FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Cross-Scheme Eligibility for schemes under the

discovery Program (2017 edition)

Version 2 - Release date: 23 January 2018

• All participants should read the Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Program (2017 edition) available on the ARC website.

• The scheme specific Instructions to Applicants documents available on the ARC website also contain important information for Research Office staff and individual participants preparing Proposals.

• The Australian Research Council (ARC) does not respond to queries from individual participants. Individual participants should direct all queries regarding ARC funding schemes to their Administering Organisation’s Research Office (or equivalent). If further information regarding any of the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) schemes is required, the Research Office should contact the NCGP inbox at ncgp@arc.gov.au.

• Information regarding the Research Management System (RMS) is available at the ARC website, or by contacting rms@arc.gov.au for assistance.

• Please note that this FAQ document addresses the eligibility of proposals submitted under the Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Program (2017 edition) (the Funding Rules). Please ensure that your proposal is eligible in accordance with the 2017 rules, which may differ from Funding Rules applying to proposals made in previous years.

• Questions regarding limits for currently held funding can be directed to your research office, who can contact ARC Post-award if necessary.

This Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated as required. Details of any amendments will be appended to this document.
1. Cross Program and Cross Scheme Eligibility

1.1 Will the ARC write to my Administering Organisation to seek clarification about eligibility issues?

No. The ARC will no longer be contacting Administering Organisations requesting clarification around eligibility. All the information that the ARC Eligibility Committee will use to decide if a Proposal is eligible MUST be contained in the Proposal.

Applicants are expected to manage validations that appear in the Proposal form when applying. Information provided in the Proposal (e.g. CI/PI roles, medical statements etc.) MUST clearly address the issue at time of submission.

1.2 For eligibility purposes, how is the number of Projects and Proposals with which I am involved counted?

As per subsection A6.2.5 of the *Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Program (2017 Edition)*, the ARC will calculate limits of Projects and Proposals as at the closing time of submission of Proposals (and may re-calculate this rule as other scheme rounds’ funding announcements are made and End of Year Reports are submitted) by totalling:

(a) the number of Discovery Program CI roles, ARC Fellowships or ARC Awards that the participant will hold on Active Projects as at the scheme specific Active Assessment Date

(b) the number of ARC Centres of Excellence and Special Research Initiatives CI and/or Director roles that the named participants will hold on Active Projects as at the scheme-specific Active Project Assessment Date

(c) the number of Discovery Program Proposals currently under assessment by the ARC which include that participant as a CI or candidate.

Notwithstanding the above:

(i) Proposals for Australian Laureate Fellowships, Future Fellowships, ARC Centres of Excellence or Special Research Initiatives will not count towards limits in this subsection A6.2 as at the closing date of submission of proposals

(ii) Named participants on successful Australian Laureate Fellowships, Future Fellowships, ARC Centres of Excellence of Special Research Initiatives Projects will be required to meet the Project limit requirements by relinquishing existing Project(s), or relinquishing role(s) on existing Projects, or withdrawing Proposal(s) that would exceed the Project limits. The Project(s) and/or role(s) to be relinquished and/or Proposal(s) to be withdrawn must be nominated in the Proposal.

Note that eligibility may be checked at any stage of the assessment process.

Discovery Program Projects or Proposals do not count towards the cross-scheme eligibility limits for the Linkage Program.

1.3 What is an Active Project?

An Active Project means a Project that is receiving funding according to the terms of the original funding agreement or has any carryover funds approved by the ARC, or an approved variation to the Project End Date. The Active Projects, which affect your eligibility to apply for funding, are determined based on the Project’s End Date in RMS.
The number of Active Projects that a researcher is considered to have is counted as at the scheme-specific Active Project Assessment Date.

1.4 What is the Active Project Assessment Date?

The Active Project Assessment Date is six months after the Funding Commencement Date. Table 1 lists the Active Project Assessment Dates for the following Discovery Program schemes:

Table 1: Active Project Assessment Dates for the Discovery Program (2017 edition)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Active Project Assessment Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future Fellowships</td>
<td>1 January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Laureate Fellowships</td>
<td>1 January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Projects</td>
<td>1 July 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Early Career Researcher Award</td>
<td>1 July 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Indigenous</td>
<td>1 July 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the term Active Project Assessment Date is new to the Funding Rules for the Discovery Program (2017 edition).

1.5 How do I find my Active Projects?

You can see the list of all current ARC Projects on which you are named CI/Candidate in RMS. To find this list, go to the Person Profile section of RMS and click the link to Current ARC Projects. The Projects will appear in a format like the below example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identifier</th>
<th>Scheme Name</th>
<th>Investigators</th>
<th>Admin Organisation</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DP1434567</td>
<td>DP 2014</td>
<td>Dr Joe Bloggs</td>
<td>The University of X</td>
<td>Example Project Title</td>
<td>$876,543</td>
<td>30/06/2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This list from your Person Profile is pre-populated into the Personnel section of your Proposal Form.

If you believe that any of the Project information on your Person Profile page is incorrect, contact your Research Office, who will contact ARC Post-award to submit a Variation to Funding Agreement (VFA) if required.

For the purposes of eligibility, the Project’s End Date is used to determine whether it is an Active Project according to the scheme-specific Active Project Assessment Date.

1.6 What is a Project End Date?

The Project End Date means the date on which the Project concludes Research and Funding expenditure.
1.7 Can I withdraw a person from a Proposal that is currently under assessment in order to meet Project and Proposal limits?
No. It is not possible for a named Participant to be removed from a Proposal once it has been submitted.

If any participant named on a Proposal breaches the Project and Proposal limits specified in subsection A6.2 of the Funding Rules, the entire Proposal may be considered ineligible, and be required to be withdrawn.

1.8 Can I defer the start date of the proposed Project, ARC Fellowship or ARC Award to avoid cross scheme limits?
As per subsection A6.1.5 of the Funding Rules, all participants named on the Project must also meet the Project and Proposal limits in order to start the Project.

You can ask to defer commencement of a Project through the Variation of Funding Agreement (VFA) process for other reasons as long as all investigators remain compliant on all eligibility limits.

1.9 Can I wait until after I submit a Proposal to change the End Date of an existing Project so it doesn't count towards the cross-scheme eligibility limits?
No. Project End Dates must be updated via the VFA process to accurately reflect when the Project will end. Applicants must ensure all Project End Dates are correct prior to submitting Proposals to the ARC. The ARC may check eligibility at any stage of the assessment process.

1.10 Can I relinquish an awarded Project following announcement in order to meet Proposal limits?
It is not permissible for a CI on a *Discovery Projects*, *Discovery Early Career Researcher Award* or *Discovery Indigenous Proposal* to apply for more than they can hold and then relinquish an awarded Project following announcement.

Candidates applying for *Australian Laureate Fellowships* and *Future Fellowships* Proposals may apply for more than they can hold, but must meet Project and Proposal limits on award as per subsection A6.1.5 of the Funding Rules.

Note: It is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor–Research or equivalent that has the responsibility to certify that all information in the Proposal is true and correct. This extends to Project End Dates. If you are aware that an Active Project will need to extend its End Date, contact the ARC Post-award team by requesting a VFA in RMS to extend the End Date for eligibility purposes prior to submission of a Proposal.

Subsection A12.6.2 of the Funding Rules states “If the ARC considers that a Proposal is incomplete, inaccurate or contains false or misleading information, the ARC may in its absolute discretion decide to recommend that the Proposal not be approved for funding.”

1.11 Can the same research Proposal be submitted for different schemes?
Yes. However, note in accordance with subsection A7.1.4 of the Funding Rules, “the ARC will not fund the same research activities, infrastructure or Project previously funded or currently being funded through any other Commonwealth funding”. Assessors also take into account criteria such as value for money and originality when considering a Proposal.
If a Proposal is submitted under more than one ARC funding scheme, this must be included in the relevant section of the Proposal form. If both Proposals are successful, you will be required to manage any potential financial duplication either through an ARC-approved VFA or by relinquishing one of the successful Projects.

2. Cross-Scheme Eligibility Examples

2.1 Can I apply for two DP19s and a FT18 (or FL18)?

If you have no Active Projects:
- Then you can submit a FT18 (or FL18) Proposal and up to two DP19 Proposals.

2.1.1 What happens if I am successful in the FT18 (or FL18) and have applied for two DP19s?

If you are successful and accept a Fellowship then you are only eligible to be a participant on one DP19 Proposal.

In this case, you must take immediate steps to meet the requirement for limits on Projects and Proposals as set out in A6.1.4 and A6.2.5cii of the Funding Rules. Within 1 month of the Fellowships announcement date, the Administering Organisation must withdraw the DP19 Proposal nominated in the successful Fellowship Proposal. If a subsequent Proposal was not nominated:
- The applicant must take steps to meet the requirement for limits on Projects and Proposals within 1 month of the Fellowships announcement date.
- Where an Administering Organisation does not notify the ARC about the steps they will take to meet the requirement for limits on Projects and Proposals in this time frame both DP19 Proposals will be considered by the Eligibility Committee and may be considered as ineligible for funding.

Note that the ARC recommends that CIs who have also applied in the FT18 or FL18 round should discuss the implications for other Discovery Program Proposals with relevant participants should the FT18 or FL18 Proposal be successful. This should include the possibility of withdrawing Proposals as a Project cannot commence until all CIs and PIs meet the eligibility criteria in the Discovery Program Funding Rules (2017 edition).

2.2 I have a current Discovery Project with a Project End Date that is past the Active Project Assessment Date of an FT18 (or FL18). I have applied for an FT18 (or FL18) and will be submitting a DP19. If I am successful in my application for a Fellowship, what happens to my current Discovery Program Project or the Proposal submitted in the 2019 round?

If you are awarded a Fellowship then you must take immediate steps to meet the requirement for limits on Projects and Proposals as set out in A6.1.4 of the Funding Rules within 1 month of the Fellowships announcement date.

The Administering Organisations may:
- relinquish the existing Discovery Project;
- seek a variation to remove the Fellow from the existing Discovery Program Project as a CI; or
- withdraw the Proposal.

If the Administering Organisation does not nominate one of the above options, the Discovery Program Proposal may be considered ineligible.
2.3 I have two Discovery Projects with an End Date of March 2019 and September 2019. Can I apply for a DP19?

Yes. The Active Project Assessment Date for Discovery Projects for funding commencing in 2019 is 1 July 2019. You will only be in receipt of one Discovery Projects grant as at 1 July 2019.

Note that a Project cannot commence until all CIs, PIs, Awardees and Fellows meet the eligibility criteria.

2.4 I have no current Discovery Program grants can I apply for both a DE19 and DP19?

Yes. Subsection A6.2.2 of the Funding Rules states that a participant can be funded for a maximum of one ARC Award or ARC Fellowship, and one Project as a CI.

2.5 I have a current Discovery Project grant with an End Date of April 2019. Can I apply for both a DE19 and a DP19?

Yes. The Active Project Assessment Date for Discovery Early Career Researcher Award and Discovery Projects is 1 July 2019. You will not be in receipt of any grants as at 1 July 2019.

Note that a Project cannot commence until all CIs, PIs, Awardees and Fellows meet the eligibility criteria.