



Discovery Early Career Researcher Award

The Australian Research Council's (ARC) Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) scheme supports, and creates opportunities for, early-career researchers in both teaching and research, and research-only positions in Australia.

The DECRA scheme is an integral part of the ARC's Discovery Program. The intended outcome of the Discovery Program is to contribute to the growth of Australia's research and innovation capacity. Increasing Australia's research and innovation capacity generates new knowledge and results in the development of new technologies, products and ideas, the creation of jobs, economic growth and an enhanced quality of life in Australia.

The objectives of the DECRA scheme are to:

- 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
- enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments.

The intended outcomes of the DECRA scheme are:

- an expanded knowledge base and research capacity in Australia
- economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia.

The DECRA scheme provides funding for up to 200 three-year DECRA's each year, providing a researcher with salary and on-costs, and up to \$50,000 per year in project costs.

Researchers may be eligible to apply for a DECRA if they have up to 5 years research experience since the award of their PhD, or equivalent, in accordance with the grant opportunity eligibility dates, or longer if combined with an allowable period of career interruption (due to international relocation; caring responsibilities, disability, disaster management and recovery, limited or no access to facilities and resources, medical conditions, non-research positions; parental leave; unemployment and being the primary carer of a dependent child) that would be commensurate with an award of PhD date on or after the grant opportunity eligibility dates listed on the ARC website.

For further information on the DECRA scheme, including information on eligibility, refer to the relevant Grant Guidelines and Grant Agreements which are available on [GrantConnect](#).