Linkage Projects

The Linkage Projects scheme promotes national, and international, collaboration and research partnerships between key stakeholders in research and innovation including higher education providers, government, business, industry and end users. Research and development is undertaken to apply advanced knowledge to problems, acquire new knowledge and as a basis for securing commercial and other benefits of research.

The objectives of the Linkage Projects scheme are to:

- initiate and/or develop 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;
- enhance the scale and focus of research in National Research Priorities;
- foster 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
- produce a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of the broader Australian innovation system.

Partner Organisations must make a significant contribution in cash and/or in kind that is equal to or greater than the ARC funding.

The Linkage Projects scheme provides project funding of $50,000 to $300,000 per year for two to three years. Project funding may be used for: accessing infrastructure, equipment and expert services; hiring personnel, for example, research associates or assistants and technicians; funding PhD stipends; teaching relief; and domestic and international travel.

A project must include at least one Australian Partner Organisation and may include international Partner Organisations to collaborate on the project and contribute cash and/or in-kind or other material resources.

The Linkage Projects scheme is part of the National Competitive Grants Program, which is comprised of two sub-programs: Discovery and Linkage. In addition to the Linkage Projects scheme, the Linkage Program schemes are: ARC Centres of Excellence; Co-funded Centres; Industrial Transformation Research Hubs; Industrial Transformation Training Centres; Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects; Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities; and Special Research Initiatives.

For more information about the Linkage Projects scheme visit www.arc.gov.au > National Competitive Grants Program, email ARC-LinkageProjects@arc.gov.au or phone +61 2 6287 6600.