



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Research Council**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
**Discovery Projects for funding commencing 2026 (DP26)**

Version 1.0

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- All participants should read the *Discovery Program Grant Guidelines (2024 edition): Discovery Projects* (Grant Guidelines) available on [GrantConnect](#) and specific *Instructions to Applicants* documents available on Grant Connect as they contain important information for Research Office staff and individual participants preparing applications.
  - The Australian Research Council (ARC) does not respond to queries from individual participants. Individual participants should direct all queries regarding ARC grant opportunities to their Administering Organisation's Research Office (or equivalent). If further information regarding the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) is required, the Research Office should contact the NCGP at [arc-ncgp@arc.gov.au](mailto:arc-ncgp@arc.gov.au)
  - Information regarding the Research Management System ([RMS](#)) is available at the [ARC website](#), or by contacting [arc-systems@arc.gov.au](mailto:arc-systems@arc.gov.au) for assistance.

This Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated as required.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Timing of Grant Opportunities

#### 1.1 Where are the key dates for upcoming ARC Grant Opportunities advised?

Dates of all upcoming ARC Grant Opportunities are published on the NCGP scheme timelines on the [ARC Grants Calendar](#).

#### 1.2 When will the Funding Outcomes be announced?

The ARC now publishes anticipated Funding Announcement dates. Please refer to the Scheme Calendar PDF on the [ARC Grants Calendar](#).

### 2. Application information

#### 2.1 Can I include requests for travel both domestically and internationally in my application?

Yes. You can include requests for travel both domestically and international in accordance with the requirements set out in the relevant grant guidelines, noting the above advice that researchers should include a realistic plan of how their research will be undertaken. Where an application is successful, any changes to the proposed travel plans due to the impact of environmental factors (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics, etc.) will be managed as a post award issue.

#### 2.2 What font size can I use for figures, tables, or pictures in my application to comply with ARC submission requirements?

Applicants should ensure that the text is readable both online and in print as detailed in the Instructions to Applicants. It is recommended that to ensure readability 12pt font is used and it is recommended that for the readability of text within figures and tables 10pt font is used.

#### 2.3 Can I use generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in writing my application?

Please see the advice to applicants in *ARC's Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the ARC's grants programs* available on the [ARC website](#).

#### 2.4 Where in the Full Application do we address Feasibility?

As per the Grant Guidelines (6.4(d)), the Feasibility assessment encompasses multiple considerations including budget, capacity, research environment and project design. As such, applicants are encouraged to address these selection criteria across the relevant sections of their application. In addition to the ROPE sections pre-populated from the EOI (B8-B14), applicants can address feasibility in Project Quality and Innovation (C1 – Project Description, C2 – Capability Statement); and the Budget Justification (D2).

**2.5 A Participating Organisation was not added at Question A3 at EOI stage and now I can't add the Participating Organisation's contributions to the Budget at Question D1. Can Question A3 be unlocked and updated?**

As the applicant had not entered all the relevant Participating Organisations at Question A3, at the EOI stage, they will not appear at Question D1 (Budget). There is no option to allow additional Participating Organisations to be added at Question A3 at the Full Application stage. Any additional details of non-ARC contributions can be provided at Question D3.

Each question in the Expression of Interest (EOI) Instructions to Applicants and Sample Form clearly indicated if a question will auto-populate the information into the Full Application and if the information will be locked from further editing at the Full Application stage.

The EOI Instructions to Applicants question A3 also detailed that all Organisations participating in the application are to be added, including Other Eligible Organisations who will be a contributor to the project. This is also noted in the preliminary Full Application Instructions to Applicants at question D1: Ensure that your budget complies with the requirements of the Grant Guidelines. Budgets should be completed with reference to the Administering Organisation and any other organisation participating included at Question A3.

**3. Certification**

**3.1 Between the submission of the EOI and the submission of a Full Application, if a non-lead CI/PI on an application changes institution for employment purposes, how is that managed?**

In the full application form, details of non-lead CI or PI changes of institution can be provided at Question C2 'Capability Statement', C1 'Project Description', and Question D3 'Details of non-ARC contributions':

- a. **In Question C2**, the ARC suggests the insertion of the following text: 'As at the Grant Commencement Date, CI/PI XXX will be employed at XXX at XX FTE'. Further details can be added to Part C1 as relevant to the project.
- b. **In Question D1**, non-ARC contributions should be included in the table against the original participating organisation if the new organisation is not listed. **In Question D3** the ARC suggests the insertion of the following explanatory text: 'Due to the change of employer of CI/PI XXX, these contributions will be provided by XXX'.

Any changes to the place of employment of a non-lead CI or PI on the application will be managed post-award if the application is successful via a variation to the change of the researcher's organisation affiliation on the project.

Where a change of employer occurs, the ARC suggests that the Administering Organisation obtains written certification from the new participating institution. See 3.2, below.

On the basis of this written certification, the full application can still be certified by the DVCR of the Administering Organisation.

**3.2 Will the ARC require universities to obtain written agreement of all relevant organisation participants?**

Yes. The Administering Organisation must obtain the written agreement of all relevant participants to allow the proposed project to proceed as specified in the Grant Guidelines. This excludes the employing organisations of overseas Partner Investigators (PIs) and any participant's current organisation which is not their

relevant organisation for the application. A certification proforma is available on GrantConnect for obtaining written evidence. However, the use of the proforma is not mandatory, the Administering Organisation may determine the format for written evidence.

#### 4. Budget

##### 4.1 What are the expectations for non-mandated contributions in applications submitted for upcoming Grant Opportunities?

For those schemes where Grant Guidelines do not require minimum co-contributions by participating organisations, the ARC also understands that the level of cash and/or in-kind contributions pledged by Administering Organisations and other Participating Organisations to show support for a proposed research project may vary.

Note that Administering Organisations will still need to take into account the feasibility of the proposed research project if there are reduced contributions. ARC assessors will also be instructed that they should not make assumptions about an Administering Organisation's level of commitment and support of an application solely based on lower levels of pledged additional cash and/or in-kind support than historically provided.

##### 4.2 How should I complete the Question D1 'What is the proposed budget for your project?'

The ARC strongly recommends entering a simplified budget into the Budget Table at Question D1. Rather than list every item, each category (e.g., Travel, Field Research, Equipment) should have a one-line budget figure.

For example, if you are requesting two sets of Travel in Year 1, one at a cost of \$5000 and another at a cost of \$1500, the Budget Table should show only the total amount of funding requested for travel in Year 1: i.e., \$6500. The request will need to be justified in Question D2 'Justification of funding requested from the ARC'.

Travel	+	6,500
Total Travel Costs		6,500

  

Travel	+	6,500
Trip 1		5,000
Trip 2		1,500

**Note:** You will not be able to enter all 'Personnel' as a one-line budget figure, as stipends are automatically entered into the Budget Table and will require its own budget line.

##### 4.3 Can I request more than one HDR stipend?

Yes. More than 1 HDR stipend can be included per application. As per clause 5.2b of the Grant Guidelines, all HDR stipends in the application must be requested as full-time (1.0 FTE) at the rate specified on the [Salaries and Stipends](#) page of the [ARC website](#).

If an application is successful, stipends may be divided amongst more than one person, for example dividing 1 stipend between 2 students at 0.5 FTE each as per the Discovery Program Grant Agreement.

#### 4.4 How do I calculate the level of Teaching Relief to request?

Chief Investigators are eligible to request up to \$50,000 per year for up to 5 years. The dollar value of the teaching relief requested should be determined according to the costing policies of the relevant University. The nature of the teaching relief and how it will assist the research should be provided in the question D2 Budget Justification.

### 5. Logistics Support for Antarctic Research

#### 5.1 What logistics advice should I seek if my proposed research project included Antarctic research?

If your proposed research project includes Antarctic research that will require logistical support, please contact the [Australian Antarctic Division](#) for advice about available logistical support prior to submitting your application.

### 6. The National Interest Test (NIT)

#### 6.1 What is the NIT statement and how is it assessed?

Information regarding the requirements of the National Interest Test, including examples and detailed FAQs, can be found on the [ARC website](#).

### 7. Request Not to Assess?

#### 7.1 Do I need to submit a new Request Not to Assess?

No. Where a request has been submitted during the EOI stage, this will automatically carry-over to the Full Application stage.

### 8. What has changed from last round?

#### 8.1 Part B – Participant Details including ROPE

- **Question B10 – Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Narrative** is a new question to provide an overview of the participant's career opportunities for research, including any periods of research only employment, access to periods of research leave, and proportions of time allocated for research, teaching and administrative responsibilities.

Please note, Question B10 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Highlights from the last round has been removed.

- **Question B11 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Evidence of the participant's research impact and contributions to the field, including evidence of high-quality outputs and collaboration most relevant to this application.** – This question has been updated to remove mentoring and leadership components. A new question on mentoring and leadership has been added at B12.
- **Question B12 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – Mentoring and Leadership** is a new question to provide evidence of the participant's leadership, mentoring and research training or supervision experience, achievements and capability. This question has replaced the previous question on number of PhDs, Masters and Honours student completions.

Please note. Questions B10, B11 and B12 are locked fields and will auto-populate into the full application. Information on these questions was included in the DPEI26 Frequently Asked Questions document (8.1).

## 8.2 Part E – Classifications and Other Statistical Information

- **Question E1 - Does this Application align with any of the National Science and Research Priorities?** This is a new question, for reporting purposes only, seeking information regarding which National Science and Research Priorities the application aligns with.
- **Question E2 - Does this Application align with any of the National Reconstruction Fund priority areas?** This is a new question, for reporting purposes only, seeking information regarding which priority areas for the National Reconstruction Fund the application aligns with.
- **Question E3 - Does this Application align with any other Australian Government priority areas?** This is a new question, for reporting purposes only, to replace the previous 'Australian Government Priority areas' question.

## 8.3 Part F – Project Eligibility

- **Question F3 – Experimental Development.** New question - Will ARC funds awarded under this Scheme be used for activities classified as 'experimental development' according to the definition in the Grant Guidelines?