



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Future Fellowships for funding commencing 2025 (FT25)

Version 1.0

Release Date: 17 September 2024

- All participants should read the *Discovery Program Grant Guidelines - Fellowships (2024 edition)* (Grant Guidelines) available on [GrantConnect](#) and specific *Instructions to Applicants* documents available on GrantConnect 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
- Information regarding the Research Management System ([RMS](#)) is available at the [ARC website](#), or by contacting rmssupport@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 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 domestic and international travel in my application?

Yes. You can include requests for both domestic and international travel in accordance with the requirements set out in the relevant Grant Guidelines, noting 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 12pt font is used. Readability also needs to be ensured for text within figures and tables and it is recommended that 10pt font is used.

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

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

2.4 Why am I getting a warning message at Question D1 'What is the proposed budget for your project'?

For Question D1 of the Application Form, you must ensure that the Future Fellowship Salary Level selected at Question D1 corresponds with the academic salary level selected at Question B18 – 'What is the participant's current academic level? If the correct level does not correspond a warning message will appear at Question D1 advising applicants to check their answers to Question B18.

As described in the Discovery Program Grant Guidelines – Fellowships (2024 edition), clause B 2.6 (b), a participant may choose a Future Fellowship salary level that does not align with their current academic level. In such a case the warning message will remain in Question D1 and will not prevent submission of the application. Justification for choosing a Future Fellowship salary level that does not align with the participant's current academic level may be included in the 'Administering Organisation Letter of Support' at Question C2.

The budget table at Question D1 will by default auto-populate to Future Fellowship Salary Level 1 once a participant has been added at Question A2 'Person Participant Summary'. To change the level, you must use the drop-down menu in the budget at Question D1 to select the appropriate Future Fellowship Salary Level.

Remunerated Participants

Future Fellowship

Level 1 from year 1 annually for 4 years

Add Participant type

Higher Degree by Research stipend

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4







Description	Australian Research Council		Administering Organisation	
		Cash		Cash
Total				
Personnel	+			
(Future Fellowship)				0
Travel	+			
Field Research	+			
Equipment	+			
Maintenance	+			
Other	+			

• The academic level for the Future Fellowship applicant, , must be set.

2.5 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, meaning that each category (e.g., Travel, Field Research, Equipment) should have a one-line budget figure, instead of listing each item.

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.

✓	Travel	+	6,500
	Total Travel Costs	 	6,500
✗	Travel	+	6,500
	Trip 1	 	5,000
	Trip 2	 	1,500

3. Career Interruptions

3.1 How do I enter my career interruptions in the Application Form? Will assessors be able to see the details of my interruptions?

Information on how to enter the participant’s career interruptions can be found in Question B6 ‘Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – Career Interruptions’ of the Instructions to Applicants (ITAs). Examples of how career interruptions can be entered can be found in the Appendix of the ITAs.

Assessors will not be able to see the details of the entered career interruptions, nor will they be made visible in the PDF.

Assessors will only see the total period of interruption which RMS will automatically calculate using the entered career interruptions. The following question and answers from Question B6 will be viewable:

Question: Has the Future Fellowship participant experienced a significant interruption that has impacted on research opportunity?

Answer: 'Yes' or 'No'

If 'Yes' is selected, and career interruptions are entered, the following statement will appear:

Question: Total Period of Career Interruptions

Answer: (auto-fill) 'Researcher [Participant Name] has reported a career interruption of [duration] since [Year of earliest interruption].

3.2 Regarding career interruptions - If applicants are seeking an extension at B15, does the period of extension need to match the period of career interruptions listed at B6?

Not necessarily, B6 includes all career interruptions to inform ROPE, whereas B15 are the allowable career interruptions that determine eligibility for the scheme as defined in the Grant Guidelines.

3.3 Regarding career interruptions - can you please confirm whether a primary carer of a dependent child is entitled to claim two-years career interruption for each dependent child regardless of the amount of leave taken as per the FT25 ITAs? If yes, can the two-years interruption be included at both B6 and B15?

A researcher can claim up to two years per child if they are the primary carer as an allowable career interruption in B15, regardless of the leave taken. However, B6 asks about significant career interruptions for assessment of ROPE and requires applicants to enter the exact amount of leave taken.

In B15, an allowable career interruption is certified by the DVCR for the purpose of assessing candidate eligibility. The allowable career interruptions and associated timeframes for eligibility are listed in the Grant Guidelines and include up to two years per child.

4. Time Commitments

4.1 How much time must I commit to research activities relating to the project?

As per the Grant Agreement, it is a requirement for the Future Fellowship participant to commit a minimum of 80% full time equivalent (0.8 FTE) of their time to research and research capacity-building activities related to the Future Fellowship. Research capacity-building activities could include research leadership in teams and centres (ARC Centres) and supervision of HDR students but does not include a major role in administration.

4.2 How much time can I spend on activities not related to the Future Fellowship such as teaching?

As per the Grant Agreement, the Future Fellow participant must not spend more than 20% (0.2 FTE) of their time on activities not related to the Future Fellowship such as

teaching. The Future Fellowship will not be extended to accommodate any periods of teaching.

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. Assessment of Applications

6.1 Requests Not to Assess process

A Request Not to Assess (RNTA) form is now submitted in RMS as detailed on [GrantConnect](#) and the [ARC website](#).

6.2 What is the maximum character limit for justification for RNTA?

If a request includes the name of a current ARC College of Experts member, as listed on the [ARC website](#), or in RMS at the time of submitting the RNTA form, the request must be accompanied by a justification (the maximum character count for the justification has been increased to 2500 characters).

7. The National Interest Test (NIT)

7.1 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](#).

8. Budget

8.1 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 understands that the level of cash and/or in-kind contributions pledged by Administering Organisations to show support for a proposed research project may vary. Noting that, Administering Organisations still need to consider the feasibility of the proposed research project if there are reduced contributions.

ARC assessors will 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.

8.2 What salary and stipend figures will appear in the Future Fellowships 2025 (FT25) application form?

The salary and stipend figures for FT25 have been updated to 2024\$ in RMS and are displayed in the table below.

Future Fellow participant Salary and Stipend rates 2024\$

Current Academic Salary Level (or equivalent)	Future Fellowship salary level to be requested	Total
Level A and B	Level 1 (1.0 FTE)	\$184,174 (including 30 per cent on-costs)
Level C	Level 2 (1.0 FTE)	\$222,950 (including 30 per cent on-costs)
Level D and E	Level 3 (1.0 FTE)	\$261,721 (including 30 per cent on-costs)

Stipend rates 2024\$

Higher Degree by Research	\$32,212
---------------------------	----------

The salary and stipend figures will be indexed again once the fellowships are awarded so they will be paid at 2025\$ rates.

Updated salary and stipend rates are available on the [ARC website](#).

9. What has changed from last round? Summary of changes to the FT25 Application Form and FT25 Instructions to Applicants (ITAs).

9.1 Part B - Participant Details including ROPE

Question B7– 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 B7 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Highlights from the last round has been removed.

Question B8 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Evidence of the participant’s research impact and contributions to the field, including those 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 B9.

Question B9 - 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.

Question B10 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Research Output Context character limit has now decreased to 1,500 characters, or approximately 200 words since the annotation function for 10 Career-Best Research Outputs previously included at B10 is now provided at B11.

Question B11 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – 10 Career-Best Research Outputs has a validation so that participants can only list up to 10 outputs. Text box now allows up to 150 characters, approximately 20 words annotation per output.

9.2 Part E – Classifications and Other Statistical Information

Question E2 – To what extent does your application align with each of the following types of research activity? – Applied research, Pure basic research or Strategic basic research. This is a new question to indicate which type(s) of research activity the project best aligns with by selecting a percentage weighting for each research type. The research may be proportioned across one or more research type(s) but the percentage must total 100.

9.3 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?