



SUPER SCIENCE FELLOWSHIPS ***For Funding Commencing in 2010 & 2011***

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Note: If you have further queries concerning the *Super Science Fellowships* Proposal submission, please contact your Eligible Organisation (listed in Appendix C, *Super Science Fellowships Funding Rules*) in the first instance.

What is the Super Science Fellowships (SSFs) scheme?

The *Super Science Fellowships* scheme is quite different to other existing ARC schemes. It is a one-off scheme designed to build intellectual capacity in three key areas (space and astronomy, marine and climate change and future industries), based around existing research groups who have demonstrated strength, collaboration and high-achievement in these areas.

The scheme is also designed to build on the large investment and commitment made under the Super Science Initiative for existing specialised infrastructure projects.

The *Super Science Fellowships* scheme will not be an option for all research organisations and/or research groups. If you are unable to apply as an Administering Organisation, it may be possible to join other eligible organisations as a Host Organisation.

Information on the Super Science Initiative can be found at www.innovation.gov.au/Section/AboutDIISR/FactSheets/Pages/SuperScienceInitiativeFactSheet.aspx

The *Super Science Fellowships* scheme provides 100 Fellowships for early-career researchers, application for which is made in a single call to the ARC for funding commencing in 2010 or 2011.

The basic process is that eligible Administering Organisations will apply for a number of Super Science Fellowships within a key area based around a research project(s) and a team of Chief Investigators (CIs). The Administering Organisation will submit the application to the ARC. If the application is successful, then the Super Science Fellowship(s) are advertised and selected by the Administering Organisation, where the Super Science Fellow(s) will work within the research project area and under the mentorship of the Chief Investigator(s).

The Chief Investigators on Super Science projects are expected to be experienced, high-profile researchers of international/national calibre, capable of leading a team of early career researchers (ECRs). The Fellows to be selected by the Administering Organisations are to be ECRs within 3 years of a PhD (refer to dates in the *Super Science Fellowships Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2010 and 2011* (the SSF Funding Rules)) and have a research record RELATIVE TO OPPORTUNITY and evidence of work experience across industry OR universities/research institutions OR in the relevant discipline. The Fellows will normally not be required to manage

the project or students, although this may be possible. This decision would be between the CI(s) and the Super Science Fellow(s).

For more information please also see http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/ssf/ssf_default.htm

The Super Science Initiative is supporting:

Space and Astronomy - \$160.5m - a new Square Kilometre Array science and high performance computing centre in Perth; additional funding for the Anglo-Australian Observatory (AAO), the world's leading 4-metre optical telescope; and funding for an Australian Space Research program and a Space Policy Unit that will provide advice to the Government on national space policy.

see also

<http://www.industry.gov.au/General/Corporate/Pages/SuperScienceSpaceandAstronomy.aspx>

Marine and Climate - \$387.7m - a state-of-the-art marine research vessel to replace the 38-year-old RV Southern Surveyor; extensions of the Integrated Marine Observing System network; new tropical marine infrastructure investments at the Australian Institute of Marine Science; an upgrade to Australia's peak high-performance climate change computing capacity; distributed infrastructure for terrestrial ecosystems, groundwater depletion, sustainable energy, and water and energy use in built environments.

see also

<http://www.industry.gov.au/General/Corporate/Pages/SuperScienceMarineandClimate.aspx>

Future Industries - \$504.0m - new facilities for cutting-edge biological discovery and biotechnology development including funding for a European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Australia Partner Laboratory; new National Enabling Technologies Strategy; nuclear science facilities for ANSTO; facilities to support nanotechnology research; and advanced ICT platforms.

see also

<http://www.industry.gov.au/General/Corporate/Pages/SuperScienceFutureIndustries.aspx>

Examples of organisations linked to Super Science Initiative funding include:

- Space and astronomy: \$10M for national infrastructure funded by Astronomy Australia Ltd. Members are listed at <http://astronomyaustralia.org.au/members.html>;
- Marine and climate change: \$52M to extend and enhance Australia's Integrated Marine Observing System. Members are listed at <http://imos.org.au/links.html>;
- Future industries: \$62M to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation.

Does the project need to address both research areas specified in a theme (for example, marine AND climate combined together or marine OR climate)?

The project areas can be quite broad, as articulated in the above link to the Budget Super Science Initiative information. The research projects can span areas of blue water and coastal marine, climate change modelling, climate change projects related to terrestrial ecosystems, groundwater depletion, sustainable energy, and water and

energy use in built environments. The main requirement is to have already existing extensive research teams and research focus in the project area.

Investigator Roles, Eligibility and Organisations

What is meant by subsection 6.1.1 of the Super Science Fellowships Funding Rules?

A Proposal may be submitted only by an Eligible Organisation linked to existing Super Science funding (for example, National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy funding within a theme area); and/or be involved in an ARC Centre of Excellence, strategic priority of a Publicly Funded Research Agency and/or CRC within a relevant theme area.

The Eligible Organisation (to apply under Super Science Fellowships) must already be linked directly to:

At least one of the following:

1. funding received under the Super Science Initiative
(<http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/AboutDIISR/FactSheets/Pages/SuperScienceInitiativeFactSheet.aspx>),

i.e. :the Administrating Organisation (to apply under Super Science Fellowships) is listed on the successful funding proposal for Super Science Initiative funding (including for example, National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy funding within a theme area).
2. an existing ARC Centre of Excellence which has a theme area or research focus within one of the three nominated Super Science Fellowships targeted discipline areas

i.e. :the Administrating Organisation (to apply under Super Science Fellowships) is listed as a collaborating or contributing organisation of the ARC Centre of Excellence
3. a Cooperative Research Centre which has a theme area or research focus within one of the three nominated Super Science Fellowships targeted discipline areas.

i.e. :the Administrating Organisation (to apply under Super Science Fellowships) is listed participant of the CRC and makes a significant contribution to the CRC research program.
4. A Publicly Funded Research Agency, which has documented strategic priority, key research strength or theme area within one of the three nominated Super Science Fellowships targeted discipline areas.

i.e. : Examples of Publicly Funded Research Agencies can be found at Appendix C1.2 Other Eligible Organisations of the Super science Fellowships Funding Rules.

Would it be enough for an administering institution to be linked to Super Science Funding in one of the themed areas but apply for a Super Science Fellowship in one of the other two themed areas?

The Super Science Fellowship(s) position(s) requested must be in the same theme area as the existing Super Science funding (as per subsection 6.1.1), based around an existing research group who have demonstrated strength, collaboration and high achievement in this area. (See C2 of the Instructions to Applicants document for further details).

Who can apply for Super Science Fellowships funding?

Only eligible Administering Organisations can submit an application for Super Science Fellowships, with only one application per theme area per round. There can however be any number of relevant Host Organisations listed on the proposal.

One of our institutes has applied for a grant under the Super Science Initiative – and will not know the outcome until after the Super Science Fellowships closing date. Can we apply for a Super Science Fellowship?

No, Administering Organisations can only include links to Super Science Initiative funding approved as at the closing date of the Super Science Fellowships scheme.

What if a researcher has collaborations with a National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) facility at another University?

The researchers' organisation can be involved as a Host Organisation on a Super Science application

Is a thematic link to any existing Super Science Initiative funding enough to justify a Super Science Fellowship application?

No, the Administering Organisation must be directly linked to Super Science Initiative Funding, ie. listed as an organisation on a funded Super Science Initiative proposal.

What contribution must the Administering Organisation provide?

The Administering Organisation and/or Host Organisation(s) must provide each Super Science Fellow with a minimum of \$20,000 cash for each of the three years of the Fellowship, to support the research project.

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. Chief Investigators must make a serious commitment to supervise the fellowship recipients and interact with the fellows and the research team on a regular basis.

Are Super Science Fellowship (SSF) candidates named in the proposal?

No. Super Science Fellowship candidates are not named in the Super Science Fellowship proposal. Administering Organisations are requesting funding for the Super Science Fellowship positions only. Once successful proposals for the Super Science Fellowships have been approved and announced, the successful Administering Organisations must then undertake a process of competitive national and international recruitment for Round One Super Science Fellowships. The process is described in section 7 of the SSF Funding Rules.

Super Science Fellowships Submission Requirements

How many Super Science Fellowships can a single Administering Organisation apply for under the Super Science Fellowships scheme?

Administering Organisations may apply for up to three (3) Super Science Fellowships in each of the two rounds in each of the three discipline areas. (i.e. a maximum of 18 Fellowships) Such an organisation would have to have the capacity (people and facilities) to support the maximum number.

How many rounds will be conducted?

Two rounds will be considered under the ONE call for proposals. Proposals for both Round One and Round Two must be submitted within this call.

What are the limits for proposals submission under the Super Science Fellowships scheme? (Clarification of subsection 5.5.2 of the Super Science Fellowships Funding Rules)

An Administering Organisation may submit one Proposal per round, per theme area.

Example: An Administering Organisation may submit a maximum of six (6) Proposals to the Super Science Fellowships scheme as part of the ARC call, consisting of Rounds 1 and 2 (as shown below).

Each Eligible Administering Organisation may only submit one proposal per theme, per round as shown below:	Max Number of SSF's that can be applied for per proposal*:		
	Round 1	Round 2	Max per theme
1 x Space science and astronomy	3	3	6
1 x Marine and climate science	3	3	6
1 x Future industries research-biotechnology and nanotechnology	3	3	6
TOTALS:	9	9	18

* Each proposal can only request between 1 and 3 Super Science Fellowships

What is the definition of the word 'complementary' in subsection 5.5.3 of the Super Science Fellowships Funding Rules?

Subsection 5.5.3 states 'Administering Organisations requesting Super Science Fellowships in both rounds must submit separate Proposals including separate but complementary projects'.

Complementary in this instance means complementary to the theme area or complementary to the demonstrated strategic priorities of the institution.

Example – Admin Org X submits a Proposal under the Marine and Climate Science targeted discipline in Round One. The proposal requests three (3) Super Science Fellowships.

Each Fellowship may work on a separate but complementary research activity within the Marine and Science discipline, i.e. they do not all have to work on the same research activity. The Fellows will be recruited to work in an existing research group/team who has demonstrated strength, collaboration and high-achievement in the targeted area.

Admin Org X also submits a Proposal in Round Two under the Marine and Climate Science targeted discipline. This Proposal must be complementary to the Round One Proposal (i.e. in the same targeted discipline).

I am worried that the graphs and diagrams will not be clear after my proposal has been scanned. How much attention should I pay to PDF resolution?

Due to low resolution scanning of PDFs, the reproduction of fine graphics may not be optimal. In addition, colour diagrams and graphs may be reproduced in black and white. It is, therefore, recommended that caution be exercised in the decision to include figures, illustrations or finely detailed graphics. If possible the attached PDFs should be directly generated rather than scanned to maximise the quality of reproduction.

I am having trouble sticking to the page limit/s as stipulated in the “Instructions to Applicants” for various sections of the Proposal. Is it okay to use 10 point font size?

No. The SSF Funding Rules clearly state that, with the exception of the References section of the Project Description, an appropriate 12 point font size should be used. Subsection 10.3.2 of the Funding Rules outlines font types that may be used. Failure to comply with the required format may result in the Proposal not being recommended for funding.

Can I make changes/alterations to my Proposal once it has been submitted?

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

Other questions

My project is in the area of medical and dental research. Can I apply for funding to the ARC?

The Super Science Fellowships scheme does not support Medical and Dental Research. Please refer to subsection 5.4.1 a. and section 8.3 of the SSF Funding Rules.

What is meant by ‘access to workshop services’? (section 6.1.4.iii of Funding Rules)

Workshop services refer to technical workshops, for example those which provide design, construction, manufacture, or even repair of equipment used in research. These may be in-house at Universities or external.

How many Super Science Fellowships are available?

Up to 50 Fellowships in Round One may be awarded for funding commencing in 2010. A further 50 Fellowships may be awarded for funding commencing in 2011.

What level of funding will the ARC provide per Super Science Fellowship?

The level of salary which will be provided by the ARC for each Super Science Fellowship is \$AUD72,500 per annum for three years plus 28 per cent on-costs.

Can I request project funding?

No. the ARC does not provide project funding under this scheme.

What is the duration of a Super Science Fellowship?

Projects are funded for three years on a full-time basis only.

What are the commencement dates for Super Science Fellowships projects?

In the case of fellowships awarded in Round One, the commencement date will be 1 July 2010. For fellowships awarded in Round Two the commencement date will be 1 July 2011.

Research Management System (RMS)

My RMS User ID and password appear to be incorrect. What do I do?

User IDs and passwords are case sensitive, so check that your capitalisation is correct. You can reset your password using the 'Reset Password' link on the login page, and retrieve a forgotten User ID using the 'Retrieve User Name' link on the login page. If you are still experiencing difficulties contact your research office in the first instance; failing that, please email rms@arc.gov.au or call (02) 6287 6789 for assistance.

My User ID and password are both correct, but I am having trouble getting into RMS. Why is this?

During times of heavy usage (for example, in the period leading up to the deadline for Proposals) it may be difficult to log into RMS. Please exercise patience and try to log in again at a time when there are likely to be fewer users. You should also check for information on RMS compatibility with various combinations of hardware and browser software and minimum system requirements on the RMS page on the ARC Web Site.

I need to change my Organisation in my Personal Details. How can I change this?

Use the 'Request Transfer' link on the 'Organisation Details' tab of 'Personal Details'.