



LINKAGE—AUSTRALIAN
POSTDOCTORAL
FELLOWSHIPS (CSIRO)

Selection Report
and
Summary of Recommendations
for funding commencing in 2003

Linkage-Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (CSIRO)

Overview

Linkage-Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (CSIRO) is a pilot collaborative program within the ARC's National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP). Co-funded by the ARC and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the program makes available up to ten Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships.

Linkage-Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (CSIRO) aims to encourage and develop long-term, capacity-building, strategic research alliances between universities and CSIRO. The program also aims to:

- strengthen collaboration between universities and CSIRO; and
- provide enhanced training opportunities for early career researchers.

Selection process

Independent expert assessments were sought for each application from both Australian-based readers and international experts, and applicants were invited to provide rejoinders to assessor reports. The selection panel, comprising members from the relevant Expert Advisory Committees (EAC), was chaired by Professor Ray Norris. The ARC applied strict procedures for declaring conflicts of interest and, as appropriate, for members to withdraw from considering particular applications. Readers for each discipline grouping were drawn from a range of institutions to avoid potential conflict of interest problems. The selection panel:

- made final checks on eligibility;
- ranked each application relative to the others on the basis of the application, the assessors' reports and applicants' response to these assessments; and
- prepared funding recommendations for submission to the ARC Board for endorsement and then to the Minister for approval.

Selection criteria

The primary assessment criteria for *Linkage-Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (CSIRO)* are:

- Research environment, including the research collaboration (10%)
- Research team (20%)
- Fellowship applicant (30%)
- Project content (40%)

Summary of outcomes

Seventy (70) applications were considered for *Linkage-Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (CSIRO)*. Ten applications (14.3%) are recommended for funding in the current round and five are placed on a ranked reserve list. Ten funded Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (APDC) represent a commitment of \$643,345 in 2003 (expressed in unindexed 2002 dollars) and \$1,930,035 over the next three years.

Table 1: Applications and funded APDCs by Discipline Group

Discipline Group	Applications received	Applications withdrawn	Applications considered	Funded	Success rate
BSB	20		20	3	15.0%
EE	24	1	23	3	13.0%
MIC	8		8	1	12.5%
PCG	19	1	18	3	16.7%
SBE	1		1	0	0.0%
TOTAL	72	2	70	10	14.3%

Priority Areas

For applications to the ARC requesting funding commencing in 2003 there are four designated priority areas of research. These are Nano-materials and Bio-materials, Genome/Phenome Research, Complex/Intelligent Systems, and Photon Science and Technology. The application process invited applicants to tick-a-box indicating that the application fell within one of the priority areas. For *Linkage-Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (CSIRO)* 78.6% of applications, and 80% of successful applications were identified as being in the priority areas by the applicants

Table 2. Applications in priority areas

Priority area	Applications	Funded	% Success
Complex and Intelligent Systems	19	2	10.5%
Genome Phenome Research	10	1	10.0%
Nano and Bio Materials	20	2	10.0%
Photon Science and Technology	6	3	50.0%
None	15	2	13.3%

Administering institutions

APDCs are tenable in eligible higher education institutions or CSIRO divisions.

Table 3: Applications and funded APDCs by Administering Organisation

Administering Organisation	Total Applications	Funded
Charles Sturt University	1	
CSIRO - Food Science Australia	1	
CSIRO - Mathematical & Information Sciences	1	
CSIRO - Molecular Science	1	
CSIRO - Plant Industry	4	
CSIRO - Sustainable Ecosystems	2	
Deakin University	1	
Griffith University	4	
La Trobe University	1	
Macquarie University	2	1
Monash University	2	1
Murdoch University	1	
Queensland University of Technology	1	
RMIT University	1	
Swinburne University of Technology	2	1
The Australian National University	4	1
The Flinders University of South Australia	2	
The University of Adelaide	2	
The University of Melbourne	2	2
The University of New England	2	
The University of New South Wales	8	3
The University of Queensland	7	1
The University of Sydney	5	
The University of Western Australia	1	
University of South Australia	3	
University of Tasmania	2	
University of Technology, Sydney	2	
University of Western Sydney	2	
University of Wollongong	2	
Victoria University of Technology	1	
Total	70	10

Research teams

APDCs are awarded to research teams comprising both university and CSIRO researchers. In total, 187 applicants are listed on 70 applications. Of these, 83 are CSIRO researchers and 104 are university researchers. Successful applications listed 11 CSIRO and 17 university researchers.

Table 4. CSIRO and university researchers listed on applications and funded APDCs

	Number of CSIRO Chief Investigators	Number of CI - University Chief Investigators	Total number of Chief Investigators	Average number of Chief Investigators per application
Applications	83	104	187	2.7
Funded	11	17	28	2.8

Teams applying under Linkage-APD (CSIRO) formed or strengthened collaboration between the universities and CSIRO divisions. The table below lists the institutions of the Chief Investigators on the 10 successful applications.

Table 5. First-named Chief Investigator, Administering Institution and Institutions of all Chief Investigators on funded APDCs.

First Named Chief Investigator	Administering Organisation	Chief Investigators Organisations	Number of Chief Investigators
Forbes, D	Swinburne University of Technology	Swinburne University of Technology (2) CSIRO - Australia Telescope National Facility (2) The Australian National University (1)	5
Davidson, M	The University of Melbourne	The University of Melbourne (2) CSIRO - Manufacturing and Infrastructure Technology (1)	3
Burton, M	The University of New South Wales	The University of New South Wales (1) CSIRO - Australia Telescope National Facility (1)	2
England, M	The University of New South Wales	The University of New South Wales (1) CSIRO - Marine Research (1)	2
Batterham, P	The University of Melbourne	The University of Melbourne (1) CSIRO - Entomology (1)	2
Dixon, N	The Australian National University	The Australian National University (2) CSIRO - Livestock Industries (1)	3
Craik, D	The University of Queensland	The University of Queensland (1) CSIRO - Livestock Industries (1) La Trobe University (1)	3
Esselle, K	Macquarie University	Macquarie University (2) CSIRO - Telecommunications & Industrial Physics (1)	3
Yu, A	The University of New South Wales	The University of New South Wales (1) CSIRO - Petroleum Resources (1)	2
Soria, J	Monash University	Monash University (2) CSIRO - Forestry & Forest Products (1)	3

APDC applicants

Amongst the APDCs on successful applications, four are Australian researchers returning to Australia and three are non-Australian citizens currently residing in Australia. The table below indicates the nationality and current institutions of the successful APDCs.

Table 6. Nationality and current institutions of successful APDCs

Current organisation	Nationality	Australian returning from overseas	Overseas researcher currently residing in Australia
University of Manchester	Australia	United Kingdom	
University of Alberta	Australia	Canada	
CSIRO - Australia Telescope National Facility			United States
Princeton University	Australia	United States	
University of Bath	Australia	United Kingdom	
The Australian National University			Japan
The University of Queensland	Australia		
Macquarie University	Australia		
The University of New South Wales	Australia		China
Monash University	Australia		

Program Budget

The following allocations from Linkage-Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (CSIRO) budget have been recommended for new grants to commence in 2003 (expressed in unindexed 2002 dollars):

2003	2004	2005
\$643,345	\$643,345	\$643,345