

Australian Research Council National Interest Test Statement

On 27 November 2018, the federal Minister for Education, the Hon. Dan Tehan, announced the new National Interest Test (NIT) for research grants. The statement replaces the “benefit and impact” section of grant applications and applies to all selection rounds that have opened since that date, i.e. Discovery (DP20), Indigenous Discovery (IN20), Linkage (LP19) and Linkage Infrastructure (LIEF20).

The intent of the NIT is to provide a statement to enable the community to understand that the government’s investment in research is worthwhile. This is defined as, *“the extent to which the research contributes to Australia’s national interest through its potential to have economic, commercial, environmental, social or cultural benefits to the Australian community”*

NIT statements should be written simply, clearly and in plain English with any claims being logical, realistic and specific to the research project being proposed.

Under the new National Interest Test, only those applications that score highly in the competitive grants process and meet the NIT definition will be recommended by the ARC CEO to the Minister for funding. It is the ARC CEO who will be reviewing the NIT statements to ensure they are logical, realistic and specific to the research proposal, prior to submission to the Minister.

Please also note that **Project Summaries** will no longer be edited by the ARC. Again, these need to be written in plain English, make sense and clearly state what the research is about.

Both the National Interest Test statement and the Project Summary will be presented to the Minister to inform his decision.

Our Corporate Communications Team will be assisting with the review of NITs for upcoming rounds.

If you would like further information, please contact the Research Preaward Team at research-preaward@ecu.edu.au.