Australasian Research Management Society 2009 Conference

Internationalisation of ARC schemes and policies
Contextual Factors

Desirables: Minister Carr March 2009

1. Seeking applications to build on university’s research strengths, based on thinking strategically, playing to key strengths

2. Collaboration needed between universities and business and public sector research agencies

3. Develop PhDs, supporting research students

4. Collaboration across universities, especially international collaboration by researchers

5. Collaboration across natural and human sciences

New Objective in Discovery Projects Scheme:
Enhance international collaboration in research
Major ARC Schemes

*Discovery Projects* –
- Excellent fundamental research by individuals and teams

*Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development* –
- Develop research expertise of indigenous Australians

*Australian Laureate Fellows* -
- For outstanding researchers to stay in or return to Australia

*Future Fellows* –
- Rewards best mid-career Australian researchers and outstanding international researchers

*Linkage Projects* –
- Collaborative research between universities and industry/government/community

*Centres of Excellence* – Large outstanding research teams conducting focussed, sustained investigations on important challenging problems

*Linkage infrastructure, equipment and facilities (LIEF)* –
- Collaboration across universities & partner organisations to fund major infrastructure
Funded ARC Projects with International PIs: 2002 to 2008

Which countries have the most frequent collaborations?

- *United States* (24%), *Canada* (6%)
- *United Kingdom* (15%)
- *Germany* (8%), *Italy* (3%), *Netherlands* (2.5%), *Sweden* & *Switzerland* (2% each)
- *Japan* (5%), *China* (4%)
- *New Zealand* (3%)

Which schemes have the most frequent collaborations?

- *Discovery Projects* (43% of $)
- *ARC Centres of Excellence* (43% of $)
Major Research Fields – International Collaboration
2002-2008: ARC Funded Projects

[Bar chart showing the number of projects in various fields with a 50% mark]
Opportunities

ARC schemes are open to international applicants:
(a) If apply through one of the eligible organisations
(b) If successful, must reside predominantly in Australia

Discovery Projects

- Partner Investigators (PIs) can be working overseas
- ‘International Collaboration Awards’ available for Australian Chief Investigators (CIs), Fellows, and Overseas PIs to work together on the project overseas or in Australia
- Travel support can be applied for overseas Partner or other research personnel to travel to Australia if justified against doing the project
- PhD stipends and Fellowships open to international candidates
Opportunities

**Linkage Projects**

- Overseas organisations can be partners
- Overseas higher education organisations eligible to be Partner Organisations if application has at least one Australian Partner Organisation
- PhD scholarships can be for international candidates
- All research personnel can apply for funds for domestic & international travel justified against the project

Information on International Collaboration in ARC schemes:

http://www.arc.gov.au/general/international_collaboration.htm
ARC Future Fellowships

• Supports career paths for talented national and international researchers
• Addressing the lack of opportunities for mid-career researchers in Australia
• Encourages applications from outstanding Australian and international mid-career researchers
• First 200 Fellows announced last week
  - 22 international researchers
  - 19 returning Australians
  - 159 Australian residents
• Each fellowship is worth up to $185,000 each year over four-years.
Objectives of Excellence in Research for Australia

1. establish an **evaluation framework** that gives government, industry, business and the wider community assurance of the excellence of research conducted in Australia’s institutions;

2. provide a national **stocktake** of discipline-level areas of research strength and areas where there is opportunity for development in Australia’s higher education institutions;

3. **identify excellence across the full spectrum of research** performance;

4. identify **emerging research areas** and opportunities for further development; and

5. allow for **comparisons of Australia’s research nationally and internationally** for all discipline areas.