



Australian Government  
Australian Research Council

# ARC



# ARC at a glance

June 2023

## Our role

The ARC has been an integral part of the Australian research landscape since our establishment in 2001. We fund blue-sky and applied practical research, research training, research collaboration and infrastructure. We also provide advice on research policy and integrity, and assess the quality and impact of research in Australia.

## What we do

### National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP)

Through the NCGP, the ARC supports excellent research and research training across the sciences and humanities.

The Discovery Program recognises the importance of fundamental research. It supports research capacity through promoting competitive research projects, fellowships, and awards.

The Linkage Program promotes Australia's research innovation capacity, supporting research projects, infrastructure, hubs, centres, and collaboration between researchers and research users.

### Research codes of practice and integrity

Relevant policies, processes and reviews include the:

- ARC Research Integrity Policy that applies to all research funded by the ARC.
- Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018 (Code) and associated guidance, included within ARC grant conditions.
- Australian Research Integrity Committee that reviews institutional processes to proper process in investigating potential breaches of the Code, in partnership with the National Health and Medical Research Council.

### Research Assessment and Evaluation

The ARC is responsible for the national research assessment framework which evaluates the quality of research produced in Australia.

We are also responsible for assessing the impact of university research, examining how it is translated into appreciable outcomes beyond academia, determining what economic, environmental, and sociocultural benefits arise from Australian research.

### Advice on Australia's research

We use our datasets, stakeholder relationships, and rigorous processes to advise government and influence its decision making. Our expertise and knowledge on the Australian research system supports our diverse stakeholder network.

### Research Grant Services (RGS)

The ARC supports other Australian Government entities in the research sector by providing grants administration services. These services are standardised research grants processes through our Research Management System.

RGS helps make it easier to fund the best research and the best researchers in line with policy objectives, to make it easier to provide evidence about the value of research, and to make it easier to apply for, assess, and manage research grants in Australia.

## How we do it

### Harnessing expertise

We leverage the wealth of expertise available in the research community and our team, including our expert committees and assessors to support the advancement of knowledge and innovation.

### Leveraging powerful data assets

We use our data, expertise, and other sources to inform research policy advice to the Australian Government and inform the community on trends in the research sector.

### Building relationships

We build national and international relationships with universities, industry and other research users, and government to support our goals.

## ARC funding across Australia

In 2022-23, \$850 million in NCGP funding was available to support Australian universities.

In 2022 the median funding for projects was \$579,528 and there were 1098 new projects funded. ARC funding covered over 12,200 researchers in new and ongoing projects.



Map depicts funding awarded in 2022.

## Discovery Program — supporting fundamental research

Scheme	Objective	Funding period	Funding level per year
<b><u>Discovery Projects</u></b>	Support excellent basic and applied research and research training by individuals and teams; support national and international research collaboration; and enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas.	Up to 5 years Offered annually	\$30,000 to \$500,000
<b><u>Discovery Indigenous</u></b>	Support excellent basic and applied research and research training by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers as individuals and as teams; support national and international research collaboration; enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas; and support and retain established Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers in higher education institutions.	Up to 5 years Offered annually	\$30,000 to \$500,000, including Discovery Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award salary of \$112,898 to \$239,077 (including 30% on-costs)
<b><u>Discovery Early Career Researcher Award</u></b>	Support excellent basic and applied research by early-career researchers; support national and international research collaboration; enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas; advance promising early career researchers and promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways; and enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments.	3 years (may be undertaken on a part-time basis not exceeding 6 consecutive years) Offered annually	\$109,079 salary (including 30% on-costs), plus up to \$50,000 project costs
<b><u>Future Fellowships</u></b>	Support excellent basic and applied research and research training by outstanding mid-career researchers to be recruited and retained by universities in continuing academic positions; support national and international research collaboration; and enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas.	4 years (may be undertaken on a part-time basis not exceeding 8 consecutive years) Offered annually	\$163,598 to \$232,481 salary (including 30% on-costs) plus up to \$60,000 project costs
<b><u>Australian Laureate Fellowships</u></b>	Support ground-breaking, internationally-competitive basic and applied research; forge strong links among researchers, the international research community and/or industry and other research end-users; enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas; attract and retain outstanding researchers and research leaders of international reputation; and provide an excellent research training environment and exemplary mentorship to nurture early-career researchers.	5 years Offered annually	\$173,358 salary (including 30% on-costs) towards a Professional Level E (or equivalent) salary, plus \$106,684 salary support (including 30 per cent on-costs) for each of 2 Postdoctoral Research Associates (for 5 years each), plus \$28,870 for 2 Postgraduate Researcher stipends (for 4 years each), plus up to \$300,000 project costs. Additional funding of up to \$20,000 (for 5 years) for Kathleen Fitzpatrick and Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellows to use as part of their ambassadorial role to promote women in research.

- Applications for funding must be made through an Eligible Organisation (i.e. Australian universities and some publicly funded research agencies).
- Information in the table above is a guide only, and information may change. Please refer to the Grant Guidelines on GrantConnect for full details of the Grant Opportunity.
- Funding levels as per 2021 Grant Guidelines.

## Linkage Program — supporting industry research collaboration

Scheme	Objective	Funding period	Funding level per year	Partner organisation requirements	Cash contribution requirements
<b><u>Industrial Transformation Research Hubs</u></b>	Support collaborative research projects between universities and organisations outside the Australian higher education sector that involve cutting edge research on new technologies; and leverage national and international investment in targeted industry sectors, including from industry and other research end-users. Research Hubs engage Australia's best researchers to develop collaborative solutions to Industrial Transformation Priorities. Research Hubs support joint research activity, between the Australian higher education sector and industry, designed to focus on strategic outcomes that cannot be realised independently of each other.	3 to 5 years Offered annually	\$500,000–\$1,000,000	Must nominate at least 1 Australian Partner Organisation	Combined Partner Organisation Cash Contribution must be at least 75% of the total funding requested from the ARC, where any Partner Organisation has more than 100 employees. No minimum cash contribution where the Partner Organisation or the largest Partner Organisation in a consortium has 100 employees or less.
<b><u>Industrial Transformation Training Centres</u></b>	Support Higher Degree by Research candidates and postdoctoral researchers to undertake industrial training; support research collaboration between universities and organisations outside the Australian higher education sector; and strengthen the capabilities of industry and research end-users in identified Industrial Transformation Priority areas. Training Centres foster close partnerships between university-based researchers and other researchers. Training Centres deliver innovative Higher Degree by Research and postdoctoral training, focusing on creating end-user research capability vital to Australia's future through developing solutions relevant to the Industrial Transformation Priorities.	4 to 5 years Offered annually	\$650,000–\$1,000,000 in first 3 years; \$150,000–\$1,000,000 in fourth year; Up to \$1,000,000 in fifth year	Must nominate at least 1 Australian Partner Organisation	Must demonstrate that the combined cash and in-kind contributions are sufficient to support all the research projects described in the application and particularly that of the Higher Degree by Research and postdoctoral researchers in the Training Centre.
<b><u>Linkage Projects</u></b>	Support internationally competitive research projects and teams on challenges or opportunities of relevance to research end-users; foster the establishment and strengthening of research alliances between higher education organisations and research end-users; enhance the scale and focus of research, including in Australian Government priority areas.	2 to 5 years 2 assessment rounds per year	\$50,000–\$300,000	Must include at least 1 Partner Organisation	Must demonstrate that the combined Partner Organisation eligible contributions for an application (i.e. the total of the cash and/or in-kind eligible contributions of Partner Organisations) must at least match the total funding requested from the ARC.
<b><u>ARC Centres of Excellence</u></b>	Facilitate significant collaboration which allows the complementary resources of universities, publicly funded research organisations, other research bodies, governments and businesses to be concentrated to support outstanding research in all fields (except medical research and Antarctic research).	Up to 7 years Offered normally every 3 years	\$1,000,000–\$5,000,000	Must include 1 or more Partner Organisations	Partner Organisation contribution is not prescribed, but must make a contribution of cash and/or in-kind and/or other material resources that is specific to the proposed ARC Centre of Excellence.
<b><u>Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities</u></b>	Support excellent basic and applied research and research training through the acquisition of research equipment and infrastructure and access to national and international research facilities; and encourage Eligible Organisations to develop collaborative arrangements with other Eligible Organisations and/or Partner Organisations for the acquisition and use of research equipment and infrastructure or access to national and international facilities.	Up to 5 years Offered annually	\$150,000 +	No requirement to include a Partner Organisation	Organisational cash contributions for direct costs must make up a minimum of 25% of the total direct cost of the research infrastructure.
<b><u>Special Research Initiatives</u></b>	Support high quality research which will assist in advancing Australia's research excellence to be globally competitive and deliver benefits to the community. Each round has objectives specific to the requirements of the individual Special Research Initiative.	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies

- Applications for funding must be made through an Eligible Organisation (i.e. Australian universities and some publicly funded research agencies).
- Applications for SRI funding may be submitted only when invited by the ARC by means of a call for applications.
- Information in the table above is a guide only, and information may change. Please refer to the Grant Guidelines on Grantconnect for full details of the Grant opportunity.

## Linkage Program — supporting industry research collaboration

Scheme	Objective	Funding period	Funding level per year	Partner organisation requirements	Cash contribution requirements
<b><u>Early Career Industry Fellowships</u></b>	Develop the industry collaboration skills of early career researchers; support early career researchers to achieve translatable and/or commercialisable outcomes.	1 to 3 years (may be undertaken on a part-time basis not exceeding six consecutive years)  Offered annually	\$109,079 salary (including on-costs) plus up to \$150,000 project funds	Must nominate 1 Key Industry Partner (not an Eligible Organisation/ University) May have Other Industry Partner(s) (not an Eligible Organisation/ University)	May include cash and/or in-kind contributions from AOs, Key Industry Partners and/or Other Industry Partners
<b><u>Mid-Career Industry Fellowships</u></b>	Strengthen the industry collaboration skills of mid-career researchers encourage uptake of a wider range of career options for established researchers; supervise and develop future research and nurture their development of collaboration, commercialisation and translation skills; and deliver significant, actionable outcomes for industry partners and end-users.	2 to 4 years (may be undertaken on a part-time basis not exceeding eight consecutive years)  Offered annually	\$199,824 salary (including on-costs) plus up to \$290,000 project funds	Must nominate 1 Key Industry Partner (not an Eligible Organisation/ University) May have Other Industry Partner(s) (not an Eligible Organisation/ University)	May include cash and/or in-kind contributions from AOs, Key Industry Partners and/or Other Industry Partners. Contributions are considered as part of selection criteria (under 'Commitment and Alignment')
<b><u>Industry Laureate Fellowships</u></b>	Provide leadership in the development of high quality and impactful collaborations between university and industry personnel; fund significant programs of research that deliver step-changes across a variety of industry settings; provide an excellent research training environment and exemplary mentorship to nurture the development of collaboration, commercialisation and translation skills among early career researchers and Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students; and attract and retain, within Australia, outstanding researchers and research leaders of international reputation with demonstrated capacity for collaboration, commercialisation and/or translation.	4 to 5 years (may be undertaken on a part-time basis not exceeding eight consecutive years)  Offered annually	\$173,758 salary (including on-costs) for the Industry Laureate Fellow, plus \$106,684 per year (including on-costs) for each of 2 Postdoctoral Research Associates in salary support (for 4 to 5 years each), plus \$28,870 for 2 Postgraduate Researcher stipends (for 4 years each), plus up to \$1.5 million project funds  In addition up to \$20,000 is available in ambassadorial funding	Must nominate 1 Key Industry Partner (not an Eligible Organisation/ University) May have Other Industry Partner(s) (not an Eligible Organisation/ University)	May include cash and/or in-kind contributions from AOs, Key Industry Partners and/or Other Industry Partners. Contributions are considered as part of selection criteria (under 'Commitment and Alignment').
<b><u>Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects</u></b>	The Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects scheme funds Learned Academies to undertake policy and strategic research projects to support the development of Australian research. The scheme aims to provide Learned Academies with the flexibility to achieve that objective.	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies

- Applications for funding must be made through an Eligible Organisation (i.e. Australian universities and some publicly funded research agencies).
- Information in the table above is a guide only, and information may change. Please refer to the Grant Guidelines on Grantconnect for full details of the Grant opportunity.

