

# Discovery Fellowships Grant Guidelines Changes

## ABOUT THE GRANT PROGRAM

### 1. Compliance with amended ARC Act

- Following passage of the Australian Research Council (Review Response) Bill, the Discovery Fellowships Grant Guidelines (Guidelines) have been updated to comply with the amended *ARC Act*. Key changes include:
- Updated clause numbers of the ARC Act.  
Guidelines reference: Front page, Definitions
- Updated terminology to refer to the ARC Accountable Authority throughout the document and removing references to the ARC CEO and Minister where no longer applicable.  
Guidelines reference: Flowchart, 7.2, 7.7, 7.9, 8.1, Definitions
- Additional information provided stating that the ARC administers funding for excellent pure basic, strategic basic and applied research in all disciplines excluding medical research, and does not fund experimental development, with definitions added.  
Guidelines reference: 2.2, Definitions
- Additional clause stating that applicants may not request or use grant funds for experimental development, with definition added.  
Guidelines reference: 5.5, Definitions

### 2. Simplification of the Guidelines

- In line with other ARC Grant Guidelines, the Guidelines have been streamlined to remove the detailed information about career interruptions and salaries for Fellows with direct links provided to the ARC website and the ARC's Salaries and Stipends webpage. Applicants may access the most accurate and up-to-date information on the ARC website.
- Updated clause numbers of the ARC Act.  
Guidelines reference: 3.2, A2.3, B2.3, B2.4, B3.5, C2.3, C3.5

## ELIGIBILITY

### 3. Updated clauses about additional certification requirements

- New clause added about ensuring provision of additional certification requirements to more accurately represent the ARC's research integrity processes, and to make eligibility requirements clear to researchers and Administering Organisations.  
Guidelines reference: 4.2

### 4. Medical Research as an eligibility clause

- New clause added stating that applications must not include medical research, as detailed in the ARC Medical Research Policy, to more accurately represent the ARC's eligibility processes and to make eligibility requirements clear to researchers and Administering Organisations.  
Guidelines reference: 4.3

## ASSESSMENT

### 5. Assessment criteria

- Updated wording on additional assessment criteria for projects involving Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research to bring the criteria into alignment with other ARC Grant Guidelines and developments around cultural, governance and ethical requirements, specifically in relation to the 2020 AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research and the 2018 Australian Indigenous Data Sovereignty Principles.  
Guidelines reference: A4.1, B5.1, C5.1

## OTHER

### **6. Security, defence or international relations of Australia**

- Additional information provided in relevant clauses outlining that if the Minister decides the ARC Accountable Authority should not fund a project for reasons relevant to security, defence or international relations of Australia, the Minister must notify the ARC Accountable Authority, advise the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security and take other steps required under the ARC Act. The ARC Accountable Authority must comply with the Minister's decision.  
Guidelines reference: Flowchart, 7.9

### **7. Policies**

- Updates made to all clauses referring to specific policies to include the date each policy took effect to ensure clarity and accuracy of policy references for applicants.  
Guidelines reference: 4.2, 4.3, 5.5, 8.19, 8.22, 9.6, 9.7, Definitions

### **8. Advice and Announcement**

- Additional information provided to advise that for successful grants, the ARC will provide a copy of the ARC Accountable Authority's approval within 21 days after the decision, and, if earlier notice is provided, may impose a short embargo.  
Guidelines reference: 8.1

### **9. Grant agreement information**

- List of changes that would require a Grant Agreement Variation removed, with instruction that further information can be found in the Grant Agreement to reduce repetition across Guidelines and Grant Agreement.  
Guidelines reference: 8.14

### **10. Acronyms and definitions**

- Acronyms deleted or updated where terms are self-explanatory, are no longer used in the Guidelines, or are only used in other definitions.
  - o CEO
- New definitions or definitions updated to increase clarity:
  - o Accountable Authority
  - o Applied research
  - o ARC Board
  - o Experimental development
  - o Grant Guidelines
  - o Medical Research
  - o Project
  - o Pure basic research
  - o Selection Advisory Committee (SAC)
  - o Strategic basic research

Guidelines reference: Appendix A