ARC funding and HCA
The University of Adelaide
26 September 2014

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Executive Director, Humanities and Creative Arts
Australian Research Council
Questions and themes

• HCA grants in national context
• Discovery and Linkage, Centres of Excellence
• Understanding the assessment process – and adapting
• HCA subdisciplines
  – Case studies: cultural studies and architecture, design and urban
  – Interdisciplinary applications
  – Teams: senior/junior? Inter-institutional? Large/small?
• Developing applications
• Application and success patterns
  – ROPE
  – Career age, gender, seniority, sector
• Linkage and emerging opportunities in ARC HCA
• Centres of excellence
More Information


ARC and the funding landscape
Commonwealth Investment in R&D 2013-14

CSIRO 8.8%

DSTO 4.9%

Other Govt R&D 7.4%

Industry R&D Tax Measures 19.4%

Other Industry R&D Support 0.1%

Other Innovation Support 5.0%

ARC 10.2%

NHMRC 9.9%

Other health 1.0%

Block Funding to Higher Ed 21.9%

Other Higher Ed R&D Support 0.9%

CRCs 1.7%

Rural 3.9%

Energy and the Environment 2.4%

Multisector Science Support 2.4%

Source: Budget 2013-2014 Industry and Innovation tables
National Competitive Grants Program

**Discovery Program**
- Laureate Fellowships
- DECRA
- Discovery Indigenous
- Future Fellowships
- Discovery Projects

**Linkage Program**
- Centres of Excellence
- Co-Funded & SRI
- ITRP
- Linkage Projects
- LIEF

**Discovery Program Funding**
2013-14 - $551.4 million

**Linkage Program Funding**
2013-14 - $332.4 million
Success Rate: Comparison of Schemes

Success Rate in commencement year 2013

- Linkage - Infrastructure Equipment...
- Linkage - Projects
- Discovery Indigenous
- Industrial Transformation Training...
- Discovery - Projects
- ARC Future Fellowships
- Discovery Early Career Researcher...
- Australian Laureate Fellowships

39%
This is us!
## Budget 2014–15: ARC

### New measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future Fellowships</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for Dementia</td>
<td>$26 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Health and Medicine</td>
<td>$42 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC Antarctic Gateway</td>
<td>$24 million</td>
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</table>

**MYEFO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Diabetes</td>
<td>$35 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Budget 2014–15: ARC

Other Measures

- 3.25% Efficiency Dividend
- Revised Indexation – now CPI
- Departmental savings measures
ARC NCGP funding by University (%) 2007–2013

RUN
IRU
ATN
Unaligned
Go8
Mapping Engagement:

Linkage Projects vs. Discovery Projects

WA
QLD
NSW
VIC
NT
SA
ACT
TAS

Linkage
Discovery
Strength in scheme

$112m
$50m
$12m
avg. p.a. $LP + $DP
Average Awarded Grant Size—DP11 to DP13—By 2 digit FoR
showing awarded amount as a proportion of requested amount
Assessment process
The Grants Peer Review Process

- Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (BSB)
- Engineering, Mathematics and Informatics (EMI)
- Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA)
- Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences (PCE)
- Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences (SBE)
The Grants Peer Review Process

- Information flow

Diagram:
- Applicant
- External Assessors
- ARC
- College of Experts
- Minister

Flow:
- Application
- Funding result
- 1st ranking
- Final ranking
Final Proposal Score Calculation

- “Grouped Average” of all submitted assessments for the proposal
- This calculation results in a “Proposal Score”
- For the meeting proposal ranks are calculated for each panel
- Any proposals (within same panel) with equal Proposal Scores will have equal ranks.

\[
\text{Average of General} \quad \text{Average of Detailed} \quad \text{Average} \quad \text{RANK}
\]
The Grants Peer Review Process

External Reviewer -> Rank

Committee Review

Recommendation to CEO

Minister Approval

Internal Reviewer

$ $$
Discovery Projects Grants rankings 2013

Each symbol represents up to 2 observations.

Funded Discovery Network = Go8
Patterns of application and success by discipline/FOR
Total ARC funding by major scheme and selected HCA/SBE disciplines (2002–14)
Number of proposals received and funded by 2-digit FoR code

[past 4 years Discovery Projects and 5 years Linkage Projects]
Case study:
2002 Cultural studies
Funding ($) for projects with primary 4-digit FoR in Cultural Studies by scheme (2011 to 2014)

No projects funded in LIEF scheme
Cultural Studies (2002) by 6-digit level FoR code (all schemes, regardless of primary classification code) (2010/11 to 2014)

Size of bubble indicates the total percentage of a 6-digit level code in all projects funded
Percentage totals of 6-digit level code (2010/11–14)  
(DP and LP)
FoR 12 Built Environment and Design
Division 12 covers Built Environment and Design. It includes:
• architecture;
• building;
• design from both engineering and aesthetic perspectives; and
• urban and regional planning.

Division 12 has six groups:
• 1201 Architecture
• 1202 Building
• 1203 Design Practice and Management
• 1204 Engineering Design
• 1205 Urban and Regional Planning
• 1299 Other Built Environment and Design
Number of BED proposals received and funded (on the basis of Primary 4-digit FoR codes)

[Graph showing number of BED proposals received and funded from 2001 to 2013]

Submit years 2001 to 2013; all schemes
Number of BED proposals received and funded (on the basis of any relevant 6-digit FoR code)

Proposals received
Proposals funded

Submit years 2001 to 2013; all schemes
BED by 6-digit level FoR code
(all schemes, regardless of primary classification code) (years 2010 to 2014)

Size of bubble indicates the total percentage of a 6-digit level code in all projects funded
### BED by 6-digit level code, total percentage (DP and LP, past 4-year projects)

#### Discovery Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BED Code</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 08</td>
<td>Architectural History and Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 01 01</td>
<td>Architectural Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 04 01</td>
<td>Architectural Science and Technology...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 06 07</td>
<td>Urban Analysis and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 08 09</td>
<td>Transport Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>Housing Markets, Development,...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>History and Theory of the Built...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>Land Use and Environmental Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>Digital and Interaction Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>Architectural Heritage and Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>Built Environment and Design not...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>Design Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>Community Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>Landscape Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>Building Science and Techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>Design Management and Studio and...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 03 04 02</td>
<td>Urban and Regional Planning not...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Linkage Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BED Code</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Architectural Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Building Construction Management...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Transport Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Building Science and Techniques</td>
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<td>Built Environment and Design not...</td>
</tr>
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<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Community Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Urban and Regional Planning not...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Land Use and Environmental Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Architectural Science and Technology...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Architectural History and Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Urban Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Urban Analysis and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Housing Markets, Development,...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Digital and Interaction Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Interior Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Design Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Engineering Design Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Engineering Systems Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Architecture not elsewhere classified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Architectural Heritage and Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Architecture Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>History and Theory of the Built...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Regional Analysis and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 12 12 05 05 02 01</td>
<td>Engineering Design Empirical Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BED – breakdown of primary 4-digit FoR codes into 6-digit level codes (including non-BE codes) on funded projects (all schemes, 2010-2014).

Thickness of each arrow indicates the sum of percentage for each code. Some 6-digit level codes are reported under more than one primary code.
12 FoR Linkage Projects grants (2010–2013)
Type of Partner Organisations

- Private Company - Australian: 39%
- Government - State & Local: 18%
- Other (not specified): 10%
- Non-Profit - Australian: 5%
- Private Company - International: 2%
- Government - Commonwealth: 2%
- Higher Education International: 10%
Cross-disciplinary collaboration
Percentage totals of non-primary FoR codes in projects (2010/11 to 2014) all schemes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary2dTxt</th>
<th>Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences</th>
<th>Biological Sciences</th>
<th>Built Environment and Design</th>
<th>Chemical Sciences</th>
<th>Commerce, Management, Tourism...</th>
<th>Earth Sciences</th>
<th>Economics</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
<th>Environmental Sciences</th>
<th>History and Archaeology</th>
<th>Information and Computing Sciences</th>
<th>Language, Communication and Cu...</th>
<th>Law and Legal Studies</th>
<th>Mathematical Sciences</th>
<th>Medical and Health Sciences</th>
<th>Philosophy and Religious Studies</th>
<th>Physical Sciences</th>
<th>Psychology and Cognitive Sciences</th>
<th>Studies in Creative Arts and Writing</th>
<th>Studies in Human Society</th>
<th>Technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
FOR Network mapping..
[Fruchterman reingold]

HASS disciplines highlighted

Source data:
http://www.arc.gov.au/general/searchable_data.htm
FOR
Network
mapping..
[Fruchterman
reingold]
HASS - ZOOM
ARC Linkage projects
The *Linkage Projects* scheme objectives

- initiation and/or development of long-term strategic research alliances between higher education organisations and other organisations, including industry and end-users, in order to apply advanced knowledge to problems and/or to provide opportunities to obtain national economic, social or cultural benefits;

- scale and focus of research in Strategic Research Priorities;

- opportunities for researchers to pursue internationally competitive research in collaboration with organisations outside the higher education sector, targeting those who have demonstrated a clear commitment to high-quality research; and

- growth of a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of the broader Australian innovation system.
Some Linkage Stats: Funding and Success Rates

Linkage Projects Funding and Success rate

Since 2005 there have been nearly 2200 instances of collaboration with Australian private companies, as partner organisations on linkage grants.
Number of proposals approved*

Average partner contribution/project

LP14

Number approved and partner contributions
Linkage—Instances of Collaboration by Org Type

- Non-Profit - International
- Non-Profit - Australian
- Higher Education - International
- Government - State & Local
- Government - International
- Government - Commonwealth
- Company/Industry Body - International
- Company/Industry Body - Australian
- Other
LP Linkages
Australia
2011-14
LP Linkages
University of Melbourne
2011-14

Higher Education
Government
Commercial
Non-profit/other
Partner Organisation Views: Why Use LP Scheme?

- Chance of success is reasonably high: 47 Important, 10 Not Important
- Possible to obtain larger grants: 76 Important, 2 Not Important
- Access to highly skilled research personnel: 88 Important, 2 Not Important
- Opportunity to build longterm relationships with uni researchers: 92 Important, 2 Not Important
The Partner Organisation must make a significant contribution in cash and/or in kind, to the project that is equal to, or greater than, the ARC funding.
Number of projects (all schemes) involving GLAM, by 2-digit FoR code (2008 to 2014)

- Biological Sciences
- History and Archaeology
- Environmental Sciences
- Studies in Creative Arts and Writing
- Earth Sciences
- Language, Communication and...
- Studies in Human Society
- Chemical Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Law and Legal Studies
- Information and Computing Sciences
- Technology
- Built Environment and Design
- Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences
- Engineering
- Commerce, Management, Tourism...
- Psychology and Cognitive Sciences
Developing an application
Insights into grants process—the ARC perspective

• Consider first whether you are ready: idea, team, ROPE?
• Pay attention to rules, FAQs, eligibility
• The scheme objectives and the selection criteria - address every one of them
• Choose Field of Research Codes carefully
• Track Record – career interruption – the ROPE provision
• Consider layers of assessment
  – The detailed assessors – specialists, read 1-2 proposals
  – The ARC panel member – general experts, read 10-50
  – The ARC Panel – 150-400
• Benefit and summary
Insights into grants process—your perspective

• Understanding the research field and international context. Developing your ideas to solve a research problem.
• Importance of networking with leaders in the field. Consider the research environment when applying too. A centre is a great place
• Applying by yourself. Applying as a team member....
• Career interruptions – making a case for ROPE
• Seek mentors on writing good grant applications
• Your first grant application
  — Writing for your peers – write so that someone broadly in your field will understand your project
  — Writing for the public – write a plain English statement
• Don’t over-inflate authorship claims but don’t undersell yourself either
• Key elements of a good grant proposal
Responding to a rejoinder

• Read the assessments then wait at least a day before starting the rejoinder
• Approach it constructively
• The rejoinder is to help College of Experts to seek applicant’s views on constructive criticisms made by peers
• Don’t rubbish the assessor – you’re wasting valuable space to address important concerns
Academic workforce issues and NCG success
National Competitive Grants Program

ARC Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE)

• The ARC is committed to ensuring all eligible researchers have fair access to competitive funding through the National Competitive Grants Program.

• The ARC considers that Research Opportunity comprises two separate elements:
  – Career experiences (relative to opportunity)
  – Career interruptions

• The new ROPE Statement (released Feb 2014) is online at: http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/rope_statement.htm
First-time awardees by scheme 2008–14
Participation and success of CIs in DP13 and DP14 by gender and career age
Success rate (%) of HCA/SBE CIs in *Discovery* by career age (years post PhD) 2002–14

(Note—fellow applicants have been included as funded on all funded projects)
Success rate (%) of HCA/SBE CIs in DP, by title and type of university (2002–14)

(Note—fellow applicants have been included as funded on all funded projects)
Histogram: age of lead CIs in DP + DECRA