub or Training Centre Director must:
- a. take responsibility for developing and implementing the strategies and managing the research project; and
 - b. coordinate the research effort and reporting structures across the Eligible Organisation(s) and Partner Organisation(s).

Chief Investigator responsibilities

- 8.18. Chief Investigators must:
- a. take significant intellectual responsibility for the conception and conduct of the project and for any strategic decisions required in its pursuit and the communication of results;
 - b. make a commitment to carrying out the project and not assume the role of a supplier of resources for work that will largely be undertaken by others; and
 - c. ensure effective supervision, support and mentoring at all times of research personnel, including HDR candidates and postdoctoral researchers for whom they are responsible.

Partner Investigator responsibilities

- 8.19. Partner Investigators must:
- a. take significant intellectual responsibility for the planning and conduct of the project and for any strategic decisions required in its pursuit and the communication of results;
 - b. have the relevant skills and experience to contribute to the project;
 - c. make a commitment to carrying out the project and not assume the role of a supplier of resources for work that will largely be undertaken by others; and/or
 - d. provide effective supervision, support and mentoring of research personnel, as required.

Specific research policies and practices

- 8.20. All applications and ARC-funded research projects must comply with the requirements for responsible and ethical research practice specified in the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* (2018) and the codes, guidelines, practices and policies on the ARC website including the *ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy* (2025) and any actions that have been applied under the *ARC Research Integrity Policy* (2023 version).
- 8.21. An ethics plan must be in place prior to the commencement of the project.
- 8.22. Intellectual Property arrangements should be negotiated between You, Other Eligible Organisations, Partner Organisations and Other Organisations, as relevant, We do not claim ownership of any IP arising from the project.
- 8.23. All research projects must comply with the *ARC Open Access Policy* (2021 version) on the dissemination of research findings, which is on the ARC website.
- 8.24. A data management plan must be in place before the project commences, in line with the grant agreement, and ARC expectations on the ARC website.

- 8.25. All participants applying for grants are encouraged to have a persistent digital identifier such as an Open Researcher and Contributor Identifier (ORCID ID) in their RMS Profile.

Monitoring and reporting

- 8.26. You must also inform Us of any changes to Your:
- a. name;
 - b. address(es);
 - c. nominated contact details; and
 - d. bank account details.
- 8.27. You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. Reports must be submitted to Us through RMS, unless otherwise advised by Us. Reporting may include:
- a. Key performance indicators;
 - b. Annual progress reports;
 - c. End of year reports;
 - d. Final reports; and
 - e. Post-project reporting.
- 8.28. We will monitor progress by assessing Your reports and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of Your reports if necessary. We may re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.
- 8.29. We may undertake ad hoc performance reviews of a Research Hub or Training Centre at any time. A review may be triggered in special circumstances including, but not limited to a:
- a. change of Research Hub Director or Training Centre Director;
 - b. significant change of scope or circumstance relating to the Research Hub or Training Centre; or
 - c. proposed transfer of the Research Hub or Training Centre to a new Administering Organisation.
- 8.30. Reviews may inform whether there is satisfactory progress of the project. Outcomes and feedback arising from reviews as outlined above may inform any evaluations and continuation of the Research Hub or Training Centre.
- 8.31. We may evaluate the project to measure how well the outcomes and objectives were achieved. We may use information from Your application and reports or may contact You after grant completion to assist evaluation.

9. Probity

- 9.1. The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs and the ARC Act.

Appeals process

- 9.2. We will only consider appeals against the NCGP administrative process and not against committee decisions, assessor ratings and comments, or the assessment outcome. Appellants must identify the specific guideline/legislative instrument clause, policy or procedure which they believe has been incorrectly applied.
- 9.3. You must submit an appeal using the Form on the ARC website and have it authorised by the Administering Organisation's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) or equivalent.
- 9.4. The appeals process is set out on the ARC website.

Conflict of interest

- 9.5. You will be asked to certify, as part of Your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interest have been declared to You or that, to the best of Your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest in Your application. Each individual or organisation named in an application must make this declaration about any aspect of the application or project to You at the date of submission.
- 9.6. If a conflict of interest exists or arises, You must have documented processes in place to manage the conflict of interest for the duration of the project. Such processes must comply with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* (2018), the *ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy* (2025) and any relevant successor documents.
- 9.7. We will handle any conflicts of interest as set out in Australian Government policies and procedures. Refer to the *ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy* (2025) on the ARC website.

Privacy and protection of personal information

- 9.8. We treat your personal information according to the Australian Privacy Principles and the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)*.
- 9.9. You are required, as part of Your application, to certify Your compliance with the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)*, including the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on any subcontractors You engage. You must ask for the Australian Government's consent in writing before disclosing confidential information.
- 9.10. Information about privacy and personal information is set out on the ARC website.

Confidential information

- 9.11. The Australian Government may use and disclose confidential information about grant applicants and grant recipients to any other Australian Government business or function.
- 9.12. We will treat the information You give Us as confidential if:
 - a. You clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why We should treat it as confidential;
 - b. the information is commercial in confidence;
 - c. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to You or someone else; or
 - d. You provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

Freedom of information

- 9.13. All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the Linkage Program, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)* (FOI Act).
- 9.14. The Freedom of Information process is set out on the ARC website.

Part A Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (Research Hubs)

A1. About the scheme

A1.1 This part of the document sets out the specific requirements for the Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (Research Hubs) scheme. This part must be read together with the ITRP requirements in Sections 1-9 of these grant guidelines.

Description

A1.2 Research Hubs engage Australia's best researchers to develop collaborative solutions to the Industrial Transformation Priorities. The focus is on the creation of industry and academic partnerships working together on research and development projects to create innovative and transformative solutions for industry.

Objectives

A1.3 The Research Hubs scheme objectives are to:

- a. support collaborative research projects between universities and organisations outside the Australian higher education sector that involve cutting-edge research on new technologies; and
- b. leverage national and international investment in targeted industry sectors, including from industry and other research end-users.

A1.4 The intended outcomes of the Research Hubs scheme are:

- a. growth, productivity and competitiveness within the Industrial Transformation Priorities; and
- b. economic, commercial and social transformation.

A2. Grant amount and grant period

A2.1 The ARC may provide project funding as detailed in Table 1.

A2.2 **Table 1:** Research Hubs funding and grant duration.

Category	Details
Research Hubs funding level	Between \$500,000 and \$1 million per annum.
Research Hubs funding duration	Between three and five consecutive years.

The figures in this section are based on the 2024 price levels of funding and may be subject to variation (for example, due to annual indexation).

A3. Eligibility criteria

Applications

A3.1 Your Research Hub application must include the following named participants:

- a. Research Hub Director, who is an eligible CI from Your organisation;

- b. at least one other CI from Your organisation;
 - c. at least one CI from each Other Eligible Organisation; and
 - d. at least one PI from each Partner Organisation.
- A3.2 Your application must include a commitment of combined Partner Organisation(s) contributions (i.e. the total of the cash and in-kind contributions of the Partner Organisations) that matches or exceeds the total funding requested from Us.
- A3.3 The combined Partner Organisation(s) cash contribution:
- a. must be at least 75% of the total funding requested from Us where any Partner Organisation has more than 100 employees;
 - b. has no minimum contribution where the Partner Organisation or the largest Partner Organisation in a consortium in the application has 100 employees or less; and
 - c. has no upper limit.

A4. What the grant money can be used for

- A4.1 Eligible expenditure items for Research Hubs may include:
- a. items in Section 5.3 of these grant guidelines; and
 - b. teaching relief for CIs up to a total value of \$50,000 per CI per year where it is demonstrated that it will enhance engagement with the Partner Organisation(s).

A5. The assessment criteria

- A5.1 The assessment criteria for the Research Hubs grant opportunity are:
- a. Investigator(s)/Capability 20%**
Describe the:
 - demonstrated Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) of the proposed team including:
 - evidence of experience in managing distributed and/or collaborative industrial and end-user focussed research;
 - evidence of significant outcomes on industry related projects; and
 - evidence of experience in and capacity to provide effective supervision, support and mentoring for HDR candidates and postdoctoral researchers over the life of the Research Hub.
 - appropriateness of the team research track record to achieve the Research Hub's goals; and
 - time and capacity of the team to undertake and manage the proposed research in collaboration with the Partner Organisation(s).
 - b. Project Quality and Innovation 30%**
Describe the extent to which the:
 - aims, concepts, methods and outcomes will drive growth, productivity and competitiveness within relevant sectors;

- conceptual/theoretical framework is genuinely integrated, cross-disciplinary, innovative and original; and
- project draws together high quality innovative national and international partnership(s) into an integrated Research Hub.

c. Feasibility and Commitment

20%

Describe the:

- extent to which the Research Hub represents value for money;
- appropriateness of the design of the Research Hub and the expertise of the participants to ensure the project can be completed within the proposed budget and timeframe (including identified risks and mitigation strategies);
- proposed level of collaboration to support the research project, including national and international networks and linkages;
- high-quality intellectual support provided for the Research Hub by the research environment of the participating organisations;
- availability of and access to the necessary facilities required to support the proposed research (physical, technical, access to infrastructure, etc);
- commitment by each Partner Organisation(s) to collaboration in the Research Hub;
- adequacy of the budget, including cash and in-kind Contributions pledged by participating organisations; and
- extent to which the proposed Research Hub engages, and will continue to engage, meaningfully with the relevant industry experts.

If the project involves Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research, additional criteria include:

- The project's level of collaboration, engagement, relationship building and benefit sharing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and First Nations Organisations and Communities;
- The project's strategy and mechanisms for Indigenous research capacity building within the project;
- The project's level of internal leadership of Indigenous research;
- The project's adherence to the Australian Indigenous Data Sovereignty Principles (2018); and
- The project's understanding of, and proposed strategies to adhere to, the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research (2020) and NHMRC's guidelines on Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities (2018).

d. Benefit

30%

Describe:

- the extent to which the research clearly addresses one or more of the Industrial Transformation Priorities;

- the economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for relevant Australian research end-users (including relevant industry and manufacturing sectors);
- the extent to which the proposed Research Hub supports clearly identified market opportunity(ies) and intended transformation for Australian industry or other end users;
- the extent to which the proposed Research Hub will build research capacity in the Partner Organisation(s);
- the extent to which there are adequate strategies to encourage dissemination, promotion, and the commercialisation of research outcomes;
- the potential contribution of the proposed research to addressing the needs of industries and communities as articulated in Australia’s Industrial Transformation Priorities; and
- where relevant, the extent to which the applicants have identified the freedom to operate in the Intellectual Property and patent landscape to enable future benefits to industry.

Part B Industrial Transformation Training Centres (Training Centres)

B1. About the scheme

- B1.1 This Part of the document sets out the specific requirements for the Industrial Transformation Training Centres (Training Centres) scheme. This part must be read together with the general ITRP requirements in Sections 1-9 of these grant guidelines.

Description

- B1.2 Training Centres foster close partnerships between university-based researchers and industry, through creating and delivering innovative Higher Degree by Research (HDR) and postdoctoral training. Training Centres are to develop researchers with capability in end user research that is vital to Australia's future. In delivering this training, the Training Centre focuses its researchers on developing solutions relevant to the Industrial Transformation Priorities.

Objectives

- B1.3 The Training Centres scheme objectives are to:
- support HDR candidates and postdoctoral researchers to undertake industrial training;
 - support research collaboration between universities and organisations outside the Australian higher education sector; and
 - strengthen the capabilities of industry and research end-users in identified Industrial Transformation Priority areas.
- B1.4 The intended outcomes of the Training Centres scheme are:
- growth, productivity and competitiveness within Industrial Transformation Priorities; and
 - economic, commercial and social transformation.

B2. Grant amount and grant period

- B2.1 The ARC may provide project funding, which includes salary funding and stipend funding as detailed in Table 2.

- B2.2 **Table 2:** Training Centres funding and grant duration.

Category	Details
Training Centres funding maximum	Maximum of \$5 million over a maximum of five consecutive years.
Training Centres funding level	Between \$650,000 and \$1 million per annum for the first three years.
(funding includes funding for ICHDR positions and	Between \$150,000 and \$1 million per annum for the fourth year.

Category	Details
ICPD positions at rates as listed below)	There is no minimum level of funding provided by the ARC in the fifth year. The maximum is \$1 million.
Training Centres funding duration	Between four and five consecutive years.
ICPD salary level	At a level appropriate to the employing organisation, but no less than the level indicated on the salaries and stipends page of the ARC website.
ICPD salary duration	Up to five consecutive years.
ICHDR stipend level	At a level appropriate to the Eligible Organisation, but no less than the level indicated on the salaries and stipends page of the ARC website.
ICHDR stipend duration	Two or three years, as appropriate for the Higher Degree by Research that the ICHDR is undertaking.

The figures in this section are based on the 2024 price levels of funding and may be subject to variation (for example, due to annual indexation). Updated levels will be available on the salaries and stipends page of the ARC website.

- B2.3 A project may include additional HDR and postdoctoral positions. Any roles funded by non-ARC sources are not considered to be ICHDRs and ICPDs and are not covered by the employment conditions in the grant agreement.

B3. Eligibility criteria

Applications

- B3.1 To be eligible, Your application must include:
- at least 10 ICHDRs; and
 - at least one ICPD.
- B3.2 Your application must nominate the following named participants:
- Training Centre Director, who is an eligible CI from Your organisation;
 - At least one other CI from Your organisation;
 - At least one CI from each Other Eligible Organisation; and
 - At least one PI from each Partner Organisation.
- B3.3 Your application must include a commitment of combined cash and in-kind contributions to the Training Centre that, along with the ARC contribution, are sufficient to support all the research projects described in the application and particularly that of the ICHDRs and ICPDs in the Training Centre.

B4. What the grant money can be used for

B4.1 Eligible expenditure items for Training Centres may include:

- a. items in Section 5.3 of these grant guidelines;
- b. stipends for ICHDRs enrolled at an Eligible Organisation at no less than the level indicated on the salaries and stipends page of the ARC website; and
- c. salary support for ICPDs at no less than the level indicated on the salaries and stipends page of the ARC website and appointed for at least 0.5 FTE at an Eligible Organisation for the duration of their role on the Project.

B5. The assessment criteria

B5.1 The assessment criteria for the Training Centres are:

a. Investigator(s)/Capability 20%

Describe the:

- demonstrated Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) of the proposed team including:
 - evidence of experience in managing distributed and/or collaborative industrial and end-user focussed research;
 - Evidence of significant outcomes on industry related projects;
 - Evidence of experience in and capacity to provide effective supervision, support and mentoring for HDR candidates and postdoctoral researchers over the life of the Training Centre;
- appropriateness of team research track record to achieve the Training Centre's goals; and
- time and capacity of the team to undertake and manage the proposed research in collaboration with the Partner Organisation(s).

b. Project Quality and Innovation 30%

Describe the extent to which:

- the aims, concepts, methods and outcomes will drive growth, productivity and competitiveness within relevant sectors;
- the project builds skills and capacity in end-user focussed research;
- the conceptual/theoretical framework is genuinely integrated, cross-disciplinary, innovative and original; and
- how the Training Centre has a wide level of collaboration, including the development of national and international networks and linkages.

c. Feasibility and Commitment 20%

Describe the:

- extent to which the proposed Training Centre represents value for money;
- practicality of the proposed project objectives, budget and timeframe (including identified risks and mitigation strategies);

- proposed level of collaboration to support the research project;
- high quality intellectual support provided for the Training Centre by the research environment of the participating organisations;
- availability of and access to necessary facilities required to support the proposed research (physical, technical, access to infrastructure, etc);
- capacity of each Partner Organisation(s) to support the Training Centre (including the plan for student placements);
- extent to which the proposed Training Centre will engage , and will continue to engage, meaningfully with the relevant industry experts;
- commitment by each Partner Organisation(s) to collaboration in the Training Centre; and
- Partner Organisation(s) facilities and personnel contribution to the effective supervision, on-site training, support and mentoring for the HDR candidates and postdoctoral researchers over the life of the project.

If the project involves Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research, additional criteria include:

- The project’s level of collaboration, engagement, relationship building and benefit sharing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and First Nations Organisations and Communities;
- The project’s strategy and mechanisms for Indigenous research capacity building within the project;
- The project’s level of internal leadership of Indigenous research;
- The project’s adherence to the Australian Indigenous Data Sovereignty Principles (2018); and
- The project’s understanding of, and proposed strategies to adhere to, the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research (2020) and NHMRC’s guidelines on Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities (2018).

d. Benefit 30%

Describe:

- the extent to which the research clearly addresses one or more of the Industrial Transformation Priorities;
- the economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for relevant Australian research end-users (including relevant industry and manufacturing sectors);
- the extent to which the proposed Training Centre supports clearly identified market opportunity(ies) and intended transformation for Australian industry or other end users;
- the extent to which the proposed Training Centre will build the ability to exploit research outcomes in the Partner Organisations;

- the extent to which there are adequate strategies to encourage disseminations and promotion of research outcomes;
- the potential contribution of the proposed research to addressing the needs of industries and communities as articulated in Australia’s Industrial Transformation Priorities; and
- where relevant, the extent to which the applicants have identified the freedom to operate in the Intellectual Property and patent landscape to enable future benefits to industry.

B6. Successful grant applications

B6.1 You are encouraged to work with Us to facilitate the effective establishment of the Training Centre.

Your responsibilities

B6.2 You must undertake a process of competitive national and international recruitment for ICHDRs and ICPDs to be appointed to the Training Centre once the grant has been approved and announced. The recruitment and selection processes must:

- a. include competitive recruitment practices involving advertisement, selection and offers;
- b. ensure that ICPDs hold a PhD (or equivalent) qualification; and
- c. demonstrate an effort to attract and recruit external and international candidates.

B6.3 You will be responsible for ensuring that:

- a. ICHDRs recruited to and funded through Your Training Centre are enrolled in a HDR at an Eligible Organisation;
- b. ICPDs recruited to and funded through Your Training Centre must be an employee for at least 0.5 FTE at an Eligible Organisation;
- c. ICHDRs funded through the Training Centre grant conduct research for a minimum total of one year full-time placement with a Partner Organisation(s) (outside the higher education sector) over the project activity period;
- d. ICPDs funded through the Training Centre grant are encouraged to spend significant time conducting research with a Partner Organisation(s);
- e. ICHDRs and ICPDs do not commence another Commonwealth Fellowship or award while they are employed with funds from the project; and
- f. details of the selection and recruitment process for ICHDRs and ICPDs are made available for audit purposes if requested.

B6.4 Contributions from participating organisations may be used to top-up the stipends of the ICHDRs and salaries of the ICPDs where appropriate. A project may include additional HDR and postdoctoral roles fully funded by participating organisation contributions; however these roles are not considered to be ICHDRs and ICPDs.

Appendix A – Glossary

Acronyms

In these Grant Guidelines, the following acronyms are used.

Acronym	Description	Acronym	Description
ARC	Australian Research Council	ITRP	Industrial Transformation Research Program
ARC Act	<i>Australian Research Council Act 2001</i>	NCGP	National Competitive Grants Program
CGRPs	<i>Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2014</i>	LIEF	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities
CI	Chief Investigator	PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
FTE	Full Time Equivalent	PI	Partner Investigator
FOI	Freedom of Information	RMS	Research Management System
GST	Goods and Services Tax	RNTA	Request Not To Assess
HECS	Higher Education Contribution Scheme	SAC	Selection Advisory Committee
HELP	Higher Education Loan Program		

Definitions

For the purposes of these grant guidelines, terms have the meanings defined below.

Term	Definition
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person	a person of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and is accepted as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person by the community in which they live or have lived.
active project	a project that is receiving funding according to the terms of an existing Funding Agreement or grant agreement, or has any carryover funds approved by the ARC, or an approved variation to the project end date.
Accountable Authority	Members of the ARC Board are the Accountable Authority of the ARC as defined in section 5 of the ARC Act.
Administering Organisation	an Eligible Organisation which submits an application for a grant and which will be responsible for the administration of the grant if the application is approved for funding.
applicant	the Administering Organisation.
application	a request for funding submitted through RMS by an Administering Organisation seeking grant funding under an ARC grant program. It includes the specifics of a proposed grant activity as well as the administrative information required to determine the eligibility of the application.
applied research	original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective. https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-research-classification-anzsrc/latest-release
ARC Board	The ARC Board is appointed by the Minister and consists of the Chair, Deputy Chair and up to seven other members. The ARC Board's function includes determining priorities, strategies and policies from the ARC. The ARC Board is the Accountable Authority of the Australian Research Council.
ARC College of Experts	the body of experts of international standing appointed to assist the ARC to identify research excellence, moderate external assessments and recommend applications for funding. Its members are specialist and generalist experts in their knowledge fields drawn from the Australian research community. The ARC website provides information on who is a member of the College of Experts.
assessment criteria	the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be considered. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of applications and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings.

Term	Definition
Australian Partner Organisation	is a Partner Organisation that is an entity that is incorporated under Australian Law, is operating in Australia and has an Australian Business Number (ABN).
bench fees	fees that an organisation charges for an individual to use infrastructure which would normally be provided by the organisation for their employees. This infrastructure may vary and could include, for example, an office or laboratory space with appropriate equipment, or access to non-specialised equipment owned by the organisation.
cash contribution	the cash from an organisation, which is transferred to and managed by the Administering Organisation.
Chief Investigator	a participant who satisfies the eligibility criteria for a CI under these grant guidelines.
Commonwealth Fellowship	a position held by a participant where the salary is funded wholly or partly by the Commonwealth.
consultancy	the provision of specialist advice, analysis, assistance, services or products to another organisation(s), generally where the consultancy services are for the sole or preferred use of that other organisation(s).
date of effect	the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date.
Detailed Assessors	assessors who are assigned applications to review for their specific expertise in a field of research.
eligibility criteria	the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
Eligible Organisation	an organisation listed in Appendix B of these grant guidelines.
experimental development	experimental development is systematic work, drawing on knowledge gained from research and practical experience and producing additional knowledge, which is directed to producing new products or processes or to improving existing products or processes. https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-research-classification-anzsrc/latest-release
field research	the collection of information integral to the project outside a laboratory, library or workplace setting and often in a location external to the individual's normal place of employment.
grant activity	the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake. A project consists of a number of grant activities.
grant agreement	the agreement entered into by the ARC and an Administering Organisation when an application from that organisation is approved for grant funding. This was previously referred to as a 'Funding Agreement'.
grant commencement date	the date on which grant funding may commence.

Term	Definition
grant guidelines	grant guidelines, otherwise known as funding rules, are rules approved by the Minister under section 59 (including as varied under section 60) of the ARC Act.
grant offer	the details listed in the ARC's RMS under 'Funding Offers' showing the project details and grant amount.
GrantConnect	the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs.
grantee	the Administering Organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
grant opportunity	the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. grant opportunities may be open or targeted and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant opportunity closing date	the last day on which applications for a grant opportunity will be accepted for consideration for a specific grant opportunity.
grant recipient	an individual or organisation who has received grant funding from the ARC.
GST	the meaning as given in Section 195-1 of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i> .
higher degree by research (HDR)	a 'Research Doctorate or Research Masters program, for which at least two-thirds of the student load for the program is required as research work' as defined by the <i>Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017</i> .
Honorary academic appointment	An honorary academic appointment for eligibility purposes means a position that gives full academic status to the researcher, as certified by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) (or equivalent) in the application. The researcher must have access to research support comparable to employees e.g., an emeritus appointment. The researcher is not eligible to be a Chief Investigator using their honorary academic appointment if they are employed by an organisation other than an Eligible Organisation for more than 0.2 FTE.
ICHDR	means a higher degree by research candidate funded by the ARC, through the Administering Organisation, who will be employed on the Training Centres project. These candidates are not nominated as 'named participants' on the application.
ICPD	means a postdoctoral fellow funded by the ARC through the Administering Organisation, who meets the ICPD candidate eligibility criteria and who will be employed on the Training Centres project. These candidates are not nominated as 'named participants' on the application.

Term	Definition
Industrial Transformation Priorities	Means targeted research areas identified by the ARC based on relevant government priorities and updated from time to time on the ARC website. The current Industrial Transformation Priorities align with the National Reconstruction Fund priority funding areas, available on the Federal Register of Legislation.
in-kind contributions	A contribution of goods, services, materials and/or time to the project from an individual, business or organisation. Values should be calculated based on the most likely actual cost, for example, current market, preferred provider or internal provider rates/valuations/rentals/charges (that is in the financial year of the date of the application) of the costs of labour, workspaces, equipment and databases. The calculations covering time and costs should be documented by the Administering Organisation. The ARC may require these calculations to be audited.
Instructions to Applicants	a set of instructions prepared by the ARC to assist applicants in completing the application form.
Key Performance Indicators	a set of quantifiable measures that the ARC use to monitor and report on progress of research outcomes.
legislative instrument	a law on matters of detail made by a person or body authorised to do so by the relevant enabling legislation.
medical research	medical research as defined in the ARC <i>Medical Research Policy</i> (2025 version) available on the ARC website.
named participants	individual researchers nominated for particular roles in an application.
National Reconstruction Fund	A \$15 billion Australian Government initiative to diversify and transform Australia's industry and economy through targeted investments in priority funding areas as described on the Federal Register of Legislation.
ORCID Identifier	a persistent digital identifier for an individual researcher available on the ORCID website, www.orcid.org .
Other Eligible Organisation	an organisation listed in Section 4.7 of these grant guidelines which is not the Administering Organisation on an application.
other material resources	resources where a monetary value is not relevant or to which it is difficult to assign a monetary value, for example, access to restricted data, samples or documents. These contributions are most commonly identified in the research program section of the application in a letter of support.
Other Organisation	an organisation that is not an Eligible Organisations and not a Partner Organisation that contributes to the research project.
Partner Investigator	a named participant who satisfies the eligibility criteria for a Partner Investigator (PI) under these grant guidelines.
Partner Organisation	an Australian or overseas organisation, other than an Eligible Organisation, which satisfies the eligibility requirements for a Partner Organisation and is to be a cash and/or in-kind and/or other material resources contributor to the Project.

Term	Definition
PhD	a qualification that meets the level 10 criteria of the <i>Australian Qualifications Framework Second Edition</i> January 2013.
Postdoctoral Research Associate	a postdoctoral research associate funded by the Commonwealth through the Administering Organisation, who will be employed on the project.
Postgraduate Researcher	a postgraduate research student funded by the Commonwealth through the Administering Organisation, who will undertake a Higher Degree by Research through the project.
Preprint or comparable resource	A preprint or comparable resource is a scholarly output that is uploaded by the authors to a recognised publicly accessible archive, repository, or pre-print service (such as, but not limited to, arXiv, bioRxiv, medRxiv, ChemRxiv, Peer J Preprints, Zenodo, GitHub, PsyArXiv and publicly available university or government repositories etc.). This will include a range of materials that have been subjected to varying degrees of peer review from none to light and full review. Ideally, a preprint or comparable resource should have a unique identifier or a DOI (digital object identifier). Any citation of a preprint or comparable resource should be explicitly identified as such and listed in the references with a DOI, URL or equivalent, version number and/or date of access, as applicable.
project	an application approved by the Minister to receive funding from the ARC through an application.
project activity period	the period during which a project is receiving funding according to the original grant Offer, or has any carryover funds approved by the ARC, or an approved variation to the project's end date. During this period, the project is known as an active project.
project end date	the expected date that the project activity is completed and by which all grant funding will be spent.
pure basic research	basic research carried out for the advancement of knowledge, without seeking long-term economic or social benefits or making any effort to apply the results to practical problems or to transfer the results to sectors responsible for their application. https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-research-classification-anzsrc/latest-release

Term	Definition
research	for the purposes of these grant guidelines, the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies, inventions and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative. This definition of research is consistent with a broad notion of research and experimental development comprising “creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge – including knowledge of humankind, culture and society – and to devise new applications of available knowledge” OECD (2015), <i>Frascati Manual 2015: Guidelines for Collecting and Reporting Data on Research and Experimental Development</i> (p.378).
Research Associate	postdoctoral research associate funded by the Commonwealth through the Administering Organisation, who will be employed on the Project.
Research Hubs	refers to the Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (ITRH) under the Industrial Transformation Research Program.
Research Hub Manager	a person with relevant skills and experience who is able to management and facilitate the day-to-day operation of the Research Hub.
research infrastructure	the assets, facilities, services, and coordinated access to major national and/or international research facilities or consortia which directly support research in higher education organisations and more broadly, and which maintain the capacity of researchers to undertake excellent research and deliver innovative outcomes.
Research Office	a business unit within an Eligible Organisation that is responsible for contact with the ARC regarding applications and projects.
Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE)	an ARC policy framework used to consider and assess the quality and research excellence of a named participant within the context of the participant’s career and life experiences. One key element is that the assessment process takes into account the quality rather than simply the volume or size of the research contribution.
research output	includes all products (including Preprints or comparable resources) of an ARC-funded research Project that meet the definition of Research.
Selection Advisory Committee (SAC)	a group of experts from academia and industry appointed to assist the ARC to assess applications and to provide a recommendation for funding to the ARC Accountable Authority. A SAC may be drawn from the ARC College of Experts.

Term	Definition
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
Special Condition	a condition specified in a grant offer which governs the use of the funding provided by the ARC.
strategic basic research	experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge directed into specified broad areas in the expectation of practical discoveries. It provides the broad base of knowledge necessary for the solution of recognised practical problems. https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-research-classification-anzsrc/latest-release
technical workshop services	the specialised construction and maintenance activities carried out by a technician, often within a dedicated facility for working with materials such as wood, glass, metal, plastics or electronics.
Training Centres	refers to the Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTC) under the Industrial Transformation Research Program.
Training Centre Director	a participant who satisfies the eligibility criteria for a Training Centre Director under these grant guidelines.
Training Centre Manager	a person with relevant skills and experience who is able to manage and facilitate the day-to-day operation of the Centre.
travel costs	the domestic and international economy travel costs associated with the project, including to foster and strengthen collaboration between researchers in Australia and overseas.
value for money	‘value for money’ is a judgement based on the grant application representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources determined from a variety of considerations: merit of the proposal, risk, cost and expected contribution to outcome achievement.
Variation of grant agreement (Variation)	a request submitted to the ARC in RMS to agree a change in the Grant agreement.
We	the Australian Research Council (ARC). ‘Us’ and ‘Our’ are also used in this context.
You	the Eligible Organisation that submitted the application. ‘Your’ is also used in this context.

Appendix B: Eligible Organisations

Organisation Name	Organisation ABN	Organisation Name	Organisation ABN
Adelaide University	41 202 953 738	Swinburne University of Technology	13 628 586 699
Australian Catholic University	15 050 192 660	The Australian National University	52 234 063 906
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	62 020 533 641	The University of Adelaide	61 249 878 937
Avondale University	53 108 186 401	The University of Melbourne	84 002 705 224
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	32 039 179 166	The University of New England	75 792 454 315
Bond University	88 010 694 121	The University of New South Wales	57 195 873 179
Central Queensland University	39 181 103 288	The University of Newcastle	15 736 576 735
Charles Darwin University	54 093 513 649	The University of Notre Dame Australia	69 330 643 210
Charles Sturt University	83 878 708 551	The University of Queensland	63 942 912 684
Curtin University	99 143 842 569	The University of Sydney	15 211 513 464
Deakin University	56 721 584 203	The University of Western Australia	37 882 817 280
Edith Cowan University	54 361 485 361	Torrens University Australia	99 154 937 005
Federation University Australia	51 818 692 256	University of Canberra	81 633 873 422
Flinders University	65 542 596 200	University of Divinity	95 290 912 141
Griffith University	78 106 094 461	University of South Australia	37 191 313 308
James Cook University	46 253 211 955	University of Southern Queensland	40 234 732 081
La Trobe University	64 804 735 113	University of Tasmania	30 764 374 782
Macquarie University	90 952 801 237	University of Technology Sydney	77 257 686 961
Monash University	12 377 614 012	University of the Sunshine Coast	28 441 859 157
Murdoch University	61 616 369 313	University of Wollongong	61 060 567 686
Queensland University of Technology	83 791 724 622	Victoria University	83 776 954 731
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT University)	49 781 030 034	Western Sydney University	53 014 069 881
Southern Cross University	41 995 651 524		