Humanities Research: Funding
New Alliances

Denise Meredyth
Executive Director, Humanities and Creative Arts

15 October 2014
Federation University
Themes

• Understanding the assessment process—and adapting
• Sectoral and regional funding patterns
• HCA and patterns of success
• The rhetoric of grant writing
• Planning for grant rounds
• Emerging opportunities in ARC HCA for regional groups
More Information


NCGP Proposal Lifecycle
The Grants Peer Review Process

All Disciplines

- 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

- External Reviewer
- Internal Reviewer
- Rank
  - Committee Review
  - Recommendation to CEO
  - Minister Approval

$ $$
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%
Engagement by Cohort
Strength in Linkage and Discovery Schemes

Group of Eight

Non-Aligned

Innovative Research Universities

Regional Universities Network

Australian Technology Network

Discovery

Linkage
ARC NCGP funding by 2-Digit FOR (%) 2006–2013
ARC Proposals Received: 2-Digit FOR (%) 2006–2013

- Mathematical Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Chemical Sciences
- Earth Sciences
- Environmental Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Information and Computing Sciences
- Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences
- Engineering
- Technology
- Medical and Health Sciences
- Built Environment and Design
- Education
- Economics
- Commerce, Management, Tourism and Services
- Studies in Human Society
- Psychology and Cognitive Sciences
- Law and Legal Studies
- Studies in Creative Arts and Writing
- Language, Communication and Culture
- History and Archaeology
- Philosophy and Religious Studies
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
Number of proposals in HCA received, funded and success rate (all schemes)—comparison between regional universities and non-regional universities (2002 to 2014)
Strength—schemes showing the highest proportion of funding for HCA from the ARC for regional universities (2002 to 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Non-Regional universities</th>
<th>Regional universities</th>
<th>% Regional universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Early Career Researcher Award</td>
<td>$ 35,148,316</td>
<td>$ 730,754</td>
<td>2.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery - Projects</td>
<td>$ 446,257,855</td>
<td>$ 8,434,635</td>
<td>1.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage - Projects</td>
<td>$ 130,396,706</td>
<td>$ 1,925,084</td>
<td>1.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery - Indigenous Researchers Development</td>
<td>$ 3,125,355</td>
<td>$ 20,000</td>
<td>0.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC Future Fellowships</td>
<td>$ 125,150,072</td>
<td>$ 703,556</td>
<td>0.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC Research Networks</td>
<td>$ 6,350,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Laureate Fellowships</td>
<td>$ 41,558,176</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centres of Excellence</td>
<td>$ 52,250,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Indigenous</td>
<td>$ 5,855,483</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation Fellowship</td>
<td>$ 26,573,858</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage - Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities</td>
<td>$ 19,555,066</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strength—disciplines showing the highest proportion of funding for HCA from the ARC for regional universities (2002 to 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two-D FoR</th>
<th>Non-Regional universities</th>
<th>Regional universities</th>
<th>% Regional universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studies in Creative Arts and Writing</td>
<td>$ 67,733,135</td>
<td>$ 1,644,770</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Archaeology</td>
<td>$ 232,577,426</td>
<td>$ 4,874,966</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies in Human Society</td>
<td>$ 105,476,918</td>
<td>$ 1,580,531</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language, Communication and Culture</td>
<td>$ 246,162,192</td>
<td>$ 2,330,951</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law and Legal Studies</td>
<td>$ 107,011,529</td>
<td>$ 652,455</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy and Religious Studies</td>
<td>$ 98,665,666</td>
<td>$ 574,356</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built Environment and Design</td>
<td>$ 40,253,870</td>
<td>$ 156,000</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)
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)
First-time awardees by scheme 2008–14

- # DECRA first-timers
- # DP first-timers
- % first-timers
Planning for grants
Stage 1 Preparation

• Read within your research field, at the international ‘cutting edge’.

• Develop a good research question which can be investigated in 3-5 years. Read and refine.

• Consider the rules, ROPE, research environment and team members….then adapt.

• Does the research question match your expertise? Can the research question be answered, and by you, by these means?

• Are you ready for this round? Get advice.
Stage 2 Planning

- Clarify the research question and improve its precision
- Check that the question on which you decide to focus is genuinely open-ended and capable of investigation
- Develop a detailed and mature research plan, using timelines and diagrams
- What do you really need funding for?
- Scrutinise and justify the budget
Stage 3 Drafting

Draft a plain English statement of your argument for funding:

– Research question and why it matters now
– Aims, stages and outcomes
– Background: why the research is needed within the research field, and how it stands to add to knowledge and understanding
– Who will do what, where, when, how and why
– Why the research methodology and approach is sound and innovative
– Potential risks in the method and ways of averting

Seek peer review.
Summary

• The summary should be written in clear, plain English.
• It should be written for public release.
• Clear, sober and informative.
• Explain the research question and the need for research.
• Aims, methods and outcomes.
• Indicate possible benefits and impact.