FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Future Fellowships for funding commencing in 2014

- All Participants should read the Future Fellowships Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2014 (the Funding Rules).

- As soon as this information becomes available, the ARC will update key dates (including indicative dates) on the ARC’s Important Dates page at http://www.arc.gov.au/media/important_dates.htm. The ARC endeavours to send a network message to the research sector for any updates.

- Participants should direct all queries to their Administering Organisation’s Research Office or equivalent in the first instance. If necessary, Research Office staff can contact the ARC for clarification at ARC-FutureFellowships@arc.gov.au.

1. Organisations................................................................................................................................. 2
2. Role and Eligibility for the Future Fellow ......................................................................................... 2
3. Salary Levels..................................................................................................................................... 3
4. Numbers of Proposals and Proposal Eligibility ............................................................................... 4
5. Cross-scheme Eligibility .................................................................................................................... 5
6. Eligibility Exemption .......................................................................................................................... 7
7. Targeted Research Areas .................................................................................................................. 7
1. Organisations

1.1. I am employed at an organisation that is not listed as an Eligible Organisation in Appendix A of the Funding Rules. Can I still apply through this organisation?

No. Only Eligible Organisations listed in Appendix A of the Funding Rules can apply for a Future Fellowship.

1.2. Is there a limit on the number of Proposals which can be submitted by an Administering Organisation in this round of Future Fellowships?

No, the number of Proposals per Administering Organisation is not limited by the ARC.

2. Role and Eligibility for the Future Fellow

2.1. Can I apply for a part-time Future Fellowship?

The Future Fellowship may be awarded on a full-time or part-time basis, though the budget and Project Description should be written as if the Fellowship will be conducted full-time over four years. As per subsection 7.1.3 of the Funding Rules, the Future Fellowship may be converted to (or from) part-time at any time to enable the Future Fellow to continue to fulfil family and/or carer responsibilities, provided that the Future Fellowship does not exceed eight years from the date of commencement (excluding any approved periods of suspension and/or maternity and/or parental leave). A Future Fellowship does not have a minimum Full-Time Equivalent (FTE), but the FTE of the Future Fellowship must match that of the Future Fellow’s employment contract. The Administering Organisation and not the ARC is to manage changes to the Future Fellow’s working hours. The Administering Organisation will notify the ARC of any changes to working hours via Progress Reporting.

2.2. As an overseas researcher, can I apply for a Future Fellowship to work in Australia if I do not have permanent resident status?

Yes. With reference to subsection 7.2.5 of the Funding Rules, Future Fellowship Candidates who are not Australian citizens or Australian permanent residents are eligible to submit a Proposal in the Future Fellowships round for funding commencing in 2014. If the Future Fellowship Candidate is awarded funding under Future Fellowships, the Administering Organisation must ensure that the Future Fellow must legally reside predominantly in Australia for the duration of the Future Fellowship, except where ARC approval has been granted.

2.3. Under subsection 7.2.6 of the Funding Rules, does the term “relinquish” mean that a successful Future Fellowship Candidate must give up or resign from a position to take up the Future Fellowship?

Yes. Subsections 7.1.2 and 7.2.6 of the Funding Rules outline that a successful Future Fellowship Candidate must give up or resign from a position prior to the commencement of the Future Fellowship. However, this excludes honorary or non-remunerated fellowships that do not impair the capacity of the Future Fellow to complete the proposed Project.

In addition, the Future Fellow is expected to spend the majority of her/his time on research activities related to the proposed Future Fellowship. The Future Fellow must not carry out duties other than those permitted under the Funding Rules, including all pre-existing administrative and management responsibilities. Future Fellows in University and Australian Public Service sectors do not have to give up tenure but must be transferred out of their
existing positions into the Future Fellowship and operate as if they are on leave without pay from their tenured position.

2.4. I was awarded a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) for funding commencing in 2012 or a Discovery Outstanding Research Award (DORA) on a Discovery Project for funding commencing in 2012. Am I eligible to apply for a Future Fellowship in this round?

Yes. Researchers holding a DECRA or DORA that are due for completion in December 2014 or early 2015 are eligible to apply.

The ARC generally does not allow the deferral of the commencement of an ARC Fellowship beyond 12 months after the funding commencement date. A DECRA or DORA must be completed with all funding fully expended before a candidate could take up a Future Fellowship.

2.5. I currently hold an ARC Fellowship, as per the definition in the Funding Rules, which is due for completion more than twelve months after the closing time for the submission of Proposals. Am I eligible to apply for a Future Fellowship in this round?

No. An ARC Fellowship must be due for completion within twelve months of the closing time of submission of Proposals to be eligible to apply.

2.6. If a Future Fellow would like to take additional leave in addition to maternity or paid partner/parental leave, is that allowed?

Future Fellows may take additional leave of up to twelve months during the Future Fellowship. The Fellows can use accrued leave or leave without pay providing it is in accordance with the Administering Organisation’s normal practice and written approval obtained from the ARC. Please refer to section 10 of the Funding Agreement for more details.

2.7. Are Super Science Fellows considered an ARC Fellowship?

Yes. An ARC Fellowship means a named Fellowship position within any ARC scheme where the salary is funded wholly or partly by the ARC.

3. Salary Levels

3.1. Can I apply for more than one Future Fellowship salary level on my Proposal?

No. Future Fellowship Candidates may only apply for one Future Fellowship salary level within the Proposal.

3.2. I am currently at Academic Level C, but due to the increments within my salary range at my university, my current salary is above Future Fellowship Level 1, and closer to Future Fellowship Level 2. Does this mean that I have to apply for the Future Fellowship Level 2 despite the fact that my experience and expertise is more appropriate for the Future Fellowship Level 1?

Section 8 of the Funding Rules requires the Future Fellowship Candidate to select a Future Fellowship salary level which is either equivalent to or higher than their academic salary level as at the closing time for submission of Proposals.

Primarily, a Future Fellowship Candidate should select the Future Fellowship salary level based on their current academic level and the level of their relevant experience. If the Candidate is not at an Australian university, the Future Fellowship Candidate should select the Future
Fellowship salary level based on their current (or most recent) salary amount and the level of their relevant experience.

The current classification and current salary of the Future Fellowship Candidate must be entered in the Proposal. The Candidate will also be required to provide a justification for the salary level requested in the Proposal.

If a Future Fellowship Candidate’s current salary is well above the relevant Future Fellowship salary for the academic level applied at (for example, the Candidate may receive loading for specialised expertise, or for certain additional skills), this could be an indication that an application at a higher Future Fellowship level may be more appropriate.

The ARC understands that institutions may have different salary levels attached to academic levels, and that variations may exist within these salary levels. Increments within academic levels may be applied to some salaries, as may loadings, and these additional amounts should be included as part of the Candidate’s current salary in the Proposal. However, additional on-costs should not be included, as these may vary between organisations.

3.3. My current salary is greater than the highest Future Fellowship level (i.e. Future Fellowship Level 3), does this mean that I cannot apply for a Future Fellowship for funding commencing in 2014?

You may still apply for a Future Fellowship, as per subsection 8.1.2 of the Funding Rules, although only at Future Fellowship Level 3.

4. Numbers of Proposals and Proposal Eligibility

4.1. Can I be nominated on more than one Proposal in this funding round of Future Fellowships?

No. As stated in subsection 9.1.1, a Future Fellowship Candidate may be nominated on no more than one Future Fellowships Proposal in this funding round, evaluated as at the closing time of submission of Proposals, regardless of any subsequent change in, or withdrawal of, Proposals. Submitting Proposals that exceed this limit will result in all Proposals involving the relevant researcher not being recommended for funding.

4.2. How many times can I apply for a Future Fellowship?

With reference to subsections 9.1.2 and 9.1.3 of the Funding Rules, a Future Fellowship Candidate cannot submit more than two Future Fellowship Proposals in the funding rounds between 2009 and 2014. This includes Proposals that have been withdrawn after the closing time of submission of Proposals, and Proposals that were deemed ineligible by the ARC. Successful Future Fellows cannot apply for a subsequent Future Fellowship. This also includes Future Fellows in the final twelve months of their Future Fellowship.

4.3. Can I relinquish an ARC grant or a role on an ARC grant in order to be eligible to apply for a Future Fellowship in 2014?

No. As stated in subsection 9.1.7, a Future Fellow will not be permitted to relinquish a Chief Investigator, Fellowship, Award or existing ARC grants held on 1 July 2014, to circumvent the limits outlined within the Funding Rules.
4.4. I hold a position at an Eligible Organisation, but will not be residing in Australia for much of the duration of the project. Am I still eligible to apply for a Future Fellowship?

Yes, however the Future Fellow must conduct research for a minimum of 24 months of the Fellowship at the Administering Organisation. Furthermore, if the Future Fellowship Candidate proposes to undertake research at an organisation other than the Administering Organisation whilst holding a Future Fellowship, this organisation must be listed as a Host Organisation within the Proposal.

The Future Fellow may conduct research at the Host Organisation(s), providing that it is in the best interests of the research and its outcomes, and is of national benefit to Australia for a period or periods of up to:

- 12 months in total, over the life of the Future Fellowship at Host Organisations that are not Eligible Organisations and/or research related fieldwork; or
- 24 months in total, over the life of the Future Fellowship at Host Organisations that are Eligible Organisations.

See subsections 6.2.4 and 7.1.7 of the Funding Rules for more information.

4.5. Does the ARC support Future Fellowships Proposals for funding commencing in 2014 in the field of medical or dental research?

No. Projects that fall within the area of Medical and Dental Research as per the definition on the ARC website at http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/md_research.htm are not eligible for funding under the Future Fellowships scheme for funding commencing in 2014.

5. Cross-scheme Eligibility

5.1. Can I apply for a Future Fellowship and a NHMRC Fellowship or other career award in the same year if the funding will commence in different years?

No. Subsection 9.1.4 of the Funding Rules states that researchers cannot submit a Future Fellowships Proposal for funding commencing in 2014 and an NHMRC Fellowship or other career award for funding commencing in 2014 or 2015.

Researchers who applied for an NHMRC Fellowship or other career award for funding commencing in 2013 or 2014 and have subsequently been notified that they have been unsuccessful can apply for a Future Fellowship for funding commencing in 2014.

5.2. I am employed at an ARC Centre of Excellence, would I be eligible for a Future Fellowship?

A researcher employed at an ARC Centre of Excellence is eligible to apply for a Future Fellowship, but must ensure that all eligibility criteria for a Future Fellowship are met, including the requirement to relinquish any Fellowships or the duties of any existing appointments prior to commencement. Section 7 of the Funding Rules outlines the role and eligibility for Future Fellows. Furthermore, the Future Fellowship Candidate must ensure that there is no duplication of Commonwealth funding, as described in subsection 9.2.1 of the Funding Rules.
5.3. If I wish to apply for a *Future Fellowship* for funding commencing in 2014, can I apply for a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award for funding commencing in 2015 as well? If I am successful in both, can I choose which one to accept?

No. As stated in subsection 9.1.4(a) of the Funding Rules, researchers cannot submit a *Future Fellowships* Proposal for funding commencing in 2014 and apply for a *Discovery Early Career Researcher Award* for funding commencing in 2015. Please note that if a Candidate applies for both of the above-mentioned, both Proposals will be deemed ineligible.

5.4. If I wish to apply for a *Future Fellowship* for funding commencing in the 2014, can I apply for a Discovery Outstanding Researcher Award (DORA) in *Discovery Projects* for funding commencing in 2015 as well? If I am successful in both, can I choose which one to accept?

No. As stated in subsection 9.1.4(b) of the Funding Rules, researchers cannot submit a *Future Fellowships* Proposal for funding commencing in 2014 and apply for a DORA within a *Discovery Projects* for funding commencing in 2015 Proposal. Please note that if a Candidate applies for both of the above-mentioned, both Proposals will be deemed ineligible.

5.5. If I wish to apply for a *Future Fellowship* for funding commencing in 2014, can I apply for an Australian Laureate Fellowship for funding commencing in 2014 as well? If I am successful in both, can I choose which one to accept?

No. As stated in subsection 9.1.4(c) of the Funding Rules, researchers cannot submit a *Future Fellowships* Proposal for funding commencing in 2014 and apply for an *Australian Laureate Fellowships* Proposal for funding commencing in 2014. Please note that if a Candidate applies for both of the above-mentioned, both Proposals will be deemed ineligible.

5.6. If I have already submitted a Proposal for an NHMRC Fellowship or other career award but I would like to submit a *Future Fellowship* Proposal, can I do so without being deemed ineligible?

The *Future Fellowship* Proposal will only be deemed ineligible if the NHMRC Fellowship or other career award Proposal is not withdrawn prior to the closing time for the submission of *Future Fellowships* Proposals for funding commencing in 2014. If the Future Fellowship Candidate has an active NHMRC Fellowship or other career award application at the time of closing for the submission of *Future Fellowships* Proposals, then the *Future Fellowship* Proposal will be deemed ineligible.

5.7. Are Postdoctoral Research Associates (PDRAs) on *Australian Laureate Fellowships* considered ARC Fellow or Award recipients? Is a PDRA only eligible to apply for a *Future Fellowship* in the final twelve months of their PDRA?

As defined in the Funding Rules, an ARC Fellowship means a named Fellowship position within any ARC scheme where the salary is funded wholly or partly by the ARC. A PDRA employed on an Australian Laureate Fellowship is not a named Fellow on the Proposal. A fellow that is not named on a Proposal does not need to wait until the final year of the funding to apply for a *Future Fellowship*. The Future Fellowship Candidate must meet all other eligibility criteria in the Funding Rules.

5.8. Can a *Future Fellowships* Proposal and a *Discovery Projects* Proposal be related?

A *Future Fellowships* Proposal and a *Discovery Projects* Proposal that are within the same research area/project may be submitted, provided that Proposals do not seek funding which has already been awarded by the Commonwealth for that area/project. The ARC will not
duplicate funding for research already funded by the Commonwealth. Please refer to section 9.2 of the Funding Rules.

6. **Eligibility Exemption**

6.1. I wish to apply for a Future Fellowship even though I was awarded my PhD before 1 March 1999. I have experienced a number of career interruptions. Is it sufficient to note these in the Proposal?

No. You must submit an Eligibility Exemption Request to the ARC as outlined in section 9.3 of the Funding Rules. This form will become available on the ARC website at [http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/ft_eligibility.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/ft_eligibility.htm). This form must be submitted through the RMS and received by the ARC by the closing date and time on the Important Dates page on the ARC website at [www.arc.gov.au/media/important_dates.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/media/important_dates.htm), unless otherwise advised.

6.2. I received my PhD before 1 March 1999 and have had carer responsibilities. However, I have continued working throughout this period, should I apply for an Eligibility Exemption?

No. With reference to subsection 9.3.4 of the Funding Rules, Eligibility Exemptions relating to such circumstances will only be granted where applicants have had significant career interruptions due to these responsibilities.

6.3. I received my PhD before 1 March 1999 and have had significant career interruptions. Is there a limit to how many years prior to 1 March 1999 that I can apply for an Eligibility Exemption?

Yes. Subsection 7.2.2(b)(ii) of the Funding Rules states that the ARC will not approve any applications for an Eligibility Exemption where the applicant was awarded their PhD after 1 March 2009 or before 1 March 1992.

7. **Targeted Research Areas**

7.1. My research area is not listed amongst the targeted research areas listed in the Funding Rules. Am I still eligible to apply?

Yes. Whilst targeted research areas do exist, the ARC will still welcome and accept any eligible Proposals from all research areas. Section 4.3.2(b) of the Funding Rules lists the targeted research areas.

All Proposals submitted for a Future Fellowship will be assessed and ranked based on the selection criteria listed in the Funding Rules.

7.2. Is there a quota for the targeted research areas?

No. Quotas are not set for Future Fellows in the targeted research areas.