



Investigator Grants 2024

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

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Frequently asked questions

FAQ – 1: Application capping for the Investigator, Ideas and Synergy grant opportunities

Question:

How many applications can I submit to the Investigator, Ideas, and Synergy grant opportunities in the 2024 round?

Answer:

As outlined in Section 4.3.1 of the Investigator Grants 2024 Guidelines, NHMRC limits the number of applications that can be submitted to the Investigator, Ideas and Synergy Grant schemes within the same funding round. While the 2024 round of Investigator Grants opened in September 2023, it is part of the 2024 funding round along with 2024 Synergy Grants and 2024 Ideas Grants (which will both open for applications in 2024). As a result, applications to the 2024 Investigator Grants round count towards NHMRC's 2024 funding round for application capping purposes and continue to be restricted to 2 applications **each funding round**, considering the applicant's NHMRC grant portfolio.

NHMRC's eligibility tool¹ and section 4 of the Investigator Grants 2024 Guidelines provides further eligibility information.

FAQ – 2: Publications cut-off date for up to top 10 in 10

Question:

What is the publications cut-off date for Investigator Grants 2024?

Answer:

The publication cut-off date for Investigator Grants is **8 November 2013**, taking into account eligible career disruptions.

For example, if you have had a 6-month career disruption within the last 10 years, you can nominate any publication within the last 10 years and 6-month period. See also Investigator Grants 2024 Guidelines Appendix H section 7.9.1 and 7.8.4.

FAQ – 3: Investigator Grant salary support values

Question:

Are the salary levels correct in the Investigator Grants 2024 Guidelines?

Answer:

The Investigator Grants salary rates in the Investigator Grants 2024 Guidelines (Table 3, page 8) align with the current NHMRC published salary support packages² for funding commencing in 2024.

The salary support package rates for funding commencing in 2025 will be available in late 2024 and may be subject to annual indexation. These rates will be applied to grants at the time of commencement.

¹ <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/investigator-ideas-and-synergy-eligibility-tool>

² <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/manage-your-funding/personnel-and-salary-support-packages>

FAQ – 4: Non-NHMRC grant policy clarification

Question:

For the purposes of the non-NHMRC grant policy, 'salary support' means any salary from a non-NHMRC grant that totals >20% of the value of the awarded Investigator Grant salary. How do I calculate the 20%? Is it 20% of the total value of the Investigator Grant salary, or is it calculated per annum, or is it for the period of overlap?

Answer:

The calculation is based on the **period of overlap** of the 2 salaries. Therefore, if the value of the non-NHMRC grant salary, for the period of overlap with the Investigator Grant salary, is >20% of the value of the awarded Investigator Grant salary, for the same period (i.e. the period of overlap of the 2 salaries), the CIA is ineligible to draw the Investigator Grant salary for the period of overlap. See section 4.3.6 of the Investigator Grants 2024 Guidelines for further information.

FAQ – 5: Investigator Grant synopsis

Question:

What information should be included in my Investigator Grant application synopsis?

Answer:

As per section 7.2 of the Investigator Grants Guide to Applicants (Appendix H of the Investigator Grants 2024 Guidelines), the synopsis should accurately, and briefly, summarise the research proposal. This information may be used to assign applications to peer reviewers. It may also be considered in the peer review process. The synopsis section **is not** an opportunity to provide additional track record information (i.e. Executive Summary). Peer reviewers are to disregard any additional track record information within the synopsis that is not relevant to the assessment criteria.

FAQ – 6 (NEW): Which publication date should be used?

Question:

If a publication is made available as a preprint before release as an ePub, which publication date should be used?

Answer:

To determine if a preprint falls within the allowable 10-year period for inclusion (taking into account career disruptions), the date of the pre-print's release online is the date to take into consideration.

FAQ – 7 (NEW): Career disruption period spanning 8 November 2013

Question:

I have a career disruption that commenced before and continued after 8 November 2013. Can I include the full period of disruption?

Answer:

Yes. Career disruptions that commence prior to 8 November 2013 and include 8 November 2013, can be included within the Career Disruption section of the application form. These must involve a continuous absence from work of 90 calendar days or more, or continuous part-time employment (with defined % FTE) due to circumstances defined as a career disruption, with the absence amounting to a total of 90 calendar days or more. For example, an applicant may include a career disruption of FTE 0.8 from 20 December 2012 – 20 November 2013. This is a continuous absence of >90 calendar days, overlapping with 8 November 2013.

Further information can be found at section 6.1. Track record and Appendix C of the NHMRC Relative to Opportunity Policy of the Investigator Grants 2024 Guidelines.

FAQ – 8 (NEW): Career disruptions before PhD pass date

Question:

Can I include a career disruption before my PhD pass date?

Answer:

Yes, applicants can nominate career disruptions that have occurred after they commenced research, but prior to their PhD pass date, so long as they fall within the allowable 10-year timeframe (taking into consideration any other career disruptions). Appendix H. Investigator Grant guide to applicants' section 7.8.3 Career context of the Investigator Grants 2024 Guidelines states "All applicants must provide a broad overview of their engagement in research over the last 10 years (**or since they commenced research if fewer than 10 years**) to provide peer reviewers with context on the applicant's overall opportunities to conduct and disseminate/translate research".

FAQ – 9 (NEW): Career disruptions occurring before 8 November 2013

Question:

The entirety of my career disruption occurred before 8 November 2013. Can I include it?

Answer:

Yes, applicants can declare career disruptions that occurred after they commenced research, and within the last 10 years when adjusted for other eligible career disruptions, even if that disruption occurred wholly outside of the last 10 years from the application close date. If only part of the career disruption falls within the last 10 years, when adjusted for career disruption(s), these can also be included (see FAQ7). For example, a researcher who is 12 years post PhD with a 1.5-year career disruption within the 10-year period of interest and one-year disruption occurring before 8 November 2013, may include the one-year career disruption if it occurred on or after 9 May 2012.

Applicants with career disruptions that occurred entirely before 8 November 2013 without any subsequent eligible career disruptions within the 10-year period should not include them in their application.

FAQ – 10 (NEW): Where can I reference my career disruption(s) in my application?

Question:

I have experienced career disruption(s) that have an ongoing impact on my career. Where can I reference them?

Answer:

Updated in 2021, NHMRC's relative to opportunity policy³ aims to ensure that each applicant's track record and associated productivity are considered in the context of their specific career circumstances, recognising that researchers have diverse careers and life circumstances.

Researchers with career disruptions that occur within the last 10 years can declare these disruptions and document their impacts within the career disruption section of the Relative to Opportunity section of the application form.

Researchers who are applying can also include within this section, disruptions that have occurred outside of the 10-year period for eligibility purposes as outlined in FAQ-9.

Excepting the circumstances outlined above, career disruptions outside of the 10-year period must not be included in the Relative to Opportunity section of the application form, including the career context response per section 7.8.3 'Career Context' of the grant guidelines.

NHMRC recognises that career disruptions may have lasting impacts on a researcher's career. The *Category and Level justification* provides researchers the facility to outline circumstances from any stage of their career, that impacted research outputs, supervision and career trajectory, in support of their explanation of why their years post-PhD or academic level does not align with the expectation for their applied Level.

All researchers applying to Investigator Grants are assessed on the same 10-year period of interest outlined in their career overview, career context, career disruption (where applicable), and track record responses.

³ https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/attachments/nhmrc_relative_to_opportunity_policy_0221.pdf