Discovery Early Career Researcher Award

The **Discovery Early Career Researcher Award** (DECRA) scheme supports, and creates opportunities for, early-career researchers in both teaching and research and research-only positions in Australia.

The DECRA scheme is an integral part of the Australian Research Council's Discovery Program which supports high quality research, essential to Australia's innovation system, for the development of new ideas, job creation, economic growth and an enhanced quality of life in Australia.

The objectives of the DECRA scheme are to:

- support and advance promising early-career researchers
- promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways
- focus research effort in the Strategic Research Priority areas to improve research capacity and policy outcomes; and
- enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments.

Up to 200 three-year DECRAs may be awarded each year providing a researcher with up to $134,512 per annum: $94,512 in salary and on-costs and up to $40,000 in project costs. Project costs may be used for items which directly support the research Project, including access to national and international research and infrastructure facilities; hiring personnel, for example, research associates or assistants and technicians; providing PhD stipends for eligible students; and domestic and international travel.

Researchers may be eligible to apply for a DECRA if they have been awarded a PhD within five years of the closing time for submission of proposals for the scheme round. Researchers who have had a significant career interruption (for example, maternity or parental leave; carer’s responsibility; illness; disruption due to international relocation for postdoctoral studies; unemployment or non-research employment) but have been awarded a PhD within nine years of the closing time for the scheme round may also be eligible to apply.

The DECRA scheme is part of the **National Competitive Grants Program**, which is comprised of two sub-programs: Discovery and Linkage. In addition to the **Discovery Early Career Researcher Award** scheme, the Discovery Program schemes are: **Australian Laureate Fellowships; Discovery Indigenous; Discovery Projects and Future Fellowships**.

Further information:

Website: [www.arc.gov.au](http://www.arc.gov.au) > National Competitive Grants Program > Discovery Early Career Researcher Award

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