



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 outstanding early-career researchers with demonstrated capacity for high-quality research and emerging capability for leadership and supervision
- foster collaboration, with national or international researchers
- support excellent and innovative research that addresses a significant problem or gap in knowledge and represents value for money
- create new or advanced knowledge resulting from the outcomes of the research with economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia
- advance promising early career researchers and promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways in high-quality and supportive environments.

The DECRA scheme provides funding for three-year DECRAAs, 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](#).