ARC Centres of Excellence for funding commencing in 2014

April 2013

Australian Research Council
Presentation Overview

- Overview of ARC Centres of Excellence
- Applying for a 2014 Centre
- Key points on the process
- Selection criteria
- Personnel, organisations and budgets
- Research Impact
- Other tips and timeline
- ARC promotion of research and outcomes
- Questions
## National Competitive Grants Program

### Discovery Projects
- Australian Laureate Fellowships
- Discovery Indigenous
- Discovery Early Career Researcher Award
- Future Fellowships

### Linkage Projects
- ARC Centres of Excellence
- Co-funded Centres and Special Research Initiatives
- Industrial Transformation Research Hubs
- Industrial Transformation Training Centres

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Web: arc.gov.au  |  Email: info@arc.gov.au
ARC Linkage Program

National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP)

Linkage Program

- Linkage Projects
- Industrial Transformation Research Program
- Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities
- ARC Centres of Excellence
- Co-Funded Centres
- Special Research Initiatives
- Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects

Web: arc.gov.au | Email: info@arc.gov.au
Overview of ARC Centres of Excellence

- The ARC Centres of Excellence scheme was originally established in 2002 to support research intended to build national capability in areas of national importance and develop the scale and focus necessary for Australia to achieve international standing in those areas.

- The scheme funds world class, internationally competitive research teams investigating, and finding solutions to, challenging and important Australian and international problems.
## Previous statistics - 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EOI received</th>
<th>EOI shortlisted</th>
<th>Full apps received</th>
<th>Number interviewed</th>
<th>Successful proposals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Australian Government commitment of $255.9 million over seven years
Overview of ARC Centres of Excellence

ARC Centres of Excellence involve significant collaboration with:

– universities
– publicly funded research organisations
– other research bodies
– governments and
– businesses

In all fields of research (except Medical and Dental Research).
The ARC Centres of Excellence – objectives

a. highly innovative and potentially transformational research
b. interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches
c. develop relationships and build new networks
d. build Australia’s human capacity
e. postgraduate and postdoctoral training
f. large-scale problems over longer periods
g. points of interaction between unis, business, govt, private sector
Consultation

• The ARC consulted universities in December 2012 on the application process
• Following feedback, for 2014 it will be a competitive three stage process for selection (similar to 2011)
• $1 million to $4 million a year for seven years is available
The process - key participants

- Organisations
  - Administering organisations
  - Collaborating organisations
  - Partner organisations
The process - key participants

- The people
  - Centre Director
  - Chief Investigators
  - Partner Investigators
  - Other participants
The process of applying for a Centre
Competitive three stage process for applications

1. Expressions of Interest
   - shortlisted by Selection Advisory Committee (SAC)

2. Full Proposal
   - external expert assessment/rejoinder
   - SAC shortlists Proposals for interview phase

3. Interviews in Canberra with SAC (including ARC ED)
   - Proposed Centre Director, key researchers
   - DVCR

The SAC will make recommendations to ARC CEO for Ministerial approval
The process – key changes

- EOI and Proposal forms will both be available via the ARC online system – RMS

- EOI – ARC reserves the right to invite institutions to combine EOIs where significant synergy, overlap or duplication is evident.

- Full Proposals will only be accepted if an EOI has been shortlisted and the Administering Organisation has been invited by the ARC to apply
The process – cross scheme eligibility – limits of grants held

- The ARC has allowed researchers to retain all grants/Fellowships/Awards held or Proposals submitted through other ARC funding schemes until the outcome of the ARC Centres of Excellence Proposal is known.
- If the Centre Proposal is successful, the relevant Centre Director and Chief Investigators will be required to relinquish projects to comply with specified limits of permissible grants held.
The process – cross scheme eligibility

- Note the revised definition of ARC Research Centres Program and its exclusions of certain initiatives:

ARC Research Centres Program means a research centre wholly or partly funded by the ARC and includes ARC Centres of Excellence, Co-funded Centres and specific ARC Special Research Initiatives (excluding Initiatives providing funding for Synchrotron Science and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers’ Network).
The process – duplication of research

The ARC will initially allow researchers to submit proposals to and hold grants in other ARC schemes. Researchers, however, will need to identify those projects which overlap or duplicate the research program proposed in the Centre Proposal and explain to the ARC that if the Centre Proposal is successful:

- the projects which overlap with the Centre Proposal will be relinquished; or
- the projects may be retained if they demonstrate compliance with stated eligibility and duplication requirements in the Funding Rules.
The selection criteria

- One set of selection criteria but –
  - there are different weightings for EOI and Full Proposals
- The selection criteria have been revised

**Expression of Interest**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection Criteria</th>
<th>EOI Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Research program – quality and innovation</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Investigators</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Institutional support</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The selection criteria

Full Proposal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection Criteria</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Research program – quality and innovation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Investigators</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Institutional support</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Governance, leadership and mentoring</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Outcomes and linkages</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key matters relating to personnel

- Centre Directors
  - must commit a minimum of 70% of their time (extra clarity for the term predominantly); and
  - must be employed by Administering Organisation at time of commencement.

- A Centre Director can only be nominated for that role on one EOI/full Proposal
Key matters relating to personnel

- Chief Investigators and Partner Investigators
  - no minimum commitment but ARC will scrutinise researcher capacity very closely in relation to selection criterion B.

The capacity, suitability and contribution of the Centre Director, Chief Investigators and Partner Investigators to the proposed research program.
Key matters relating to personnel

Chief Investigators – new requirements for residency

- Absences overseas should not exceed two years of the seven year period
- Requests to exceed that two year period need written approval from the ARC in advance
- Continuous absences of more than six months in a twelve-month period are not permitted
Collaborating Organisations

- An EOI or Proposal must include one or more Collaborating Organisations (see Appendix A for list of eligible organisations)

- There must be a significant contribution of cash, in-kind contributions and/or other material resources from the Collaborating Organisation(s)
Partner Organisations

- An EOI or Proposal must include one or more Partner Organisations.
- A Partner Organisation must **not** be an Eligible Organisation, or a controlled entity, or an entity (for example a joint venture) where more than 50 per cent is owned by one or more Eligible Organisations.
- There must be a significant contribution of cash, in-kind Contributions and/or other material resources from the Partner Organisation(s).
Key matters relating to budgets

IN
- publications and dissemination costs – no cap for Centres
- development/maintenance costs of a Centre’s website
- compliance with ARC Open Access Policy required
- new inclusion of the Australian Industry Participation Plan, for budgets that exceed $20 million over a seven year duration. Only applies after Centres that are successful

OUT
- equipment for live music or drama performances.
Research Impact

- There is a new definition of research impact
- **Research Impact** means the demonstrable contribution that research makes to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life, beyond academia.
- It is included in selection criteria E.6 and needs to be addressed in the full Proposal
- New Key Performance Indicators include new standard measures of research impact
- The changes will improve communication about research outcomes more broadly
Tips for new players!

- **Objectives of the scheme**: think carefully when addressing the selection criteria
- **Research program**: well thought out and developed
- **Track records**: past success is important but this selection process is not just about past research achievements (where appropriate address ROPE)
- **Collaborations, linkages, networks**: the whole must be greater than the sum of the parts
**Timeline**

- Work with the proposed Administering Organisation – Research Office
- Regularly monitor the indicative dates on ARC website

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARC Centres of Excellence</th>
<th>Key Indicative Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expression of Interest open</td>
<td>10 April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expression of Interest close</td>
<td>8 May 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals open</td>
<td>24 June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals close</td>
<td>7 August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rejoinders open and close</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>October/November 2013</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ARC promotion of research and outcomes

- ARChway
- News from the sector
- Events
- Twitter
- Research Expo
- Research Communicators Network
- Centres of Excellence e-book
ARChway

- ARC’s new online newsletter
- First edition released March 2013
- replaces the former Discovery newsletter
- publications@arc.gov.au to submit stories
- editorial policy available from ARC website

Message from CEO

Welcome to the first edition of ARChway (see what we did there?) This monthly newsletter will bring you the latest from the Australian Research Council (ARC), on current issues in research funding, and will bring to your attention some of the exciting research that is taking place in Australia today. The idea behind the name ARChway for this newsletter is that the ARC opens doors to research.

Since I started at the ARC in July 2012, I have been fortunate to be given an integrated view of the research sector, and have spoken with a very large number of those that actively take part in it, each with their own view of where things are going and how the sector could be improved. It is exciting to be witness to such a volume of good ideas and enthusiasm for a future that we are building together.

READ MORE>

Image courtesy: Photography by Norman Plant

Latest news

Events

CEPS 2013 Human Rights and Policing Conference
16 to 18 April 2013
News from the sector

You are here:  Home › Media › Research Profiles

Research Profiles

The ARC funds hundreds of research projects each year through our Linkage, Discovery and Centres funding schemes as part of the National Competitive Grants Program.

Here we profile just a handful of the many researchers and research projects, to tell the stories about their work and research outcomes.

2013

March

- **Climate 'brings opportunities and threats to the Pacific'** – 25 March 2013
  (media issued by ARC Centre for Excellence in Coral Reef Studies)
  Marine scientists from France, New Caledonia, Fiji and Australia (supported by the ARC Centre for Excellence in Coral Reef Studies) have revealed that climate change will bring both big opportunities and threats to the Pacific region, where more than 25% of GDP (gross domestic product) depends upon fishing. Impacts include a projected decline in coral reef fish, shellfish and crustacean harvests, along with a shift in tuna feeding and breeding grounds which would result in a 'net gain' in the south and east Pacific region.

- **New roads might help environment** – 21 March 2013
  (media issued by James Cook University)
  The work of leading ecologist Professor William Laurance, an ARC Laureate Fellow researching Australia’s leadership in tropical conservation science, has featured in *Nature*. Professor Laurance, along with colleague Professor Andrew Balmford (University of Cambridge, UK), has found that despite the strong impact road construction has on forest destruction and wildfires, a global mapping program can advise on where to avoid building new roads and close existing ones, to halt severe environmental damage.

- **What are migraines?** – 18 March 2013
  (media featured by The Griffith Health Institute as reported in *The Conversation*)
  Professor Lyn Griffiths, who receives funding from the ARC to support her migraine research, looks into the symptoms and causes of migraines. Her research is currently focused on the latest treatments, specifically the efficacy of non-toxic vitamin therapy.
Events

You are here:  Home • Media • News and Events

News and Events
Here we promote current news and upcoming events occurring in the research sector.

2013

April

- CEPS 2013 Human Rights and Policing Conference

March

- ARC CEO, Professor Aidan Byrne, speaks to Barry Levine from Vision Australia Radio
- CRCA 2013 Conference – Collaborate Innovate

February

- Joint CoEPP-CAASTRO workshop
- Don’t miss the South Australian Climate Change Adaptation Showcase!
- LSAY National Research Forum - Are we there yet? Youth transitions in Australia
- ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES) - Collaboration launch
- ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security (CEPS) - Symposium on the Privatisation of Intelligence - Call for Papers
- Japan—Australia collaboration to accelerate stem cell research
- ARC-funded researchers recognised in Australia Day 2013 Honours List
Twitter

• Follow us on Twitter @arc_gov.au

• Would you like us to retweet one of your messages?

• Contact us communications@arc.gov.au
Research Expo
Research Communicators’ Network
Centres of Excellence e-book

- Is it a good idea?
- Would be placed on our website
- Updated twice a year?
- We’d like your feedback
Your ARC media contacts

- communications@arc.gov.au and publications@arc.gov.au

- ARC Media line 02 6287 6711

- We are always willing to help

- Let us know when you have a news story or event that needs promoting
ARC Centres of Excellence

Questions?