Special Research Initiatives

The Special Research Initiatives (SRI) scheme provides funding for new and emerging fields of research and builds capacity in strategically important areas. The ARC currently funds several SRIs in a wide range of research areas.

The objective of the SRI scheme is to support high-quality research which will assist in advancing Australia’s research excellence to be globally competitive and deliver benefits to the community. This extends, but is not limited, to supporting research-related activities which will respond to emerging opportunities or changing priorities.

The SRI scheme provides funding to support cooperative activities amongst researchers; cooperative development of national and international linkages; cooperative development of innovative research areas; activities aimed at building the scale and focus of research and research training; and other activities that the ARC judges to be consistent with the scheme’s objectives.

Funding may also be used to develop networks and initiate collaborations that would be unlikely to occur otherwise and, where appropriate, disseminate the outcomes of the collaborative activities funded under the scheme.

Funding under the SRI scheme is available to support activities related to high-quality research in all or any fields of research supported by the ARC.

Current ARC Special Research Initiatives

Initiatives for funding commencing in 2012
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers’ Network (ATSIRN)
- Science of Learning Research Centre
- Synchrotron Science

Initiatives for funding commencing in 2011
- Stem Cell Science

Initiatives for funding commencing in 2010
- Research in Bionic Vision Science and Technology

Initiatives for funding commencing in 2009
- European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)

Initiatives for funding commencing in 2006
- ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security
- Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART)

Further information:  Website:  www.arc.gov.au > National Competitive Grants Program > Special Research Initiatives
Email:  sri@arc.gov.au
Telephone:  +61 2 6287 6600