



ARC Special Research Initiative for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers' Network for funding commencing in 2012

Frequently Asked Questions

All Participants should read the *Special Research Initiative for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers' Network* Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2012 (Funding Rules).

Participants should direct all queries regarding ARC Funding schemes to their Administering Organisation's Research Office or equivalent in the first instance. If further *Special Research Initiative for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers' Network* information is required, the Research Office or equivalent should contact sri@arc.gov.au.

Investigator Roles and Eligibility

1. Can a proposed Network Director be listed on a second *Special Research Initiative* scheme Proposal as a CI?

No. The Network Director is expected to work predominantly on the activities of the Network and to take significant responsibilities for the research and operations of the Network. CIs must also be prepared to make a significant commitment to the Program. The two roles cannot be undertaken by one person on two different *Special Research Initiative* scheme Proposals.

2. Following the submission of the Expression of Interest, can CIs be added or removed at Proposal stage?

Yes. But note that although other participants may be added or removed at the Proposal stage, the proposed Research Program should be similar to the shortlisted Expression of Interest (EOI), except where the changes are clearly intended to strengthen the Proposal. Changes should not occur in relation to the nominated Network Director.

3. What is considered an appropriate time commitment for a Network Director and a CI and PI at a *Special Research Initiative for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers' Network*?

The Network Director is expected to work predominantly on the activities of the Network. A researcher nominated as a Network Director, Network Node Leader, Network Participant or Partner Investigator must take significant intellectual responsibility for the Network, and must have the capacity to make a serious commitment to the Program.

4. Can a researcher at an overseas campus of an Eligible Organisation be a CI on a the Network?

No. the researcher at the overseas campus of an Australian University does not meet the eligibility criteria for a CI, Section 7.3.3 which states that CI 'must reside in Australia for the full life of the Program.' This also applies to a Network Director, as the Network Director must meet the CI eligibility criteria.

5. I hold a position at an Eligible Organisation, but will not be a resident in Australia for much of the duration of the Program. Am I still eligible to be a CI?

No. Section 7.3.3 of the Funding Rules states that a CI ‘must reside predominantly in Australia for the full life of the Program’.

6. Do CIs need to relinquish existing grants before submitting a Proposal?

No. Relinquishing grants at the EOI or Proposal stage is not required. All Network participants of successful Proposals will have the opportunity to relinquish grants, if required, to meet the requirements of other ARC funding schemes.

7. What are the restrictions on Network CIs holding other ARC grants?

We recommend applicants refer to the funding rules for each scheme to determine the restrictions on other grants which can be held in conjunction with a *Special Research Initiative for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers’ Network*. The relevant funding rules are those for the year the grant is awarded (i.e. if a CI holds a DP11 grant, the DP11 funding rules are applicable).

8. I hold an emeritus position at an Eligible Organisation. Am I eligible to apply as a CI?

Yes. See Section 7.3.1 of the Funding Rules for CI eligibility requirements.

9. If a researcher is employed by an Eligible Organisation as listed in Appendix A, but is not employed ‘for at least 50 per cent of her/his time’ (subsection 7.3.1.a of the Funding Rules), and has no other appointments (such as an adjunct appointment), what investigator role are they eligible for?

If the researcher will be employed by an Eligible Organisation for less than 50 per cent of their time (for example, somebody who is employed for the equivalent of 0.4 FTE), they do not satisfy the eligibility criteria for the role of CI. The researcher could apply to hold the role of PI, providing that they comply with the relevant eligibility requirements. Please refer to section 7.4 of the Funding Rules for eligibility criteria for a PI.

Organisations

10. What is the difference between a Collaborating Organisation and a Partner Organisation?

A Collaborating Organisation is an Eligible Organisation which is not the Administering Organisation and a Partner Organisation is an organisation which is not an Eligible Organisation. Both Collaborating and Partner Organisations must demonstrate significant cash and/or in-kind support to the Program.

11. How do I know if a Collaborating or Partner Organisation is eligible?

Section 6 of the Funding Rules provides comprehensive information concerning Collaborating and Partner Organisation eligibility. See also Appendix A of the Funding Rules for a complete list of Eligible Organisations.

12. What level of contribution does the ARC expect from a Partner Organisation?

There is no specific value of financial contributions required from Partner Organisations. Contributions can be cash or in-kind (e.g. staff, buildings, lab space, consumables, etc). Such contributions are an important component of the assessment of Proposals.

Formatting and submission

13. Will Participants be required to have RMS accounts in order to lodge a Proposal?

Yes. An RMS User ID will need to be provided for each Participant listed. Your RMS User ID identifies you as a Participant on an ARC Proposal.

14. I am having trouble sticking to the page limit/s as stipulated on the EOI form. Is it okay to use 10 point font size?

No. The Funding Rules clearly state that an appropriate 12 point font size should be used. Section 10.2.7 of the Funding Rules outlines font types that may be used for the EOI.

15. Can I make changes/alterations to my EOI once it has been submitted?

No. EOIs may be withdrawn but additions, deletions and modifications will not be accepted after submission, unless invited by the ARC.

Other Questions

16. My Network would like to conduct medical and dental research. Can this be included for ARC funding?

Yes, the *Special Research Initiative for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers' Network* does not exclude medical and dental research.