

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DISCOVERY GRANTS (NIDG)

Changes to Grant Guidelines
for funding commencing in 2025

Version 1

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1. Introduction

Research Grants Services (RGS), Australian Research Council (ARC), on behalf of the Office of National Intelligence (ONI), is conducting a Grant Opportunity for the *National Intelligence Discovery Grants (NIDG)* Program for funding commencing in 2025 [EIID25/ID25], focusing on the Intelligence Challenges.

Please note that the NIDG program was formerly known as the *National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants (NISDRG)* program. The updated *NIDG Grant Guidelines* and this document incorporate this name change.

This document provides a summary of changes to the *NIDG Grant Guidelines* (EIID25/ID25) from the NISDRG Grant Guidelines (Round 4 EINI24/NI24).

Relevant information on changes to the Grant Guidelines is provided for grant applicants and/or Administering Organisations for NIDG (ID25). Please note this document is intended to be a high-level summary and may not capture all changes in the Grant Guidelines.

2. Summary Table of Changes

Refer to the table below for a summary of the main changes to the Grant Guidelines for the **NIDG (EIID25/ID25)** grant opportunity:

Topic	NIDG requirement	Grant Guidelines Clause(s)	Grant Agreement Clause(s)
Intelligence Challenges	applications to address at least one and maximum three of the updated <i>Intelligence Challenges</i>	Clause 4.1	<i>refer Intelligence Challenges document</i>
Eligible Organisations	addition of Avondale University to list of eligible organisations	Clause 4.8 (Table 2)	Clause A2.2.7
Consideration for other ONI funding	project may be considered for funding under another ONI scheme or program	Clause 10.6	
Intellectual Property	to comply with the <i>National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research</i>	Clause 11.9	Clauses 17.6 & 27.5
Reporting of Publications	to provide ONI/ARC a PDF (electronic) copy as and when any article or research output is accepted by the relevant publisher	Clause 13.3	Clauses A5.1.4, A5.3.3 (a), A5.4.2 and A5.5.2
Presentation of research outcomes	<i>one named investigator</i> to attend in person to present funded research results or outcomes at an annual National Intelligence Community (NIC) summit	Clause 13.4	Clause 5.6

Topic	NIDG requirement	Grant Guidelines Clause(s)	Grant Agreement Clause(s)
Foreign Interference and Security Office liaison	to comply with laws and regulations related to the <i>Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector</i> and notify ONI/ARC of any breach related to foreign interference risk or developments	Clause 7.2 (d), 13.5 and 14.2	Clause 5.5
New/Updated Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIDG • Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person • Australian National Intelligence Community (NIC) • grant recipient • Honorary academic appointment • legislative instrument • Other Organisation • participating organisation • Postdoctoral Research Associate • Postgraduate Researcher • Preprint or comparable resource • recipient • research output 	Glossary Section	

3. Intelligence Challenges

The *Intelligence Challenges* have been updated in 2024 for NIDG EIID25/ID25.

The key change is the split of ‘*Emerging biological and material science exploitation challenges*’ into two separate challenges: ‘*Emerging biological science challenges*’ and ‘*Emerging material science challenges*’. Applications must address one or more (**up to a new maximum of three**) of the Intelligence Challenges.

The Intelligence Challenges can be found on [GrantConnect](#) or are also available on the [Research Grants Website](#). The Intelligence Challenges will not change between the EIID25 EOI and the ID25 full application Grant Opportunities.

Various applicable research fields within each Challenge have also been revised. It is recommended that you review the updated Challenges before you start work on your EOI application.

Grant Guidelines reference: Clause 4.1

4. Eligible Organisations

Avondale University has been added to the list of Eligible Organisations.

Grant Guidelines reference: Clause 4.8 (Table 2)

5. Consideration for other ONI funding

If a full application is unsuccessful, ONI or another National Intelligence Community (NIC) entity may consider the project for funding under another ONI scheme or program.

Grant Guidelines reference: Clause 10.6

6. Intellectual Property

All NIDG research projects must comply with the [National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research \(2022\)](#)

Also, this change is included in the updated list of legislation/policies for compliance in the draft *NIDG Grant Agreement (GA) 2025 (ID25)*. (GA Clauses 17.6 & 27.5)

Grant Guidelines reference: Clause 11.9

7. Reporting of Publications

A new clause has been added related to the requirement for NIDG grant recipients to notify ONI/ARC and provide a PDF (electronic) copy of any article, or research output, as soon as practical after acceptance by the relevant publisher. Information regarding publications and published materials, including when publications are accepted, must also be provided in progress reports and the Final Report. (GA Clauses A5.1.4, A5.3.3 (a), A5.4.2 and A5.5.2)

Grant Guidelines reference: Clause 13.3

8. Presentation of research outcomes

An updated clause now indicates the requirement for NIDG grant recipients to attend and present funded research outcomes at an annual National Intelligence Community (NIC) Academic, Industry and Government Summit, anticipated to be held late in the second half of each year in Canberra. When invited, at least one *named project investigator* should attend the event, and Applicants should include a line in each year of the budget for travel to the event (e.g. travel to Canberra). (GA Clause 5.6)

Grant Guidelines reference: Clause 13.4

9. Foreign Interference and Security Office liaison

A new clause has been added related to the requirement to follow University security policies and procedures related to foreign interference as well as the *Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector* published on the [Department of Education website](#). In particular, if You become aware of a breach of terms/conditions under the Grant Agreement in regards to any foreign interference risk or development, You must contact ONI/ARC immediately.

Also, participants are strongly encouraged to contact the University's Security Office to discuss any potential security related matters including for international travel, potential collaborations and personnel engagement (e.g. eligibility requirements). (GA Clause 5.5)

Grant Guidelines reference: Clause 7.2 (d), 13.5 and 14.2

10. Glossary / Definitions

These definitions have been added to/updated in the Glossary:

- *NIDG* – National Intelligence Discovery Grants Program.
- *Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person* – a person of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and is accepted as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person by the community in which they live or have lived.
- *Australian National Intelligence Community (NIC)* – The NIC unites ten agencies that work together to protect and enhance Australia's security, prosperity and sovereignty. The NIC comprises ten core intelligence agencies: the Office of National Intelligence (ONI), the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD), the Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation (AGO), the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS), the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), the Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO), Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) and the intelligence functions of the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) and The Department of Home Affairs.
- *grant recipient* – an individual or organisation who has received grant funding from ONI or an Australian National Intelligence Community Entity.
- *Honorary academic appointment* – An honorary academic appointment for eligibility purposes means a position that gives full academic status to the researcher, as certified by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) (or equivalent) in the application. The researcher must have access to research support comparable to employees e.g., an emeritus appointment. The researcher is not eligible to be a Chief Investigator using their honorary academic appointment if they are employed by an organisation other than an Eligible Organisation for more than 0.2 FTE.
- *legislative instrument* – a law on matters of detail made by a person or body authorised to do so by the relevant enabling legislation.

- *Other Organisation* – an organisation that is not an Administering Organisation or Eligible Organisation or Other Eligible Organisation that contributes to the research project.
- *participating organisation* – An organisation on an application (i.e., Administering Organisation, Other Eligible Organisations and Other Organisations).
- *Postdoctoral Research Associate* – a postdoctoral research associate funded by the Commonwealth through the Administering Organisation, who will be employed on the project.
- *Postgraduate Researcher* – a postgraduate research student funded by the Commonwealth through the Administering Organisation, who will undertake a HDR through the project.
- *Preprint or comparable resource* – A preprint or comparable resource is a scholarly output that is uploaded by the authors to a recognised publicly accessible archive, repository, or pre-print service (such as, but not limited to, arXiv, bioRxiv, medRxiv, ChemRxiv, Peer J Preprints, Zenodo, GitHub, PsyArXiv and publicly available university or government repositories etc.). This will include a range of materials that have been subjected to varying degrees of peer review from none to light and full review. Ideally, a preprint or comparable resource should have a unique identifier or a DOI (digital object identifier). Any citation of a preprint or comparable resource should be explicitly identified as such and listed in the references with a DOI, URL or equivalent, version number and/or date of access, as applicable.
- *recipient* – an individual or organisation who has received grant funding from the ONI or an Australian National Intelligence Community Entity.
- *research output* – all products (including Preprints or comparable resources) of a research project that meet the definition of research.