FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• All Participants should read the *Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre* Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2012 and the *Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre* Instructions to Applicants for funding commencing in 2012.

• Information regarding Medical and Dental Research is available at [http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/md_research.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/md_research.htm).

• Information regarding the Research Management System (RMS) is available at [http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/system_default.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/system_default.htm), or contact [rms@arc.gov.au](mailto:rms@arc.gov.au) for assistance.

• Participants should direct all queries regarding ARC Funding schemes to their Administering Organisation’s Research Office or equivalent in the first instance. If further *Science of Learning Research Centre* information is required, the Research Office or equivalent should contact [sri@arc.gov.au](mailto:sri@arc.gov.au).

• This Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated as required.

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1. **GENERAL QUERIES**

1.1 **Where can I find the application closing dates?**

Key dates relating to the *Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre* can be found on the Important Dates page of the ARC website at [http://www.arc.gov.au/media/important_dates.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/media/important_dates.htm).

1.2 **How can I be involved?**

Participants should direct all queries regarding ARC funding schemes to their Administering Organisation’s Research Office or equivalent in the first instance. If further information is required on the *Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre*, the Research Office or equivalent should contact the ARC at sri@arc.gov.au.

1.3 **I am a researcher. Can I apply for funding under the *Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre*?**

The ARC provides funding to Eligible Organisations (universities and other research organisations), which act as Administering Organisations, rather than to individual researchers. This means that if you wish to apply for funding you will need to apply through an Eligible Organisation (as outlined in the Funding Rules for the scheme) and you would need to consult the Research Office at the Administering Organisation before submitting a Proposal.

Information regarding how to apply and what is required to submit a Proposal for a *Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre* can be found on the ARC website at [http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/sri/slrc.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/sri/slrc.htm).

2. **INVESTIGATOR ROLES**

2.1 **Can the role of Centre Director be shared by more than one CI?**

The Funding Rules do not specifically preclude an application from having more than one Centre Director however Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the Funding Rules outline the requirements and expectations for the Centre Director role.

The Centre Director must be employed by the Administering Organisation and is expected to have the capacity to make a serious commitment to the Program. The Centre Director will be expected to implement the strategies of and manage the research program including manage the reporting structures across the Administering, Collaborating and Partner Organisations. The Centre Director is expected to demonstrate that they have the time and capacity to engage effectively in the activities of the Program. If a Centre Director is unable to meet this undertaking the ARC may decide not to recommend the Proposal for funding.

2.2 **Can a proposed Centre Director be listed on a second Proposal as a CI?**

No. A researcher named on a Proposal for the role of Centre Director cannot be named as a Centre Director or CI on any other Proposal for the *Special Research
Innovation for a Science of Learning Research Centre. CIs must be prepared to make a serious commitment to the Program. This information is outlined in Section 7.2 of the Funding Rules.

2.3 Can a CI be listed on more than one Proposal for the initiative?
No. A researcher named on a Proposal for the role of CI cannot be named as Centre Director or CI on any other Proposal for the Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre. This information is outlined in Section 7.3 of the Funding Rules.

2.4 What is considered an appropriate time commitment for a Centre Director at the Science of Learning Research Centre?
As in Question 2.1, the Centre Director is expected to have the capacity to make a serious commitment to the Program. The role will be expected to implement the strategies of and manage the research program including manage the reporting structures across the Administering, Collaborating and Partner Organisations. The Centre Director is expected to demonstrate that they have the time and capacity to engage effectively in the activities of the Program. If a Centre Director is unable to meet this undertaking the ARC may decide not to recommend the Proposal for funding.

Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the Funding Rules outline the requirements and expectations for the role.

2.5 What is considered an appropriate time commitment for a CI and PI at the Science of Learning Research Centre?
A researcher nominated as a CI or PI must take significant intellectual responsibility for the Science of Learning Research Centre, and must have the capacity to make a serious commitment to the Program. See Section 7 of the Funding Rules for more detail.

2.6 Can a researcher at an overseas campus of an Eligible Organisation be a CI on the Science of Learning Research Centre?
No. The researcher at the overseas campus of an Australian University does not meet the eligibility criteria for a CI, Section 7.3.2 which states that CI ‘must reside predominantly in Australia for the life of the Program.’ This also applies to a Centre Director, as Centre Directors must meet the CI eligibility criteria.

2.7 I hold a position at an Eligible Organisation, but will not be resident in Australia for much of the duration of the project. Am I still eligible to be a CI?
No. Section 7.3.2 of the Funding Rules states that a CI ‘must reside predominantly in Australia for the life of the Program’.

2.8 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.
3. CROSS-SCHHEME ELIGIBILITY

3.1 What are the restrictions on CIs holding other ARC grants when applying for the Science of Learning Research Centre?

It is recommended that applicants refer to the Funding Rules for each scheme to determine the restrictions on other grants which can be held in conjunction with an ARC Research Centre. 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).

The Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre will be considered an ARC Research Centre for the purposes of cross-scheme eligibility as detailed in Section 9.1.3 of the Funding Rules.

3.2 Can a CI who currently holds two ARC Discovery Program grants be named on a Proposal for the Science of Learning Research Centre?

Yes. A CI who currently holds two Discovery Program grants is allowed to be named on a Science of Learning Research Centre Proposal on the understanding that, should the Science of Learning Research Centre Proposal be successful, the University will be required to nominate the relinquishment of one grant or grants to comply with relevant cross-scheme eligibility rules for grants with allocations in 2013.

The Funding Rules (Section 9.1.3) specify that the Science of Learning Research Centre will be considered an ARC Research Centre for cross-scheme eligibility purposes.

3.3 Can a CI who has submitted a Proposal for DP13 be named on a Proposal for the Science of Learning Research Centre?

The Funding Rules do not preclude an investigator holding one current DP in 2012 and having lodged a DP13 Proposal from being named as a CI on a Science of Learning Research Centre Proposal on the understanding that, should the Science of Learning Research Centre Proposal be successful, the University will be required to nominate the relinquishment of one grant or grants to comply with relevant cross-scheme eligibility rules for grants with allocations in 2013.

3.4 Can a CI who is involved in an ARC Centre of Excellence be named on a Proposal for the Science of Learning Research Centre?

Funding Rules for both the Centres of Excellence and Science of Learning Research Centre for funding commencing in 2012, do not preclude a CI from being involved in a Centre of Excellence and being named on a Science of Learning Research Centre Proposal.

However the capacity of CIs to undertake their role in the Centre is a serious consideration in the selection processes of both schemes. A CI should therefore carefully consider their capacity before being named on a Proposal for the Science of Learning Research Centre. The Science of Learning Research Centre Proposal form requires each CI to indicate their time commitment to this initiative.
In addition, all ARC schemes do not permit duplication of Commonwealth funding. A CI involved in a Centre of Excellence should consider carefully any overlap of work between the two Centres before being named on a Proposal for the Science of Learning Research Centre. The Science of Learning Research Centre Proposal form requires certification to this effect.

A CI who is involved in a Centre of Excellence can be named on a Proposal for the Science of Learning Research Centre on the understanding that:

- should the Science of Learning Research Centre Proposal be successful; and
- the ARC identifies any overlap in funding or is concerned about the CI’s capacity to deliver

the ARC will consider an appropriate course of action to ensure compliance with the relevant Funding Rules.

### 3.5 Can a CI be named on a Proposal for a Science of Learning Research Centre if they currently hold two ARC Discovery Program grants and one is due to conclude in December 2012?

Yes. A CI with a Discovery Program grant that concludes in December 2012 is eligible to be named on a Science of Learning Research Centre Proposal. The grant due to cease in December 2012 will be outside the timeframe for cross-scheme eligibility relinquishment requirements.

Relinquishment of grants to meet cross-scheme eligibility requirements will apply to grants with allocations from 2013 onwards.

### 3.6 Do CIs need to relinquish existing grants before submitting a Science of Learning Research Centre Proposal?

No. Relinquishing grants at the Proposal stage for this initiative is not required. Should the Science of Learning Research Centre Proposal be successful, the University will be required to nominate the relinquishment of one grant or grants to comply with relevant cross-scheme eligibility rules for grants with allocations in 2013.

### 3.7 If a CI is successful on a Proposal for the Science of Learning Research Centre, how will that affect their cross-scheme eligibility for future rounds of other ARC funding schemes?

The Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre will be considered an ARC Research Centre for the purposes of cross-scheme eligibility as detailed in Section 9.1.3 of the Funding Rules.

The cross-scheme eligibility requirements for future rounds of other ARC funding schemes will need to be considered as the Funding Rules for those schemes are released.
4. ORGANISATIONS

4.1 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. A Partner Organisation is an organisation which is not an Eligible Organisation. Section 6 of the Funding Rules describes the types of organisations that can be involved and Appendix A of the Funding Rules lists the Eligible Organisations for the Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre for funding commencing in 2012.

Both Collaborating and Partner Organisations must demonstrate a contribution of cash and/or in-kind support to the Program. See Section 6 of the Funding Rules for details on required contributions from participating organisations.

4.2 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 and participation requirements. See also Appendix A of the Funding Rules for a complete list of Eligible Organisations.

4.3 Can an Eligible Organisation be involved in more than one Proposal?
Yes. The Funding Rules do not preclude Eligible Organisations from being included on more than one Proposal. However, an Eligible Organisation can only submit one Proposal as an Administering Organisation (i.e. an Eligible Organisation can only be the Administering Organisation for one Proposal). See Section 9.1.1 of the Funding Rules for more information.

Section 7 of the Funding Rules provides further information on requirements for researchers including limits on the number of Proposals for which a researcher can be nominated.

4.4 What level of contribution does the ARC expect from Collaborating and Partner Organisations?
The combined total cash and in-kind contribution amount from Administering and Collaborating Organisations on the Proposal must be at least 30 per cent of the funding requested from the ARC. Contributions can be cash, in-kind or provide other material resources (e.g. buildings, lab space, consumables, etc). Such contributions are an important component of the selection criteria in Proposals. See Section 6 of the Funding Rules for further information.

Collaborating and Partner Organisations should make relevant contributions based on their participation in the Centre and on the personnel and other resources they will provide.

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. See Section 6.2 of the Funding Rules for more information.

4.5 **My organisation is not listed at Appendix A but would like to be involved. What should I do?**

If your organisation is not listed at Appendix A, the organisation can still be involved in the Centre as a Partner Organisation. You will need to contact the Research Office of an Administering Organisation, which is an Eligible Organisation listed at Appendix A of the Funding Rules that will lead the application, to discuss collaboration.

Section 6 of the Funding Rules outlines the types of organisations that can be involved and their participation requirements.

4.6 **How many Collaborating and Partner Organisations must be included on a Proposal?**

There are no limits on the number of participating organisations. However, it is expected that the *Science of Learning Research Centre* will have a national scale, with collaborative effort across universities and industry. To ensure a national approach a number of Collaborating and Partner Organisations are required for each Proposal. See Sections 4.2 and 6 of the Funding Rules for further information.

5. **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

All Participants should read the *Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre* Instructions to Applicants for funding commencing in 2012.

5.1 **Will Participants be required to have RMS accounts in order to lodge a Proposal?**

Yes. The Administering Organisation will be required to prepare and submit a Proposal through the RMS. As part of this process each researcher will require an RMS User ID. Please refer to the Instructions to Applicants for further information.

5.2 **What does the Administering Organisation have to certify?**


5.3 **I am worried that the graphs and diagrams will not be clear after my Proposal has been scanned.**

Due to potentially low resolution within PDFs, the reproduction of fine graphics may not be optimal. In completing the application form, the ARC recommends that PDFs be directly generated rather than scanned to maximise the quality of reproduction. Colour graphs, colour photographs, finely detailed graphics and grey scale are permitted but participants should be aware that Proposals may be reproduced in black and white during the assessment process. It is unwise to include coloured graphs or graphs that may not reproduce well.
5.4 I am having trouble managing the page limit stipulated. Is it okay to use 10 point font size?
No. With the exception of Part C References, 12 point font size, preferably Times New Roman (or an equivalent sized font), should be used. Failure to comply with the required format may result in the Proposal not being recommended for approval. Please refer to page 4 (Format) of the Science of Learning Research Centre Instructions to Applicants.

5.5 Can I make changes/alterations to my Proposal once it has been submitted?
No. Proposals may be withdrawn by the Administering Organisation, however, additions, deletions and modifications will not be accepted after submission to the ARC, unless invited by the ARC. Please refer to subsections 10.1.1 and 10.3.2 of the Funding Rules.

Information regarding how to apply and what is required to submit a Proposal for a Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre can be found on the ARC website at. http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/sri/slrcre.htm

6. OTHER QUERIES

6.1 My Centre would like to conduct medical and dental research. Can this be included for ARC funding?
The ARC does not support medical and dental research. However, for the Special Research Initiative for a Science of Learning Research Centre the ARC may support a Program where the primary aim is an educational outcome and the Program does not include clinical trials. See Section 5.4 of the Funding Rules for more information.