



**DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION,
TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS**

International Researcher Exchange Program

IREX

Guidelines For Applicants

1999 Grants



Australian Research Council

April 1998

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms	iii
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Objectives	1
1.2 Benefits of Research	1
1.3 Program Elements	1
1.4 Funds Available	2
2. Is Your Proposal Eligible For Support?	3
2.1 Institution Eligibility	3
2.2 Project Eligibility	3
2.3 Applicant eligibility	4
2.4 Fellowships and Awards	4
2.5 Items Not Eligible	4
3. Applications	5
3.1 Essential Information	5
3.2 The Application Form	5
3.3 The Supporting Text	6
3.4 The Curriculum Vitae	6
3.5 Submitting an Application	6
4. Assessment of Proposals	7
4.1 Selection Criteria	7
4.2 Selection & Context	7
4.3 Unsuccessful Proposals	8
5. Successful Proposals	8
5.1 Offer	8
5.2 Grant Management	8
5.3 Reports	9
6. DEETYA Contact	10

ATTACHMENTS

FELLOWSHIPS

Attachment 1	Anglo-Australian Observatory	11
Attachment 2	Germany	12
Attachment 3	South Korea	13
Attachment 4	United Kingdom	14

AWARDS

Attachment 5	Asia-Pacific Link Awards: Indonesia, Japan, China, South Korea.	15
Attachment 6	MoU Awards.	16
Attachment 7	ARC / DEETYA Research Fellowships Salary Scale	18
Attachment 8	Eligible Institutions	19

ACRONYMS

AAO	Anglo-Australian Observatory
ARC	Australian Research Council
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CINC	The Committee for International and National Cooperation
DEETYA	Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs
EFTS	Equivalent Full Time Staff
FOI	Freedom of Information Act 1982
FOR	Field of Research Classification
HEFA	Higher Education Funding Act 1988
IAS	Institute of Advanced Studies, Australian National University
IRF	International Research Fellowships Scheme
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
IREX	International Researcher Exchange Program
SEO	Socio-Economic Objective Classification
UNS	Unified National System

1. Introduction

1.1 Objectives

The Commonwealth provides funding under the International Researcher Exchange Program (IREX) for movement of researchers between Australian research institutions and centres of research excellence overseas. The program specifically targets:

1. Bi-national agreements for reciprocal exchange of researchers, previously funded under the International Research Fellowships Scheme (IRF), the Anglo-Australian Observatory (AAO) Fellowship, and the new agreement with the United Kingdom for reciprocal Fellowships, AND
2. Promotion of links between research centres of excellence in Australia and overseas by funding the exchange of researchers for research collaboration either by:
 - Exchanges involving targeted Asia-Pacific countries, in particular, Japan, China, Indonesia and South Korea, with which the Australian Research Council (ARC) has Memoranda of Understanding, OR
 - Exchanges involving other countries or organisations with which the ARC has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or traditional research ties.

1.2 Benefits of Research

The ARC has identified five major benefits of research in its Mission Statement. The relevance of proposals to the benefits of research not only assists the ARC to separate applications at the funding margin but also provides a valuable source of information for policy considerations. The benefits of research are:

- contributions to the quality of our culture;
- graduates of high quality;
- direct applications of research results;
- increased institutional capacity for consulting, contract research or other service activities; and
- international links.

1.3 Program Elements

The ARC has entered into agreements with several overseas research organisations to foster bi-national research activities and to assist the exchange of researchers. Eligible researchers are early career researchers or researchers/academics employed by Unified National System (UNS) Institutions. In the case of the fellowships for Germany and South Korea, employees of eligible research bodies may apply. There are three elements to the IREX Program.

(1) International Fellowships

Fellowships under agreements with Germany (the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation), the United Kingdom (the Aust-UK Fellowship agreement and Anglo-Australian Observatory Fellowship) and South Korea (the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation) are reciprocal arrangements designed to support salaried

fellowships for 4 to 12 months. They were previously managed under the International Research Fellowships Scheme.

For applications under reciprocal arrangements for Fellowships, the ARC will provide appropriate funding including the salary of the overseas fellow visiting Australia. Budget items in this category include a contribution towards salary, salary on-costs, internal travel to major conferences, and consumables. Refer to Attachments 2, 3 and 4 for details.

(2) Asia-Pacific Link Awards (New element)

The ARC intends to foster stronger international research links under the IREX Program, and has determined that initially there should be a focus on links with countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The current ARC priorities for this element are exchanges and collaboration with Japan, China, Indonesia and South Korea with which countries the ARC has Memoranda of Understanding.

For applications involving collaboration with researchers in Japan, China, Indonesia and South Korea the ARC will consider providing full support for travel (excluding salaries and on-costs) for Australian based researchers visiting institutions in those countries. This support may include international and local travel, living allowances related to local costs, and consumables. Refer to Attachment 5 for details.

(3) MoU Awards (previously International Projects)

The ARC also has MoUs with several other countries and will fund researcher exchange within the scope of these agreements. In addition, researcher exchange may be funded with countries with which Australia has traditional research links (UK, USA, India, NZ and Canada). Refer to Attachment 6 for details.

Support in this category extends to:

- (a) researchers travelling from Australia - an international return air fare and a contribution to the consumables necessary for the work to be performed whilst visiting the overseas institution
- (b) researchers coming to Australia - a contribution to living expenses, internal travel and a contribution to the consumables necessary for the work to be performed whilst visiting Australian institutions.

The international partner organisation should be approached by the collaborating researcher for contribution to costs based on the terms of agreements.

Applicants for Asia-Pacific Link Awards (Element 2) may be offered a lesser amount under the Memorandum of Understanding Award (Element 3), subject to funds availability and quality of applications.

1.4 Funds Available

Funds are available through IREX to support high quality research in all disciplines except clinical medicine and dentistry which are funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and in the case of the United Kingdom Fellowships, all disciplines except humanities, clinical medicine and dentistry. **\$2.75 million is allocated for the program for 1999.**

2. Is Your Proposal Eligible for Support?

2.1 Institution Eligibility

Researchers from higher education institutions (as listed in s4, Table A, *Higher Education Funding Act 1988* see Attachment 8) are eligible to submit proposals for all program elements. The IAS, the CSIRO and other research bodies are only eligible to submit applications for fellows from Germany and South Korea (s23 (1A) HEFA). In addition, the IAS may submit applications for fellows from the United Kingdom. Researchers from the IAS, the CSIRO and other research bodies are not eligible to apply for Asia Pacific Link Awards or MoU awards.

An administering institution is either a higher education institution or a research body to which an IREX grant is paid. An eligible research body is a body legally established to conduct research and is not part of, nor affiliated to, a higher education institution. In addition, an eligible research body is one which must be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the ARC how the proposed international research will assist programs of research undertaken by higher education institutions.

To be eligible for an IREX grant, an administering institution must undertake to provide appropriate facilities and equipment for the researcher, to meet the associated infrastructure support costs, and to continue collaboration with the international collaborator.

Administering institutions can administer more than one IREX grant at any one time. An Australian host researcher, or team leader, can host only one International Researcher at any one time. For the purposes of this eligibility criterion, an IREX grant carried forward or deferred, under unforeseeable external circumstances, into the next calendar year is classified as an IREX grant for the calendar year in which it was first awarded.

The Australian host researcher must be an outstanding researcher of international standing in the relevant discipline or multi-disciplinary field. If the International Researcher is hosted by a team of Australian host researchers, the team leader must be an outstanding researcher of international standing in the relevant discipline or multi-disciplinary field. A team of Australian host researchers can consist of staff from different higher education institutions or research bodies provided the team leader is a researcher employed by the administering institution

Researchers involved in IREX applications may also be eligible to apply for grants under other ARC programs, subject to the guidelines for those programs. The research projects for which an IREX application is made may include projects based in or located at a Special Research Centre or Key Centre of Teaching and Research.

2.2 Project Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, a proposed IREX project must be a collaborative venture of international standard in a relevant discipline or multi-disciplinary field as specified in Appendices 1- 6. The project can involve either basic or applied research or a combination of both.

2.3 Applicant Eligibility

While there is no restriction on country of citizenship for applicants under this program, applicants should be able to demonstrate that they are covered by the relevant agreement. For example, an applicant for a German Fellowship under the International Research Fellowship Agreement between the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung and the Australian Research Council should be either a resident or a citizen of Germany.

For Awards, eligible Australian researchers are researchers or academics employed by the institutions listed in Attachment 8 and who are Australian based. Where funding is sought for researchers to collaborate under an MoU the visiting researcher must be either a resident or citizen of the MoU country.

2.4 Fellowship or Award?

Researchers in Australia may apply for a grant to host an International Fellowship under IREX. Details of the terms and conditions of those Fellowships are contained in Appendices 2,3 and 4.

Other Awards under IREX fall into two categories described in section 1.3. Researchers should stipulate which Award they seek when applying for support for work in China, Japan, South Korea or Indonesia.

There is one application form and process for all elements of IREX. The form stipulates the information required for each program element.

2.5 Items Not Eligible

For the purpose of this program, the following items are NOT regarded as elements of IREX and will not be funded.

- a. The salaries of teaching and research and research only academic staff (including the cost of "buying time" to free such staff to do more research), **except** for the International Fellowships element where a contribution to the salary of the Fellow is a component of the Fellowship.
- b. The salaries of staff supporting research at the institutional level (eg., Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Research Grants Officer).
- c. Infrastructure support costs - these are the responsibility of an administering institution.
- d. The costs of ongoing collaboration with International Researchers and/or their home institutions incurred after completion of the IREX project. These are the responsibility of administering institutions.

3. Applications

3.1 Essential Information

Applications consist of three parts, *the Application Form* (see Section 3.2), *the Supporting Text* (see Section 3.3) and *the Curriculum Vitae* (see Section 3.4). Applicants should ensure that applications address the selection criteria at Section 4.1 and provide other information as indicated in Section 3.3.

In view of the demands placed on selection committee members, a prescribed format and maximum length for applications have been set. This year, the applications will be copied in Canberra so please do not bind the papers together or include colour copies. All papers must be single sided and strictly conform with instructions. The application form must be placed at the front of the documents. It should provide a summary of the important information required by the selection committee.

If an IREX grant is to be used to support research which is the subject of another grant application to any organisation then this must be identified on the application.

All applications **must** include a well justified budget which provides full details of expenditure.

3.2 The Application Form

All applicants must use the application form available from the DEETYA web site (address at Section 6) or from Research Offices in universities. The front of the form has a section to identify the element of the program for which you are applying and it is important that this be completed accurately.

The nature of the research involved in the project should be indicated using the Field of Research (FOR) Classification codes which are available on the DEETYA Web site. Allowance is made for identifying up to five different codes for multi-disciplinary projects.

Indication based on best judgment is also required concerning the socio-economic sectors which are most likely to benefit from the research either in the immediate or more distant future, using the Socio-Economic Objective (SEO) Classification codes which are available on the DEETYA Web site.

Please reserve the Advancement of Knowledge sector in the SEO classification for that part of the research which is motivated purely for curiosity reasons or which is so generic in nature that it is not possible to prejudge the socio-economic sectors in which the research results are likely to be applied.

All applications must be signed by the head of the administering institution, or delegate, or by the CEO / Chairperson, or delegate, of the research body.

3.3 The Supporting Text

Applicants should attach supporting text to the application form. All IREX applicants are required to specifically address all of the selection criteria relevant to the program element (refer to Section 4.1 and Appendices) and provide a justification for the budget.

For the first element, **International Fellowships**, the supporting text should include; a response to the selection criteria listed at section 4.1, a statement on the project objectives, an assessment of how the project will add to existing knowledge, an outline of the project design, procedures and methodology and details of the infrastructure support to be provided by the host institution. This text is to be no longer than 10, single sided, A4 pages, typed in a minimum font size of 12 points.

For the second and third elements, **Awards**, the text addressing selection criteria at section 4.1 is to be no longer than 5, single sided, A4 pages, typed in a minimum font size of 12 points.

Applicants should note that proposals are considered by a committee whose membership will include people who are not specialists in the field of the application. Consequently, the project and its expected outcomes should be described in a way that can be understood by **ALL** committee members, specialist and non-specialist.

3.4 The Curriculum Vitae

The curriculum vitae for **International Fellowships** is to be no more than 3 pages each for the Australian host and the nominated international Fellow.

The curriculum vitae for **Awards** is to be no longer than one page for each participant and provided only for those investigators directly involved in the project. The information required includes name, qualifications and current appointment, a list of the ten most significant publications in the last five years (where relevant, including exhibitions, music recordings and other such records of achievement), and details of competitive grant funding for the last five years.

All details in an application must be current.

3.5 Submitting an Application

An original and ONE copy only are required. All applications must identify the name, address and telephone number of a suitable contact officer in the institution. Late additional pages will not be accepted. IREX proposals must arrive at the Higher Education Research Branch (see Section 6) by **9 July 1998**. Proposals received after that date will not be processed.

Grant Selection Round for 1999

Thursday 9 July	1998	closing date for applications
August	1998	considered by CINC
October	1998	to ARC and Minister
November	1998	announcement of successful IREX projects and advice to applicants

4. Assessment of Proposals

4.1 Selection Criteria

To be eligible for funding, a proposal must be a collaborative venture of international standing. Eligible applications are assessed against the following criteria:

1. The potential of the project to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in a particular field of research.
2. The potential contribution of the project to international collaborative research.
3. The capacity of the researchers involved in the project as judged by their achievements in:
 - a. the advancement of knowledge; and
 - b. international collaborative research activities.

These will be considered taking account of the opportunities which have been available to the applicant to date.

4. The quality of the research environment within the host institution and collaborating institution.
5. The commitment of the host institution to the development of international research links.
6. In the case of a proposal for a Fellow from Germany or Korea, to be administered by an eligible research body, eg CSIRO or IAS, the benefit expected to flow to programs of research administered by higher education institutions listed at Attachment 8.
7. Any other requirements mentioned in specific agreements or indicated in the attached Appendices.

4.2 Selection & Context

The IREX Program has its legislative base in Section 23 of HEFA covering Special Research Assistance. Under this Section of the Act, the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs may approve a proposal for expenditure by an eligible institution or eligible research body on a program of research. The Minister approves the programs to be supported and their levels of funding in response to recommendations forwarded by the ARC.

The ARC is responsible for making recommendations to the Minister on the allocation of research funding and postgraduate awards, and for advising the Minister through the National Board of Employment, Education and Training on research policy matters. Section 27 of the *Employment, Education and Training Act 1988* is the legislative base for the activities of the ARC.

The ARC's Committee for International and National Cooperation (CINC) advises the ARC on the selection of DEETYA/ARC International Researcher Exchange Awards and Fellowships. CINC may consult with such academic experts it considers appropriate and also may contact appropriate authorities in collaborating countries. Funding recommendations from the ARC are submitted by DEETYA to the Minister for approval.

Staff of the Research Branch of DEETYA administer funds provided under HEFA, including grants recommended by the ARC and approved by the Minister; provide advice to the selection panel on the operation of the scheme; and provide policy advice to the Minister. The Minister has delegated responsibility for approving certain subsequent financial arrangements, such as carry forward requests, to officers of the Department. DEETYA is responsible for the overall management of IREX.

4.3 Unsuccessful Proposals

Applications are generally unsuccessful because the selection panel considers that;

- they are ineligible or
- they have not met the selection criteria as well as other applicants.

The ARC has instituted an appeals mechanism for the applicants who believe that their proposal has been unfairly treated in terms of the Council's selection procedures. Applicants wishing to appeal against a decision may do so by notifying the chair of the ARC in writing. Appeals must be lodged **within twenty eight days** of the date of the letter notifying the result of the selection process. Appeals will be considered only against process issues and not against the selection panel's assessment of the relative merits of applications.

5. Successful Proposals

5.1 Offer

Institutions accepting offers of grant under IREX are required to sign an *Acknowledgment of Conditions of Grant*. A copy of the Conditions of Grant will be attached to the letter of offer sent to the administering institution for each grant.

The Acknowledgment is the last page of the Conditions of Grant document and applies to all grants named in the letter of offer. Therefore, in cases where an institution is administering more than one grant under the IREX, only one Acknowledgment needs to be completed by the administering institution. The Acknowledgment must be completed and returned to DEETYA before payment of grants can commence.

5.2 Grant Management

Research grants are paid as part of total payments to institutions, as determined under Section 111 of HEFA. Grants are made for the specified calendar year. Inability to spend the grant through unforeseeable external circumstances should be dealt with according to “carry over” requirements stated in these guidelines. Funds must only be used for purposes approved under the program otherwise they must be returned.

No funds may be carried over beyond 31 December of the year in which the grant was made without approval. Carry over requests must be submitted in writing (through the institution’s research office) to the Director of the Research Infrastructure and Collaboration Section, between 1 January and 31 March of the year following the grant. A request to carry over funds must state the amount to be carried over, the date to which the funds are to be carried over, and an explanation as to why the funds could not be spent during the year for which the grant was allocated.

If the entire grant amount cannot be spent for the purposes it was given, institutions must show the amount to be returned in the 31 March - End of Year report and the 30 June Annual Financial Report (see below).

Any funds which have not been spent or are not to be carried over will be recovered by DEETYA following the advice provided in the 31 March - End of Year report. Those funds will be recovered through the higher education payment system in accordance with Section 108 of HEFA.

Additional expenditure allocations cannot be accommodated once the grant announcements have been approved by the Minister.

The Department undertakes to meet the requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988* in respect of IREX. The information contained in the application will only be used to assess eligibility for a grant under IREX. At no time will any personal information be passed to any agency or organisation outside DEETYA without the consent of the individual concerned. Only Departmental officers or agents of the Department, who are actually carrying out tasks associated with program monitoring, assessment, management and administration, will have access to personal details of applicants.

All documents created in the process of establishing and managing IREX are subject to the *Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 1982* unless exempt in accordance with provisions of that Act.

IREX is among the programs included under the aegis of the Department’s evaluation schedule of research programs. The evaluation of research programs is administered by the Higher Education Research Branch of the Department with advice from the ARC.

5.3 Reports

Institutions are required to submit an **End of Year Report** on the expenditure of IREX funds by 31 March in the year after the calendar year for which they were awarded. Reporting should be in sufficient detail to show that funds have been applied in the areas for which they were awarded. The report should also highlight significant aspects of the research and should provide an outline of how IREX funding has contributed to developments in the research area supported and the outlook for the future. A form covering these matters will be available from the institution’s research office or from the DEETYA Internet site. DEETYA reserves the right to suspend payment of further instalments of any current IREX grant until the End of Year Report has been received.

The **Annual Financial Report** which institutions are to submit pursuant to HEFA must include information on IREX grants. The report is due by 30 June of the year following the grant.

6. DEETYA Contact

Website address: <http://www.deetya.gov.au/divisions/hed/highered/research/index.htm>

Applications for funding from IREX should be sent to:

The Director
Research Infrastructure and Collaboration Section LC 441
Department of Employment,
Education, Training and Youth Affairs

4th Floor
10 Mort Street
CANBERRA ACT 2601

GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Inquiries about IREX should be addressed to your institution's research office.

DEETYA contact for IREX is:

Ms Karen E Mow
Assistant Director
Research Infrastructure and Collaboration Section

e-mail: karen.mow@deetya.gov.au
fax: (02) 6240 9781

Anglo-Australian Observatory Fellowship

International Research Fellowship Agreement between the UK Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Awards and eligibility

- One Fellowship to be awarded alternately to young British and Australian researchers to undertake postdoctoral work at the AAO.
- Awards are funded on a 50/50 % share basis between the parties to the Agreement.

Duration

- two years with an extension of up to 12 months in exceptional circumstances.

Nomination

- Any Australian or British post-doctoral researcher is eligible to apply for the award when applications are called for by advertisement.

Entitlements can include

- Salary (dependent upon experience) at the standard ARC/DEETYA Research Fellowships Salary Scale restricted to the Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship (ADP) range, currently \$A38,589 to \$41,422, plus on-costs at 26%.
- Reimbursement of travel costs at the cheapest direct airfare rate for an overseas resident and his/her dependents, with similar return fare provisions provided that the Fellow has not obtained subsequent employment in Australia for a period exceeding 12 months.
- Transfer expenses for an Australian resident Fellow and his/her dependents are reimbursed on a comparable basis to that provided for overseas Fellows, including car mileage allowance up to the maximum equivalent of the cheapest direct airfare.
- Removal expenses payable up to \$A12,000 for a Fellow relocating from the UK and comparable expenses for an Australian resident Fellow, subject to full refund of the amount if the Fellowship is relinquished within the 12 months.
- Leave (recreation, sick and maternity) may be granted during the period of the Fellowship.
- Additional Research Support Grant of \$6,000 per annum.

German Fellowships

International Research Fellowship Agreement between the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung (AvH) and the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Awards and eligibility

- Up to five awards annually; 3 to outstanding researchers of international standing, and 2 to brilliant young (or early career) researchers, in humanities, social sciences, natural sciences or engineering.
- Awards are not extendable nor granted a second time.

Duration

- 4 - 12 months and may be distributed into several periods.

Nomination

- Any Australian researcher, university or research institutions can nominate German candidates to the ARC and any German researcher, university or research institution can nominate Australian candidates to the AvH.

Entitlements can include

- Salaries will be recommended by the host institution, subject to agreement by the ARC and AvH and approval by the Minister. Salaries will be paid through the host institution.
- If necessary, the ARC and AvH will provide expenses for health and accident insurance during the stay in the host country and for spouse/partner and dependent children provided they take continuous residence in the host country for the stay of the researcher.
- Round trip business class travel expenses of the award winner will only be provided once. Travel expenses for spouse/partner and dependent children can only be provided if they accompany the award winner and stay for at least six months.

South Korean Fellowships

International Research Fellowship Agreement between the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF) and the Australian Research Council (ARC), the Australian Academy of Science (AAS), and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATS).

Awards and eligibility

- Must be of at least post-doctoral status.
- At least three each year to Korea and to Australia and up to ten fellowships each way each year may be available, depending on funds.

Duration

- 4 - 12 months.

Nomination

- Receiving partner will nominate researchers to take up the fellowships at specified institutions after advice from the sponsoring partner.

Entitlements can include

- Receiving partner will pay international travel costs for the fellow at economy air fare rate.
- Salaries will be recommended by the host institution, subject to agreement by the ARC and KOSEF and approval by the Minister. Salaries will be paid through the host institution.
- Registration fee for seminars to be paid by participants.
- For visiting fellowships of more than six months, a fellow will be provided with economy rate international air fares to bring their spouse/partner and dependent children.
- Host institution will cover medical and accident insurance.

United Kingdom Fellowships

International Research Fellowship Agreement between the United Kingdom Office of Science and Technology administered by the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Awards and eligibility

- Up to five research fellowships may be awarded by the ARC in 1998 to post-doctoral researchers from the UK to work in Australia in the fields of social sciences, mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. Australian researchers may seek award through their UK host researcher for research in any branch of science or engineering which comes within the ambit of the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society, and in the social sciences.
- Researchers who have completed their doctorate within three years. Eligibility for awards in 1998 is limited to researchers who have had doctorates conferred at any time during 1995, 1996, or 1997. Applicants may seek an exemption from this requirement if the nominating institution includes a statement justifying special consideration, eg. candidates who interrupted their careers to care for children. Non-research careers do not normally qualify for exemption.
- The Fellowship exchange agreement will run from 1998 to 1999 as part of newIMAGES.
- Awards will not be extended following the period of tenure, and cannot be granted a second time.
- No restriction is placed on nationality or age subject to the normal immigration and visa requirements of the UK and Australia

Duration

- 4 - 12 months, with preference to research stays of one period only.
- Successful applicants to take up fellowships within six months of an offer.

Nomination

- Any Australian academic institution may nominate UK candidates to the ARC. Any UK academic institution may nominate Australian candidates to the Royal Academy of Engineering. Nominating institutions must guarantee to provide appropriate facilities and equipment and to meet associated research costs.

Entitlements can include

- Allowance for the nominee's salary - For Australians to the UK, 20,000 pounds maximum for 12 months (less for shorter periods). ARC awards are from AUD 38,589 to AUD 41,422 per annum (pro rata), adjusted in line with movements in academic salary scales.
- A contribution towards subsistence.
- Conference and seminar costs where appropriate.
- Reasonable costs directly incurred by the nominating institution, eg. cost of consumables.
- Nominating institutions will provide round trip travel expenses for the award winner.
- Fellows are responsible for their own medical and dental treatment, and no responsibility will be taken for any costs associated with visits by accompanying family members.

Asia-Pacific Link Awards

*Memoranda of Understanding between the **Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF)**, the **Korea Research Foundation**, the **Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)**, **National Natural Sciences Foundation of China (NSFC)** and the **Indonesian University Research Council (IURC)** and the **Australian Research Council (ARC)***

The Asia-Pacific Link Awards are intended to foster stronger research links with countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Researchers are encouraged to develop collaboration between centres of excellence and to initiate the movement of key people between those centres

Existing Memoranda of Understanding with Japan, China, Indonesia and South Korea form the basis for these Awards. The MoUs provide for shared funding of the costs of the collaboration between the two agencies involved, and projects may be established in that manner under the third element of IREX, but these Awards will provide for all of the costs involved (except salary and salary-related costs). In the long term the ARC aims to develop more extensive reciprocal relationships with the countries involved.

Awards and eligibility

- During 1999 the ARC will consider funding up to 40 Awards, subject to funds availability and application assessment.
- Eligible Australian researchers are researchers/academics employed by the Institutions listed in Attachment 8. The Australian researcher must be an outstanding researcher of international standing in the relevant discipline or multi-disciplinary field. The collaborating researcher must also be outstanding. Publications and track record in attracting research grants will be considered.

Duration

- Minimum 1 month, maximum 12 months stay

Nomination

- Australian researcher through their institution.

Entitlements can include

- International travel costs for the Australian researcher at economy air fare rate.
- Local travel necessary to research.
- A contribution to subsistence based upon reasonable costs in the destination city or cities.
- Consumables necessary to the collaborative work

MoU Awards

An MoU Award will involve collaboration with researchers in countries where an ARC Memorandum of Understanding is in place and in other specified countries (see list below). The Memoranda of Understanding provide for joint funding of collaboration on research projects.

Awards and eligibility

- In most cases funding for travel to enable collaborative research should be applied for either as part of a normal ARC Large Research Grant or Small Grant application. However, where the funding is not available from any other source and significant international collaboration is involved this category can be used to seek assistance from the ARC.
- The ARC will consider funding up to 30 Awards, subject to funds availability and application assessment.
- Eligible Australian researchers are researchers/academics employed by the institutions listed in Attachment 8 and who are Australian based. The Australian researcher must be an outstanding researcher of international standing in the relevant discipline or multi-disciplinary field. The collaborating researcher must also be outstanding. Publications and track record in attracting research grants will be considered.

Duration

- Awards are for one year only.
- Minimum 1 month, maximum 12 months stay

Nomination

- Australian researcher through their institution.

Entitlements can include

- International travel costs for researchers at economy air fare rate.
- A contribution to subsistence.
- Local travel necessary to research.
- Consumables necessary to the collaborative work.

Application must be made to two organisations for full payment of the possible entitlements listed. The organisations which have MoUs with the ARC have agreed to the following division of costs, subject to successful application.

- international air fare - paid by the despatching organisation in the home country
- contribution to subsistence - paid by the organisation in the country of destination
- internal travel - paid by the organisation in the country of destination
- consumables - paid by both organisations in half share

It is possible to travel and receive funding from only one of the MoU organisations. There is no obligation for partner organisations to jointly fund projects. Each country has its own independent application processes.

Organisations and Countries Covered

The research agencies overseas with which the ARC has signed Memoranda of Understanding are listed below.

- Austria - Austrian Science Foundation (FWF)
- China - National Natural Sciences Foundation of China (NSFC)
- Czech Republic - Grant Agency of the Czech Republic
- EARTHWATCH * (see below)
- France - Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)
- Germany - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
- Indonesia - Indonesian University Research Council (IURC)
- Italy - the National Research Council of Italy (CNR)
- Japan - Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
- Korea - Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF) and Korea Research Foundation (KRF)
- Sweden - Swedish Natural Science Research Council (NFR)
- Switzerland - Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
- The Netherlands - Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NOW)

In addition there are a number of countries with which the ARC does not currently have a Memorandum of Understanding, but which have established research agencies and long standing research links with Australia, and the ARC has agreed that these should be treated as though a Memorandum of Understanding exists with appropriate research councils. These countries are:

- the United Kingdom
- the United States of America
- Canada
- India and
- New Zealand

Grants may also be awarded to projects supported under the European Union's Fourth Framework Program.

* In the case of EARTHWATCH, researchers may apply for assistance from volunteers. EARTHWATCH is an international non-profit organisation which sponsors scientific research by finding volunteers willing to help scientists and scholars working on field research projects around the world. The non-specialist volunteers join research teams and assist scientists to collect data and assist with all of the other field tasks necessary to cover the research objectives. The research work should be planned so that a number of volunteer teams are put into the field, generally for about two weeks.

In recent years, EARTHWATCH has supported projects in such fields as marine science, sustainable development and resource management, geology, ecology, conservation biology, archaeology, health science, and cultural studies.

ARC DEETYA Research Fellowship Salary Scale

Levels to be used as at 1 January 1998

Fellowship Category	Increment Level	\$ ARC Salary Provision	Salary + 26%
Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships	A 1	38,589	48,622
	A 2	40,007	50,409
	A 3	41,422	52,192
Australian Research Fellowships	B 1	43,604	54,941
	B 2	45,239	57,002
	B 3	46,873	59,060
	B 4	48,510	61,123
	B 5	50,144	63,181
	B 6	51,870	65,243
Senior Research Fellowships	C 1	53,414	67,302
	C 2	55,051	69,364
	C 3	56,685	71,423
	C 4	58,320	73,484
	C 5	59,954	75,542
	C 6	61,591	77,605
	D 1	64,316	81,038
	D 2	66,495	83,784
	D 3	68,676	86,531
	D 4	70,856	89,278
	E	82,847	104,387

Eligible Institutions
under Section 4 of the *Higher Education Funding Act 1998*

Table A

Australian Catholic University
Charles Sturt University
Southern Cross University
Macquarie University
The University of New England
The University of New South Wales
The University of Newcastle
The University of Sydney
University of Technology, Sydney
University of Western Sydney
University of Wollongong
Deakin University
La Trobe University
Monash University
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Swinburne University of Technology
The University of Melbourne
University of Ballarat
Victoria University of Technology
Central Queensland University
Griffith University
James Cook University of North Queensland
Queensland University of Technology
The University of Queensland
University of Southern Queensland
Curtin University of Technology
Edith Cowan University
Murdoch University
The University of Western Australia
The Flinders University of South Australia
The University of Adelaide
University of South Australia
University of Tasmania
Batchelor College
Northern Territory University
Australian Maritime College
The Australian National University
University of Canberra