

NHMRC INVESTIGATOR GRANTS 2025 – Tip Sheet

The **National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Investigator Grants** scheme is for innovative and creative research in any area of health and medical research and is available to researchers at all career stages for 1-5 year projects.

Read the [NHMRC Guidelines; Guide to Applicants and FAQs](#) (register with Grant Connect to log in and receive updates).

Ensure your application is easy to read and free from jargon with a clear, well-justified research plan with a strong vision for the future.

NHMRC Sapphire user account

- You must create an account for the [NHMRC Sapphire system](#) and complete your profile.
- All new account requests need to be verified and approved; so allow time.
- If you already have a Sapphire account, ensure your profile is up to date (including FOR codes and the Broad Research Area categories), in particular the publications field.

ORCID ID

[Link your ORCID ID to Sapphire](#). This is optional however provides greater flexibility in managing your publication history.

Important Notes:

- **Application Limits:** As a CI (whether CIA-CIJ), you may apply for/hold a maximum of two grants concurrently across the Investigator and Ideas grant schemes. **For the 2025 round grant (commencing in 2026), this ruling applies to this current grant round that closes in Aug 2024 and the Ideas grant round that would open/close in 2025. The Investigator and Ideas grants that closed in Nov 2023 and May 2024, respectively, are **not** included in the 2025 round grants.*
- **Application Limit update:** Synergy grants are no longer relevant to eligibility limits for Investigator and Ideas grants. This applies to currently held Synergy grants.
- **Same Round:** If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant (CIA-CIJ) in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded. Consequently, the Ideas Grant will not be eligible for funding.
- **Same Round but in excess:** If a CI applies for an Investigator and Ideas Grant in the same round, and are in excess of the maximum eligible to apply or hold (two), the last submitted application will be ineligible and excluded from consideration.
- **Held NHMRC Grants:** If you hold an Ideas grant and are awarded an Investigator grant, the Research Support Package (RSP) for the Investigator Grant will be reduced by 50% for the period of overlap.

Please refer to [Appendix E](#) of the Guidelines for scenarios and the [eligibility tool](#).

- **Other Grants:** At the time of application if you have accepted salary funding from a non-NHMRC grant that will overlap with the Investigator grant funded grant, you will not be eligible to draw a salary from the Investigator grant for the period of overlap.
- **Appointment types:** Some appointments are ineligible to receive Investigator salary support (RSP is not affected). Refer to page 12.

Application Essentials:

- **CI:** Maximum number of CIs is one – the CIA.
- **CI Limits:** Be mindful of how many NHMRC applications you have your name on as CI – feel free to ask for advice!

- **Category:** Select the appropriate category (Emerging Leadership (EL) or Leadership (L)) and salary level for your research experience. Refer to updated [Appendix D](#) (Statement of Expectations) in the Guidelines for further guidance.
- **Minimum data:** Required in Sapphire by minimum data deadline. Placeholder text is not acceptable. See page 70 of the Guidelines.
- **Formatting:** Refer to [Appendix G](#). The NHMRC provides a template for the proposal, please use this and do not alter. Page limits apply to grant proposal components.
- **Character count:** If working from a word document, the count may not directly translate. We recommend inserting text into the sections of the online Sapphire application form early to ensure you are within limits and have time to amend, if needed.
- **Relative to Opportunity:** See [Appendix C and Appendix G\(i\)](#) for further guidance and examples in responding to Career Overview, Context, and Disruption statements.
- **Career overview:** List key appointments over the eligible 10-year period preceding the closing date of the scheme (with consideration of eligible career disruptions). For any roles that commenced prior to the 10-year period, please enter the start date as 15/8/2014. For any current appointments, please enter the end date as 15/8/2024. You can include the actual start/end dates within the Career Context statement.
- **Weblinks:** Must only be used for publications that are only available online. Do not include them throughout the application. Only exception is for claims against Research Impact criterion, see page 25 of the guidelines.
- **Profile:** Changes made in your profile after certifying application will not appear in the application.

Budget:

- Whilst there is no budget section in the application, you must contact your School Finance Coordinator to calculate your salary shortfall.
- Salary shortfalls will be covered by the [ECU Strategic Research Fund \(SRF\)](#). Additionally, the SRF may provide one PhD stipend for 3.5years. Please advise your RAO and Finance Coordinator if including a PhD stipend.
- You cannot concurrently receive a salary from other NHMRC and non-NHMRC grants.

Application Assessment:

- Applications are assessed by peers against the following criteria:
 - Track record, Relative to opportunity (70%) – *this comprises consideration of Publications (35%), Research Impact (20%), Leadership (15%)*
 - Knowledge Gain (30%).
- Category descriptors are used as a guide to scoring against the assessment criteria and are available at [Appendix B](#) of the guidelines, along with the [Peer Review Guidelines](#) and the [Peer Review videos](#).
- Assessment of publications measure the quality of contribution to science rather than quantity, therefore only up to 10 of your top publications in the past 10 years (accounting for career disruptions) is requested, not your full list.

RAO Review

Final applications should be submitted to Research Preaward (research-preaward@ecu.edu.au) at **least 10 days** prior to the closing date. The Research Administration Officers will review your application for eligibility, compliance and obtain internal approvals prior to submission.

Submitting the Application

After the RAO review and the application is ready to be submitted, you must certify and submit via Sapphire and ECU Research Services will then submit to the NHMRC.

Contact

For further assistance: Please contact your school Research Administration Officer (RAO) or Coordinator Research Administration: Email: research-preaward@ecu.edu.au

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