



National Competitive Grants Program

The Australian Research Council (ARC) supports the highest-quality fundamental and applied research and research training, encouraging national competition across all disciplines, excluding clinical and other medical research. The ARC advises the Government on research matters and administers the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP), which will deliver around \$895 million in 2023-2024 to the most dynamic researchers in Australia.

The NCGP supports:

- high quality research leading to the discovery of new ideas and the advancement of knowledge
- facilities and equipment that researchers require to be internationally competitive
- researchers at different stages of their careers, including training and skills development of the next generation of researchers
- opportunities for Australia's most talented researchers to work in partnership with leading researchers throughout the national innovation system and internationally, and to form alliances with Australian industry.

ARC grants are competitively awarded to individuals, research teams and large-scale centres through 2 funding programs: the Discovery Program, which supports individual researchers and research teams; and the Linkage Program, which creates links between universities, industry and other partners.

Discovery Program

The Discovery Program recognises the importance of fundamental, 'blue sky' research to Australia. 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 Discovery Program delivers benefit to Australia by building Australia's research capacity by supporting:

- excellent, internationally competitive research by individuals and teams
- research training and career opportunities for the best Australian and international researchers
- international collaboration
- research in priority areas.

There are five schemes under the Discovery Program:

- Australian Laureate Fellowships
- Discovery Early Career Researcher Award
- Discovery Indigenous
- Discovery Projects
- Future Fellowships.

Linkage Program

The Linkage Program promotes national and international collaboration and research partnerships between key stakeholders in research and innovation, including higher education providers, government, business, industry and end users. Through these partnerships, the ARC encourages the transfer of skills, knowledge and ideas as a basis for securing commercial and other benefits of research.

The Linkage Program aims to:

- encourage and extend cooperative approaches to research
- improve the use of research outcomes by strengthening links within the innovation system in Australia and internationally.

There are seven schemes under the Linkage Program:

- ARC Centres of Excellence
- Industrial Transformation Research Program
- Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities
- Linkage Projects
- Industry Fellowships Program
- Learned Academies Special Projects
- Special Research Initiatives.