



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities
Instructions to Applicants
for funding commencing in 2026

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1. Introduction

The *Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LE26) Instructions to Applicants* (hereafter referred to as the Instructions) provides information to participants on how to complete and apply online in the Research Management System (RMS). The Instructions provide explanatory information to assist with the preparation of the application.

2. Additional information - before completing the application form

In addition to the instructions, participants should familiarise themselves with associated documentation such as the Grant Guidelines, Sample Form and Draft Grant Agreement which can be found on [GrantConnect](#). Other information such as the Grants Calendar, Important Dates and various RMS User guides, can be found on the [ARC website](#).

2.1 Research Office – Further Application Assistance/Guidance

The Research Office of the Administering Organisation should be contacted in the first instance to assist with queries on how to complete an application form.

2.2 Eligibility

The Administering Organisation is responsible for confirming that all eligibility requirements for the participant(s) have been met.

For an Administering Organisation performing internal checks, information regarding how many current projects a named participant holds is available in Question C6.

Important: The ability to submit a valid application form to the ARC does not mean that participants have met all eligibility requirements.

2.3 Application Certification

The application form must be certified and submitted online through RMS by an authorised officer of the Administering Organisation. The authorised officer must have the role of 'Research Office Delegate' in RMS. Only the Administering Organisation can certify and submit applications.

Certification for:

- named individual participants is included within the application form at Question C9.
- the delegate via an additional Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research (DVCR)/Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) or equivalent certification clause in RMS prior to submission (delegate certification).

2.4 PDF Application

All questions, except where identified, will render to the PDF generated from the RMS application form. The generated PDF is accessible to assessors who are assigned to the application.

Ensure that your PDF text is readable both online and in print (it is recommended that 12pt font is used), this includes ensuring readability of text within figures and tables (it is recommended that 10pt font is used).

The application should:

- Only use webpage addresses/URLs and hyperlinks in limited circumstances such as where research outputs are only available online. Webpage addresses/URLs and hyperlinks should

not be used to circumvent page limits, nor should they provide information that is not contained in the application.

- Only include information which is pertinent to the research and note that colour graphs, colour photographs, detailed graphics and grey scale objects may be reproduced in black and white and should both be necessary and appropriate.
- Note that additional text uploaded as a PDF may appear slightly reduced in size due to the RMS formatting of the attachments to include page numbers. Additional text uploaded in the PDF form should be directly generated rather than scanned to maximise the quality of reproduction.
- Avoid using advanced PDF editing functionality such as the addition of textboxes, as this may not be supported in RMS. Participants should carefully check that any changes made to a PDF document appear correctly in the application PDF in RMS.
- Note that the ARC reserves the right to seek an original electronic copy of documents uploaded into the application to determine that the text meets these requirements.

2.5 Preprints

Preprints or comparable resources can be included in any part of an application.

If preprints or comparable resources are cited, these should be explicitly identified in the reference list by including [PREPRINT OR COMPARABLE] after the reference. The reference should include a DOI (digital object identifier), URL or equivalent, version number and/or date of access, as applicable. This indication is only required in the reference list and not in the project description itself.

Recognising that preprints or comparable resource citation can be a crucial part of research discourse, the suitability and relevance of citations and research outputs are best considered by the assessors and panels in determining the quality and novelty of the proposed research.

A preprint or comparable resource is a scholarly output that is uploaded by the authors to a recognised publicly accessible archive, repository, or preprint 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.


Inclusion of preprints or comparable resources within the body of the application should comply with standard disciplinary practices for the relevant field.

3. Creating a new application in RMS

To create a new application, login to [RMS](#) and under the heading **ARC Applicant Applications**, select **Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities 2026** from the drop-down list and click on 'Create Draft Application'.

There are 6 Parts (A-F) in the LE26 application form. Questions that are mandatory will be indicated in the instructional text. All parts must be valid before the application can be submitted. A form part that is not valid will appear red, valid will appear green.

RMS does not autosave your application. It is important to periodically save all changes. The 'Save' button is located at the top of the page next to the Adobe PDF file icon.

Note: In many cases, further help text is provided within the form to assist in completing questions. To access this information, click on the  icon.

Part A – Administrative Summary

All questions in this form part must be answered.

A1 Application Title

Provide a short title (up to 75 characters, approximately 10 words).

The Application Title should be an accurate reflection of the research infrastructure and will be visible to assessors.

- **Avoid** the use of acronyms and quotation marks.
- **Do not** use all upper-case characters.
- The Application Title should include the name of the infrastructure, equipment or facility to be acquired.
- The **Application Title** may be modified and used for public release.

A2 Person Participant Summary

Each participant added to this application must be listed as a Chief Investigator (CI) or Partner Investigator (PI). The first named CI will be the Project Leader.

The Project Leader must:

- at the grant commencement date be an employee for at least 0.2 FTE at the Administering Organisation or be a holder of an honorary academic appointment at the Administering Organisation.

A CI who is not the Project Leader must, at the grant commencement date, and, if successful, for the project activity period, meet at least one of the following criteria:

- be an employee for at least 0.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) at an Eligible Organisation; or
- be a holder of an honorary academic appointment at an Eligible Organisation.

All CIs at the grant commencement date, and, if successful, for the project activity period must:

- not be undertaking a Higher Degree by Research during the project activity period;
- reside for more than 50 per cent of their time in Australia for the project activity period.

A Partner Investigator:

- must not meet the eligibility criteria for a CI as at the grant commencement date and, if successful, at any time during the project activity period.
- can be an employee of an Eligible Organisation who will not reside in Australia for more than 50 per cent of the project activity period.

Honorary Academic Appointments:

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.

Please Note: To assist in identifying the appropriate role type for a participant, please refer to the decision tree at [Appendix A](#).

'Person Profile' details (personal details, qualifications and employment) will be automatically populated into the application form and must be current at the time of submitting the application. It is important that each participant has updated their details in RMS before completing this question.

Select the relevant 'Participation Type' and enter the participant's email address, then click on 'Add'. Repeat this action for the rest of the participants. Once a participant has accepted in RMS, a form part C will be created for the participant.

Note:

- If the participant did not create the application, after a participant has been added to the application, they will receive an automated email invitation and will be required to accept this invitation to participate on the application.
- When adding a participant, it is important to use the email address associated with their RMS account. If an email address other than that associated with RMS is used, the participant will not receive an invitation to participate on the application.
- If the proposed participant does not have an RMS user account, they can request one by using the link found on the RMS Homepage.
- For instructions on how to provide access to the application form for a non-participant, see the RMS User Guide - Submitting an Application in RMS on the [ARC website](#).
- If a participant fills out the application form and then returns to Question A2 and changes their role (e.g. from Chief Investigator to Partner Investigator), this will result in some questions in the form being made inactive to suit the new role, and other questions which were formerly inactive now being made active and requiring a response.
- Participants should carefully check the application including the PDF version (especially Part C Participant Details) following any role change made at Question A2, as data is not automatically removed when a role type is changed.
- Please refer to the Grant Guidelines for information on maximum numbers of CIs and PIs that may be nominated. Additional users may be listed in the project description section of the application (B1).

A3 Organisation Participant Summary

Add all organisations participating in this application. The following organisations as per the Linkage Program Grant Guidelines (2024, second edition): Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (hereafter referred to as the Grant Guidelines) can be added to the application noting that the application must:

Add one Administering Organisation:	The Administering Organisation is responsible for the administration of the grant if approved for funding. The Administering Organisation is an Eligible Organisation as listed in the Grant Guidelines.
Optional to add Partner Organisation(s)	A Partner Organisation is an Australian or overseas organisation, other than an Eligible Organisation, which satisfies the eligibility requirements for a Partner Organisation and is to be a cash and/or in-kind or other material resources contributor to the project.

Optional to add Other Eligible Organisation(s)	An Other Eligible Organisation is an Eligible Organisation (refer to the Grant Guidelines for details of Eligible Organisations) which is listed on an application as a contributor to the project but is not the Administering Organisation.
Optional to add Other Organisation(s)	An Other Organisation is an organisation which is listed on an application and is not an Eligible Organisation (not listed in the Grant Guidelines) and not a Partner Organisation that contributes to the research project.

Adding a participating organisation:

- Select the Organisation Role from the drop-down list.
- Enter the name of the organisation in the search box and click 'Search'.
- Select the relevant organisation from the list of search results and click 'Add'.

Note:

- For LIEF applications, it is not mandatory for a PI's organisation to be listed as a participating organisation, unless the organisation is providing cash or in-kind contributions.
- Select 'Add' prior to saving your progress. If you save without 'Adding', all information selected will be lost.
- If the organisation you are looking for is not listed and you know the Australian Business Number (ABN), click on the link labelled 'please add the organisation for use in RMS' to add the organisation.
- All participating organisations added in Question A3 will be automatically added to 'Question D1 – Project Cost'.
- If the participant cannot find the organisation they are looking for, or any information is incorrect or incomplete, contact the Administering Organisation's Research Office.

A4 Application Summary

Write a summary of the project in up to 750 characters (approximately 100 words). Specifically state the name of the facility in the summary (e.g. 'a mass cytometer'). This text is provided to the ARC Accountable Authority when considering the application for funding and may be modified by the ARC for public release.

The summary will also be used, along with the National Interest Test statement to give the public an understanding of the research. Examples of Application Summaries for funded projects can be found on the [ARC website](#).

The Application Summary should follow this format and:

- Use plain English.
- Not use first person language. Use 'The project aims to...' rather than 'I aim to' 'We aim to' or 'They aim to'.
- Not use all upper-case characters in the text or dot points.
- Avoid the use of quotation marks and acronyms.

	Example
Aims	This project aims to address/investigate/review ...; by utilising/advancing/conceptualising ...
Significance	This project expects to generate new knowledge in the area of ... using an innovative approach/ using interdisciplinary approaches/ utilising new techniques ...
Expected outcomes	Expected outcomes of this project include.../enhanced capacity to build institutional/disciplinary collaborations/theory development/refined methods/improved techniques...
Benefits	This should provide significant benefits, such as ... When describing benefits ensure that the description is consistent with the ARC Medical Research Policy , and specific to the research being proposed.

A5 National Interest Test Statement

Write the description, of up to 1500 characters (up to 200 words), of the project's national interest addressing the three considerations as a single cohesive statement directed towards a member of the public. The description should be simple, clear and use plain English.

What must the NIT address?

The considerations are:

1. What is the project about and what research gap is it addressing for Australia?
2. How could the research benefit Australians (economically, socially, environmentally, commercially, or culturally)?
3. How might you promote your research outcomes beyond academia to maximise understanding, translation, use, and adoption of the research in the future?

Note: The NIT statement is read in its entirety and the answers to the questions above can be across various sentences within the statement.

NIT statements will be certified by the DVCR of the Administering Organisation as addressing the above 3 considerations. The DVCR must also consider whether the statement is written in plain English and for the audience – the general public.

The DVCR's certification is final, and the ARC will not review or make requests for changes to a NIT. The NIT will be provided to assessors as an input to their assessment of the application. The ARC will include the NIT with other elements of an application recommended for funding for final consideration by the ARC Accountable Authority.

For more information see the [ARC website](#) including examples of well written NITs.

Part B – Project Description

All questions in this form part must be answered

B1 Project Description

Upload a Project Description of no more than 7 A4 pages and in the required format, as detailed below.

All text in the PDF, including text within figures and tables, must be in the format described in section 2.4 of these Instructions.

The PDF should answer the following questions using the headings below and in this order:

- PROJECT TITLE
- PROJECT QUALITY AND INNOVATION
- STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT
- FEASIBILITY
- BENEFIT
- SINGLE ELIGIBLE ORGANISATION (IF REQUIRED)
- RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE ARRANGEMENTS
- COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS
- REFERENCES
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (IF REQUIRED)

Participants should ensure that information provided under these headings addresses the assessment criteria as detailed in the Grant Guidelines, noting the relevant weighting of the criteria.

PROJECT TITLE

This title may differ from that shown in Question A1 of the application form, and may exceed 10 words.

PROJECT QUALITY AND INNOVATION

1. What is the significance of the research that will be supported by the proposed research infrastructure?
2. How will the project enhance the scale and focus of research in areas of existing and/or emerging research strength?
3. What are the collaborative arrangements for the management and sharing of the proposed research infrastructure or access to national or international facilities?
4. How does the project represent value for money: include consideration of the relationship to similar research infrastructure at organisational, regional, national and/or international level.
5. Does the project involve research pertaining to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities? If yes, describe the strategies for enabling collaboration, and the extent of relationships and personal affiliations with such communities.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

1. What is the relevance and necessity of the proposed research infrastructure to the research program and/or research projects of the named participants on the application?

2. How is the proposed research infrastructure relevant to the strategic priorities of the participating organisations?
3. Describe the extent to which the project aligns with Australian Government priority areas.

FEASIBILITY

1. Demonstrate the capability of Investigator(s) to manage the purchase, design, manufacture, installation, maintenance and coordination of access to the proposed research infrastructure.
2. Demonstrate the viability of the plan to use the research infrastructure and arrangements for ongoing operational expenditure where applicable; and
3. Describe the evidence of commitment to collaboration by each participating organisation on the project.

BENEFIT

1. What is the anticipated level of demand and likely measurable impact of the proposed research infrastructure, including beyond the project activity period?
2. How is the equipment important for the training of research students?
3. What is the benefit of the proposed research infrastructure to the broader research community, including proposed arrangements for broader access; and
4. What is the potential of the project to contribute to economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia?

SINGLE ELIGIBLE ORGANISATION (If required)

- If applicable, provide details regarding why only one Eligible Organisation is included on the application, including why broader collaboration is not practicable.
- Note that this heading does not need to be included in the Project Description if the application includes more than one Eligible Organisation.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- Outline the arrangements proposed for the purchase of, construction of or access to the research infrastructure, its location, installation, day-to-day management and operation, maintenance, access by users to the facility, and the sharing of time and resources to maximise their use including arrangements for ongoing operational expenditure where applicable.

The Grant Guidelines also require that the application set out the agreement between you and each organisation named in your application for the following:

- a) the terms and conditions of access for participants named on the application;
- b) the terms and conditions of access for researchers not associated with the application; and
- c) details of the arrangements and costs of managing the research infrastructure (including any recurrent expenditure) and how any costs will be distributed.

COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

- How will the results of the research program be communicated?

REFERENCES

- Include a list of all references, including relevant references to the previous work of the participants.
- For more information on how pre-prints or comparable resources should be identified, please refer to Section 2.5 of these Instructions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (if required)

- Acknowledge any significant contributions to this application in terms of ideas and authorship, by persons not already named in this application.
- Note that this heading does not need to be included in the Project Description if it is not required.

B2 **Is this application for costs associated with multi-year construction of research infrastructure, multi-year subscription or coordinated access to international facilities and major national facilities, or multi-year leasing of infrastructure or equipment?**

This is a 'Yes' or 'No' question.

Note subsection 4.4.e of the Grant Guidelines.

Your application must:

- have a duration of one year, or one or more years (maximum of five years). You may apply for one or more years if it is for:
 - the construction of research infrastructure, which may include (for example) building equipment or facilities, or the development of an online archive;
 - subscription or coordinated access to international facilities and major national facilities; or
 - leasing equipment or infrastructure where that would be more cost effective than purchasing the item/s.

An application must request ARC funding in all years of the project and each year must be fully justified.

B3 **National Facility**

B3.1 **Is this application for a subscription or coordinated access to a major national facility.**

This is a 'Yes' or 'No' question.

B3.2 **If your answer to B3.1 is yes, upload a one-page PDF detailing the following:**

- i. Does the major national facility currently exist?
- ii. In what year did the major national facility commence operations?
- iii. What is the name of the major national facility?
- iv. What is the name of the organisation which owns/coordinates the major national facility?
- v. What is the name and address of the organisation at which the major national facility is located?

vi. Financial support for the major national facility. This information must be presented in a table using the template below, which shows the sources and amounts of major funding support for the facility.

Template: Financial support for the major national facility

Funding Year	Organisation	Contribution Amount (approximate)	Total amount for year
2026	Example University	\$130,000	\$230,000
	Example Industry Organisation	\$100,000	
2027	Example University	\$130,000	\$280,000
	Example Industry Organisation	\$100,000	
	Example Museum	\$50,000	
2028	Example Industry Organisation	\$100,000	Include future years if information is available.
	Example Museum	\$50,000	

B4 International Facility

B4.1 Is this application for a subscription or coordinated access to a major international facility?

This is a 'Yes' or 'No' question.

B4.2 If your answer to B4.1 was yes, upload a one-page PDF detailing the following:

- i. Does the international facility currently exist?
- ii. In what year did the international facility commence operations?
- iii. What is the name of the international facility?
- iv. What is the name of the organisation which owns/coordinates the international facility?
- v. What is the name and address of the organisation at which the international facility is located?
- vi. Financial support for the international facility. This information must be presented in a table with columns titled 'Funding Year', 'Organisation', 'Contribution Amount' and 'Total Amount for the Year', as shown in the template above for **B3.2**.

B4.3 If there is an agreement with the international facility in place or under negotiation, in up to 2 A4 pages describe the nature of the agreement and/or provide details regarding the status of the negotiations.

This question is to indicate whether the application has an agreement with the international facility in place or under negotiation.

B5 **Research Infrastructure located outside of the Administering Organisation**

B5.1 **Is any or all of the research infrastructure, equipment or facility to be located outside the Administering Organisation's premises?**

This is a 'Yes' or 'No' question.

B5.2 **If Yes, provide the proposed physical location of the research infrastructure, equipment or facility.**

A statement in no more than 200 characters (approximately 30 words) justification for the proposed location of the research infrastructure, equipment or facility.

Refer to section 7.5 of the Grant Guidelines for further information regarding funding, ownership and location of the research infrastructure, equipment or facility.

B5.3 **Provide a statement providing justification for the location of the research infrastructure, equipment or facility (up to 750 characters, approximately 100 words).**

B6 **LIEF Register**

Provide a high-level description of the infrastructure, equipment and/or facility that will be recorded in the ARC LIEF Register located on the ARC website if the application is successful (no more than 150 characters, approximately 20 words).

The description of the infrastructure, equipment and/or facility should be listed separately by item, by clicking 'Add answer'. To add the description of additional items, select 'Add answer'. Items should be listed separately where they represent a high-level discrete element of the infrastructure which may be used independently.

Refer to the LIEF Register on the [ARC website](#) for examples of the details given for previous projects.

Part C – Participant Details

All questions in this form part must be answered.

Note: This is the largest section in the application form. Ensure that you **save regularly** while completing this section.

Ensure that your **RMS profile is up to date** as some personal details automatically populate into this Form Part.

All information contained in Part C is visible to the Administering Organisation on this application.

LE26 applications do not contain questions relating to Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE).

The participants listed in Question A2 will have a copy of this section automatically generated.

C1 Personal Details

Questions in Personal Details can only be answered by the participant. The Administering Organisation will not be able to edit the material personal interest information on behalf of the participant.

To update the 'Personal Details' section, click on the 'Manage Personal Details' link in Part C of the form. This will open a new browser tab where you can update the relevant information. Refresh the page once you return to the form to ensure the updated information from your profile appears.

Note: Only the Participation Type, Title, First Name and Family Name of the participants from Question C1 will appear in the PDF version of this form provided to assessors. All other information will not be provided to assessors but may be shared with other Commonwealth Entities. All information contained in Part C is visible to the Administering Organisation on this application.

The following data is automatically populated from the participant's RMS profile into the application form:

Title, First Name, Family Name, Country of Birth, Indigenous Status and Material personal interest questions as follows:

- Are you currently receiving any financial support (cash or in-kind) for research related activities from a country other than Australia?
- Are you currently, or have you previously been, associated or affiliated with a talent recruitment program from a country other than Australia?
- Are you currently associated or affiliated with a government, intelligence organisation, government owned enterprise, military or police organisation in a country other than Australia?
- Have you identified and disclosed any conflicts of interests in accordance with your Institution's conflict of interest policies and procedures?
- Has the candidate acknowledged the collection of personal information by the ARC?
- The statement in the Personal Profile reads:
 - By ticking the box, I acknowledge that personal information collected in my profile, including country of birth, date of birth, foreign relationships and conflict of interest declarations will be visible to staff who have administrative roles at both my administering organisation, and the administering organisation of any applications that I am named on; and the ARC may disclose this information to other government agencies for the purposes of grant administration and legislative compliance.
 - If this box is not ticked and the statement acknowledged, you will not be able to be a named participant on an ARC grant application.

C2 Qualifications

This data is automatically populated from the participant's RMS profile.

To update any qualifications, the individual participant must amend their profile in RMS by clicking the 'Manage Qualifications' link in the application form. This will open a new browser tab. When returning to the form ensure to 'Refresh' the page to capture the changes made to the participant's profile.

C3 Employment Details as at grant commencement date

- Confirm the participant's employment status at all organisations that they will be associated with as at the grant commencement date (1 January 2026). Enter the relevant appointment type and full time equivalent (FTE) for each organisation.
- The options available for relevant appointment type are:
 - Employee
 - Honorary Academic Appointment
 - Other

Please Note: By selecting Honorary Academic Appointment you are confirming that you meet the definition of an honorary academic appointment as specified in the Grant Guidelines. If you do not meet this definition, please select either the Employee or Other appointment type as appropriate.

- If you are adding employment at an Eligible Organisation, select the organisation name which matches the relevant organisation name in section Appendix B of the Grant Guidelines.
- If you cannot find the organisation you are looking for, you can add the organisation using the Australian Business Number or contact the RMS Support team at RMSSupport@arc.gov.au for assistance.
- If the participant will not be employed or associated with any organisation at the grant commencement date, click in the Search bar and type 'Not Employed'. A record of the same name will be available for selection. Select 'Not Employed', the appointment type 'Other' and enter an FTE of 0.
- There are several automatic validations built into C3 to assist participants to ensure their employment details fit the role they have selected at A2.
 - If a CI role has been selected at Question A2, and at Question C3:
 - the CI has not selected an Employee role at an Eligible Organisation for 0.2 FTE or more OR
 - an honorary academic appointment role at an Eligible Organisationthe participant will receive a validation error regarding their eligibility to be a CI.
 - If a CI role has been selected at Question A2 and at Question C3:
 - an honorary academic appointment role at an Eligible Organisation has been entered AND
 - an Employee role for more than 0.2FTE at an organisation other than an Eligible Organisation has been enteredthe participant will receive a validation error regarding their eligibility to be a CI.

Please Note: To assist in identifying the appropriate role type for a participant, please refer to the decision tree at Appendix A.

C4 Relevant Organisation for this application as at grant commencement date for this project

- Enter the organisation that is relevant to the participant's inclusion on this application, and that they will be associated with as at 1 January 2026.
- The 'relevant organisation' is the primary organisation that will be supporting the participant's involvement in this project if it is funded.

Note: The organisation must be listed in Question C3 for this question to validate.

- If you cannot find the organisation you are looking for, you can add the organisation using the Australian Business Number (ABN).

C5 Research Load (non-ARC Grants and Research)

Provide details of research funding from non-ARC sources (in Australia and overseas) where the research supported would use similar research infrastructure to that being requested on this application.

For research funding from non-ARC sources, list all projects/applications/awards/fellowships awarded or requests submitted involving that participant for funding for the years 2025 to 2031 inclusive.

Use the table format below ‘Funding from non-ARC sources’ to create a list of relevant projects and/or applications in descending date order.

Note:

- Funding amounts are to be in thousands and in Australian dollars.
- The table should meet the formatting requirements outlined in section 2.4 of the Instructions.

Template with examples:

Funding from non-ARC sources

Description (All named investigators on any application or grant/fellowship in which a participant is involved, project title, source of support, scheme and round)	Same Research Area (Yes/No)	Support Status (Requested/Current/Past)	Application/ Project ID (for NHMRC applications only)	2025 \$'000	2026 \$'000	2027 \$'000	2028 \$'000	2029 \$'000	2030 \$'000	2031 \$'000
Prof Joe Example, Prof Jane Sample	Y	C	n/a	205	100					
Dr Mary Test, Prof Joe Example	Y	C	n/a	175						

C6 Currently held ARC Projects

This data is automatically populated from the participant's RMS profile and will include any active project which has not yet had a Final Report approved and the project file closed by the ARC.

For definitions of terms such as 'active project' and 'active project assessment date' please refer to the Definitions section of the Grant Guidelines.

C7 Relevant Career Details

(This question must be answered)

- All CIs and PIs are required to upload a 2-page CV to support their involvement in the proposed project.
- The 2-page CV must be relevant to the application and can include significant career interruptions. It is up to the participant to determine the appropriate information to include in the CV.
- If preprints or comparable resources are cited, these should be explicitly identified as such by including [PREPRINT OR COMPARABLE] after the reference. Please see section 2.5 for more information.

C8 Current and previous appointment(s) / position(s) – during the past 10 years

This data is automatically populated from the participant's RMS profile.

To update any details in this table, click on the 'Manage Employment Details' link in this question. This will open in a new browser tab. When returning to the form ensure to 'Refresh' the page to capture changes made to the participant's profile. Provide details of academic, research, professional and industry experience during the past 10 years. Specify start date and end date of each position (if known). Select an organisation for each position.

Note: 'During the past 10 years' is from 1 January 2015.

C9 Certification by Participant

Only the participant named in this form part will be able to provide a response to this question.

This question and the corresponding answer will not appear in the PDF version of this form.

This question replaces the participant certification previously required as part of certification documentation sourced and held by the Administering Organisation.

The application form will not validate if 'No' is selected.

The participant must review and confirm the accuracy of all information contained in this application, including information entered within their RMS profile to be eligible to participate on this application.

By selecting 'Yes' the participant agrees to the following statements regarding their application:

I certify that:

- i) all the details in this application are accurate and complete, including information contained in my ARC Research Management System personal profile;
- ii) proper enquiries have been made and I am satisfied that I meet the eligibility criteria as specified in the Grant Guidelines;
- iii) as a participant listed on the application, I have responsibility for the authorship and intellectual content of this application, and have appropriately cited sources and acknowledged significant contributions, including third parties, where relevant.
- iv) I have complied with the Grant Guidelines, and the scheme specific Instructions to Applicants and if the application is successful, I agree to abide by the relevant Commonwealth Grant Agreement;
- v) I understand and agree that all statutory requirements must be met before the proposed research can commence;
- vi) I have notified the Administering Organisation of all material personal and financial interests and actual or perceived Conflicts of Interest I may have in relation to the application. I will notify the Administering Organisation of any material personal and financial interests or Conflicts of Interest which arise after the submission of the application. I will update my personal details in my ARC Research Management System profile ensuring that all conflicts of interests and/or foreign funding, talent programs, affiliations/associations reported to the ARC are current;
- vii) I will notify the Administering Organisation if there are any changes in my circumstances which may impact on my eligibility to participate in, or ability to perform, the project after the submission of this application;
- viii) To the best of my knowledge, any Partner Organisation(s) involved in this application are solvent at the time of submission of this application; and
- ix) I understand that information on this form and its attachments is collected in order to make recommendations to the ARC Accountable Authority on the allocation of financial assistance under the Australian Research Council Act 2001 (Cth) and for post award reporting. The information collected may be passed to third parties, including being sent to overseas parties for assessment purposes. It may also be passed to any other Australian Government Department or Agency, and noting information contained in this application can be disclosed without my consent where authorised or required by law and for post award reporting.

Important: If the ARC considers that an application is incomplete, inaccurate or contains false or misleading information, the ARC may in its absolute discretion decide to recommend that the application not be approved for funding.

Note: LE26 applications do not contain questions relating to Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE).

Part D – Project Cost

All questions in this form part must be answered.

D1 What is the proposed budget for the project?

Outline the budget proposed for the project.

Ensure that your budget complies with the requirements of the Grant Guidelines. It is important that the Administering Organisation and any other organisations participating in this application have been added at Question A3 prior to entering information in the budget table.

- Do not commence entering information in the budget table until all participants and all organisations have been requested and subsequently confirmed their participation on the proposed project.
- Do not include GST in your costs. The ARC will make GST adjustments to successful projects depending on whether the funding has been provided to a government-related or non-government-related entity.
- Government-related entities generally do not pay GST on the funding transaction with the ARC, however, non-government-related entities which are liable to pay GST on the transaction with the ARC will receive base-funding plus GST.
- If your organisation is registered for GST and therefore able to claim input tax credits for the GST component in the cost of goods and services purchased while carrying out the project, then the GST component of these costs should not be included in the project costs.
- Enter the amount of funding requested from the ARC in the ARC column. Funding must not be requested for items that are excluded. Refer to sections 3 and 5 of the Grant Guidelines for further information on budget items supported and not supported.
- Ensure that funding is requested at the correct level, as the ARC will not be able to provide additional funds to cover a budget that has not been planned adequately.
- An Administering Organisation may be awarded project funding from \$150,000 per annum, which can be requested for one year or between one and five consecutive years if the application is for the construction of research infrastructure, subscription or coordinated access to international facilities and major national facilities, or for leasing infrastructure or equipment.
- Cash and in-kind contributions from the Administering Organisation, Other Eligible Organisation(s), Partner Organisation(s) and/or Other Organisation(s) may also be entered at Question D1 and described at Question D4 (Details of non-ARC contributions). Please note that Partner Organisation cash contributions cannot be a contribution to salaries for CIs and/or PIs on the application.

Note:

- The ARC reserves the right to determine the level of funding allocated to a project.
- Cash and in-kind contributions from the Administering Organisation, Other Eligible Organisation(s), Partner Organisation(s) and/or Other Organisation(s) may also be entered in Question D1, including the dollar value of the salary for CIs and PIs who are receiving a

(non-ARC) salary. Salaries are to be shown only for the proportion of time estimated that will be spent on the project.

LIEF application budget notes

Aggregate small items



Instead of entering every small item as a separate line in the budget form at Question D1, applications must aggregate smaller items into lines in the budget worth a minimum of \$10,000. The budget justification at Question D3 must contain an explanation of the aggregated items. Single items requesting \$10,000 or more ARC funding can still be entered as single lines in the budget.

There should not be any lines in the budget at Question D1 requesting ARC funding which are for less than \$10,000, unless the application only has one small item under a particular heading in the budget, for example, if the application is only requesting one item in the Personnel section for \$3,000.

Example

Items to be requested from the ARC: Industrial Host Computer (\$4,100), LCD Screens (\$5,000), Misc. electronics, incl. DC supplies, relays, wiring, fans, etc. (\$6,000), and Proximity Sensors (\$1,300).

In the budget at Question D1 under the Equipment section, enter one line item called (e.g.) 'IT equipment', and then enter a total in Year 1 of \$16,400 (as shown in the Equipment section in the screenshot below). In the budget justification at Question D3, provide justification for each of the four small items which were combined.

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Description		Australian Research Council	Administering Organisation		Other Eligible Organisation		Partner Orga
		Cash	Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind	C
Total		16,400					
Personnel	+						
Equipment	+	16,400					
IT equipment	 	16,400	0	0	0	0	
Maintenance	+						
Other	+						

Mark any indirect costs

As part of the justification for non-ARC contributions (Question D4), all organisational contributions which are for indirect costs must be noted as such, and these contributions must not be included in the funding shown in the Project Direct Cost table at Question D5, as the maximum level of funding provided by the ARC for a project under LIEF is up to 75 per cent of the **total direct cost** of the eligible budget items (Grant Guidelines section 3.2).

It is the responsibility of the Administering Organisation to determine whether costs are direct or indirect. **Direct costs** are directly attributable to the cost of the project. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Project staff or consultants (as allowed under Grant Guidelines section 5.3.a and 5.3.b)
- Project supplies/equipment
- Travel
- Labour
- Raw materials

Indirect costs are not directly attributable to the cost of the project. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Utilities/overheads
- Rent
- Audit and legal
- Electricity
- Security
- Telephone

Example:

Question D4 – Details of non-ARC contributions

The contribution from the X university is made up of:

Project Manager: \$100,000 cash

Laboratory re-fit: \$20,000 cash

Building and services cost for one Laboratory: \$40,000 cash (Indirect cost)

Question D5 - Summary of Direct Project Cost. The amount that should be listed for X university in this table is \$120,000.

THE BUDGET LAYOUT

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 ← Click on the year to enter the budget									
Description	Australian Research Council		Administering Organisation		Other Eligible Organisation		Partner Organisation		
	Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind	
Total									
Personnel	+								
CI Sample	✎			0	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment	+								
Sample Equipment	✎			0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintenance	+								
Sample Maintenance	✎			0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	+								

Click on the plus sign in the respective line to add an item

Click on the pen icon to edit an item

Click on the trash icon to remove an item from the budget. **Note:** this will remove the item from all years

The total sum of all categories will appear in the Total line

Any budget validation error messages will appear at the bottom of the page.

ENTERING INFORMATION IN THE BUDGET TABLE

1) Participating organisations must be first added in Question A3

All participating organisations must be added to the application in Question A3 'Organisation Participant Summary' before filling out the budget. Columns for the different organisation types will be created within the budget.

2) 'Australian Research Council' column

- Enter the amounts in the ARC column against the relevant items for each year you will be seeking funding from the ARC.
- Use the budget table as a summary, using the broad categories listed. Details and justification of specific budget items must be provided in Question D3.
- All amounts for each year should be entered as 2025\$ and in Australian dollars. Please note that indexation is not applied to LIEF projects.

3) Budget Categories

- Budget items requested must be eligible costs under sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the Grant Guidelines.

Personnel

- Show salaries of Chief Investigators (CIs), Partner Investigators (PIs) in the relevant in-kind columns (Administering Organisation, Other Eligible Organisation, Partner Organisation or Other Organisation only, not the ARC column), only for the proportion of time estimated that will be spent on the project. This contribution must only be for the time related to this LIEF project, for example in the construction of the research infrastructure, and not related to the use of the infrastructure, as per section 5.3.a and 5.3.b of the Grant Guidelines.
- Funding requests for personnel as permitted under 5.3.a and 5.3.b must be requested at an appropriate salary level for the employing organisation at the time of submission. These can be grouped by institution or role (e.g. '2 x Senior Research Associates at University X). Do not list each individual salary request on a separate line.
- Salaries must include 30 per cent on-costs (excluding items such as extended leave and severance pay) to contribute to salary-related on-costs, including payroll tax, workers' compensation, leave loading, long-service leave, non-contributory and contributory superannuation.
- For non-remunerated appointments or where there is no salary contribution for that participant from the participant's organisation, salary contributions for that participant should not be entered in the budget section. Non-salary contributions can be included as separate budget items.
- Details and justification of 'Personnel' and costings must be included in Question D3 and Question D4 as appropriate.

Equipment

- Equipment, infrastructure and international or national facilities allowed under the Grant Guidelines as part of the ARC funding should be entered under the 'Equipment' section of the budget; add each item and amount required by the application, with smaller items aggregated into budget lines worth a minimum of \$10,000.

- Details and justification of 'Equipment' requests and costings must be included in Question D3 and Question D4 as appropriate.

Maintenance

- Include in this category maintenance for infrastructure and equipment required for the project. Full details and justification and costings must be included in Question D3 and Question D4 as appropriate.

Note: Include in this category consumables and items related to equipment maintenance. Do not include requests for purchasing computing equipment or hiring personnel for data preparation or programming. Include these under 'Equipment' or 'Personnel' as appropriate.

Other

- Items which can be included in the 'Other' budget category are those that cannot be appropriately placed in another category. Some 'Other' items include, but are not limited to, expert services of a third party, publication and dissemination costs and web hosting and development specific to the project.
- Other costs may include reasonable essential extraordinary costs to allow a participant who is a carer, or who themselves require care or assistance, to undertake travel essential to the project.
- Details and justification of requests in the 'Other' category must be included in Question D3 and Question D4 as appropriate.

Note: Items which can be included in the 'Other' budget category are those that cannot be appropriately placed in another category. Some 'Other' items include, but are not limited to, expert services of a third party, publication and dissemination costs and web hosting and development specific to the project. Other costs may include reasonable essential extraordinary costs to allow a participant who is a carer, or who themselves require care or assistance, to undertake travel essential to the project.

4) Entering Contributions for Administering Organisations, Other Eligible Organisations, Partner Organisations and Other Organisations

- Enter the amounts the organisation will provide to the project in the appropriate column.
- Items must first be added to the budget table; the amounts can then be entered in the relevant columns.
- Eligible Organisations must ensure that organisational in-kind contributions in the budget section of the application do not include salary for any Commonwealth funded Fellowships, unless it is salary committed by the Eligible Organisation over and above the Commonwealth component. The inclusion of a Commonwealth Fellowship salary as an organisational in-kind contribution may lead to an application not being recommended for funding.
- As required under section 4.6 of the Grant Guidelines, all Eligible Organisations on the application must make a cash contribution.

Note: If a cash contribution is not entered for an Eligible Organisation in the main budget table a validation error will result.

‘Administering Organisation’ column

- Enter in the dollar amounts that the Administering Organisation will be contributing to the project. The ‘Total’ line will sum the total of all categories.

‘Other Eligible Organisation’, ‘Partner Organisation’ and ‘Other Organisation’ columns

- If organisations other than the Administering Organisation are listed as participants in Question A3, their contribution may be listed in the relevant budget column(s), which will appear in the Budget table. These contributions must also be summarised in the table(s) below the Budget (the secondary table).

Note: As required under the Grant Guidelines, the Administering Organisation and all Other Eligible Organisation(s) on an application must make a cash contribution. To avoid receiving a validation error, contributions from the Other Eligible Organisations must be entered in the Budget table and the secondary table.

Important: If the total amounts in the ‘Other Eligible Organisation’, ‘Partner Organisation’ and ‘Other Organisation’ tables does not match the total amount in their respective columns in the primary budget table, the Administering Organisation will see a budget validation error. For example, “The in-kind totals of the primary budget table and the secondary budget table do not match up for the contributor Partner Organisation (Summary) for Year 1”. This error must be resolved before any other validation errors. As a rule, resolve any validation errors from the first dot point down.

RMS only performs limited validation checks of budget compliance with Grant Guidelines. It is the Administering Organisation’s responsibility to ensure that the budget requirements are met before submission to the ARC

D2 Percentage request from ARC

This information will automatically populate from the budget table in Question D1.

D3 Justification of funding requested from the ARC

The ARC budget justification information must not exceed **3 A4 pages**. **The uploaded PDF must:**

- Use the same headings as in the Description column in the budget at Question D1 of the application.
- Fully justify each budget item requested in terms of need and cost. In justifying the budget, it is not sufficient to claim certain equipment or personnel costs as \$X. Rather, the budget justification should state, for example, that a full-time research assistant or technician with a specific level of expertise is required for ‘x’ months. The same level of explanation is required for all items being requested.

D4 Details of non-ARC contributions

Provide an explanation of how non-ARC contributions will support the proposed project (upload a PDF of up to 2 A4 pages and within the required format).

The uploaded PDF must:

- Use the same headings as in the Description column in the budget at Question D1 of the application.
- If there is no direct funding being provided by a participating organisation in cases where this could reasonably be expected, explain fully why no commitment has been made.

Administering Organisation/Other Eligible Organisation/Partner Organisation/Other Organisation contributions which are ongoing beyond the duration of an LE26 project must not be listed in the budget at question D1 but can be mentioned here in D4.

D5 Summary of Project Direct Cost

Using the below template, in no more than one A4 page provide a Summary of the Project Direct Cost over all funding years.

These figures should reconcile with the cash contribution columns in the budget table, Question D1 – Project Cost, minus any cash contributions for indirect costs. Use the same row and column headings and no others.

When complete save the table as a PDF and upload it into RMS.

Note:

- Column 7: Calculate and insert the total cash for direct costs as one figure per year, i.e. this is the sum of all contributions from the ARC, the Administering Organisation, Other Eligible Organisations, Partner Organisations and Other Organisations.
- Column 8: Total contribution requested from the ARC as a percentage of the total cash cost, i.e. the ratio of column 2 and column 7 expressed as a percentage. This figure will show you if the ARC funding requested is more than 75 per cent of the total direct (cash) cost of the research infrastructure (section 3.2 of the Grant Guidelines).

Template with example data: Summary of Direct Project Cost

1.Year	2.Total Contribution sought from ARC \$	3.Total cash for direct costs: Administering Organisation \$	4.Total cash for direct costs: all Other Eligible Organisations \$	5.Total cash for direct costs: all Partner Organisations \$	6.Total cash for direct costs: all Other Organisations \$	7.Total cash for direct costs. Sum of all items sought \$	8.Total contribution sought from ARC as percentage of total cash cost of all items %
Year 1	600,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1,000,000	60%
Year 2*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Year 3*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Year 4*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Year 5*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Total*	600,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1,000,000	60%

*Delete the rows for Years 2-5 and the Total if the application has a duration of one year.

D6 Summary of Quotes

Using the below template, create a summary of quotes in no more than 3 A4 pages. Use the same row and column headings and no others. When complete, save the table as a PDF and upload it onto RMS. The uploaded PDF **must**:

- Enter all information as set out in the table format below using the same headings as those below.
- Enter each item in the Summary of Quotes table in the same order as each item has been entered in the first table in Question D1 'Project Cost' (i.e., in descending order with the highest priority item numbered 1, second priority item numbered 2, etc.).
- If more than one quote for the same item has been obtained from different suppliers, enter both quotes using the same item number. Differentiate the first, second or third quote etc. for that same item with a 1, 2 or 3, etc. in the 'Quote Number' column as illustrated below.
- Insert an asterisk into the 'Preferred quote' column as indicated below against the quote you prefer to use.
- The PDF which you upload into the application must fit into the format requirements. This table may be landscape orientation provided the page limits are observed and the headings of the table are on the left.
- The amount shown in the 'Amount \$AUD' should include the discount (if any).
- Underneath the table, for any instances where only one quote was provided for an item, please provide a short explanation (one or two sentences) detailing the reason(s) that only one quote was provided.

Template with example data: Summary of Quotes

Item Number in priority order	Quote number	Preferred quote	Supplier name	Item name	Disc-ount	Amount \$AUD	Date of quote	Exchange rate at time of quote
1	1	*	Example Co	Item 1	Nil	150,000	1/02/2025	0.68USD
1	2		ABC Co	Item 1	5%	152,999	1/02/2025	0.68USD
1	3		Testing Co	Item 1	Nil	150,000	1/02/2025	0.68USD
2	1	*	Example Co	Item 2	Nil	100,000	1/02/2025	0.68USD
2	2		ABC Co	Item 2	5%	104,000	1/02/2025	0.68USD
2	3		Testing Co	Item 2	Nil	110,000	1/02/2025	0.68USD

[Explanation detailing the reason(s) that only one quote was provided, if relevant. E.g. Only one quote was provided for <Item name> due to xyz.]

Part E – Classifications and Other Statistical Information

All questions in this form part must be answered

For reporting purposes, the ARC is capturing relevant Australian Government priority areas and policies for your application (in Questions E1, E2 and E3). If your application does not align with an announced Australian Government priority area or policy in the relevant question below (E1, E2 and E3), please select 'No' at that question. If your application aligns with one or more announced Australian Government priority areas or policies in the relevant question, please select 'Yes' at that question and select all relevant priority areas or policies from the dropdown list in the question.

The ARC collects data on alignment to government policies and priority areas to assist in promoting the value of ARC-funded research across government. This data helps demonstrate the broad diversity of research funded by the ARC and its contribution to Australian Government economic, social, environmental and cultural policies.

The information collected in Questions E1, E2 and E3 will not be visible in the PDF version of this form provided to assessors

E1 Does this Application align with any of the National Science and Research Priorities?

This is a 'Yes' or 'No' question.

If 'Yes', for reporting purposes, select which of the National Science and Research Priorities the application aligns with.

You may select more than one priority:

- Transitioning to a net zero future
- Supporting healthy and thriving communities
- Elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems
- Protecting and restoring Australia's environment
- Building a secure and resilient nation

E2 Does this application align with any of the National Reconstruction Fund priority areas?

This is a 'Yes' or 'No' question.

If 'Yes', for reporting purposes, select which of the priority areas for the National Reconstruction Fund the application aligns with.

You may select more than one priority:

- Renewables and low emissions technologies
- Medical science
- Transport
- Value-add in agriculture, forestry and fisheries
- Value-add in resources
- Defence capability
- Enabling capabilities.

Note: Information regarding the [National Reconstruction Fund](#) is available via a link on the [Department of Industry, Science and Resources](#) website.

E3 Does this application align with any other Australian Government priority areas?

This is a 'Yes' or 'No' question.

If 'Yes', for reporting purposes, select which announced Australian Government policy other than the above this application aligns with.

You may select one or more of the options below, considering that ARC funded research can align with a range of Australian Government economic, social, environmental and cultural policies.

- A Future Made in Australia (2024)
- Closing the Gap (2008)
- Other

If Other is selected, type in the full name of the current Australian Government policy and, if known, the year of announcement.

200 characters maximum.

E4 To what extent does your application align with each of the following types of research activity?

Indicate which type(s) of research activity the project best aligns with by selecting a percentage weighting for each research type. The ARC is seeking this information for reporting purposes. You may proportion the research across one or more categories, but the percentages must total 100.

Pure basic research is basic research carried out for the advancement of knowledge, without seeking long-term economic or social benefits or making any effort to apply the results to practical problems or to transfer the results to sectors responsible for their application.

Strategic basic research is experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge directed into specified broad areas in the expectation of practical discoveries. It provides the broad base of knowledge necessary for the solution of recognised practical problems.

Applied research is original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective.

See <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-research-classification-anzsrc/latest-release> for further information.

E5 Field of Research (FoR-2020)

Select up to 3 Field of Research classification codes (FoR codes) at the 6-digit level that relate to the application. Note that the percentages must total 100.

The FoR classification defines research according to [disciplines](#). The FoR codes selected should reflect the nature of the research in this application, particularly if it is interdisciplinary. The choice of FoR codes and their proportions will assist in assigning appropriate assessors to the application and should be as accurate as possible.

Note: The ARC recommends that 'XXXX99' (not elsewhere classified) codes be used only as a last resort and when there is no other appropriate code within the classification.

- Enter the percentage for each FoR code.
- Prioritise the FoR codes from highest to lowest percentage – note RMS does not automatically sort by highest to lowest percentage.
- Ensure that the percentages total 100.
- Enter a whole number, do not use the percentage sign (%).

Note: The highest percentage can only be entered for one FoR code (for example, 50 cannot be entered for 2 FoR codes).

E6 Socio-Economic Objective (SEO-2020)

Select up to 3 Socio-Economic Objective (SEO) classification codes (SEO codes) at the 6-digit level that relate to the application. Note that the percentages must total 100.

The SEO classification indicates the sectors that are most likely to benefit from the project if funded.

If the SEO code is known, start entering the SEO-2020 code number. A filtered list will appear, and once the SEO code is chosen, click on the 'Add' button.

- Enter a percentage for each SEO code.
- Prioritise the SEO codes from highest to lowest percentage – note RMS does not automatically sort from highest to lowest percentage.
- Ensure that the percentages total 100.
- Enter a whole number, do not use the percentage sign (%).

Note: The highest percentage can only be entered for one SEO code (for example, 50 cannot be entered for 2 SEO codes).

E7 Interdisciplinary Research

Does this application involve interdisciplinary research?

This is a 'Yes' or 'No' question.

If you select 'Yes' 2 additional questions will be enabled.

- Specify the ways in which the research is interdisciplinary by selecting one or more of the options below and click 'Add'.
- Indicate the nature of the interdisciplinary research involved (up to 375 characters, approximately 50 words).

Information regarding interdisciplinary research can be found on the ARC website in the [ARC Statement for Support of Interdisciplinary Research](#).

E8 Does the proposed research infrastructure, equipment or facility involve international collaboration?

If 'Yes', an additional question (E9) will be enabled, if 'No' this will be greyed out.

E9 If the proposed research infrastructure, equipment or facility involves international collaboration, please specify the country/ies involved.

- Commence typing in the search box and select from the drop-down list the name of the country/ies of collaborators who will be involved in the proposed project.

- **Note:** Australia is not to be listed and is not available to be selected from the drop-down list.

Part F – Project Eligibility

F1 Medical Research

(This question must be answered)

Does this application contain content which requires a statement to demonstrate that it complies with the eligible research requirements set out in the [ARC Medical Research Policy](#) located on the ARC website? If 'Yes' is selected Question F2 will be activated.

The [ARC Medical Research Policy](#) provides descriptions of both eligible and ineligible research areas. Additional information can also be found on the ARC website including [ARC Medical Research Policy Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [ARC Medical Research Policy Eligibility Examples](#).

F2 Medical Research Statement

(This question must be answered if 'Yes' is selected at Question F1)

In up to 750 characters (approximately 100 words), justify why this application complies with the eligible research requirements set out in the [ARC Medical Research Policy](#) located on the ARC website. Eligibility will be based solely on the information contained in this application. This is your only chance to provide justification as the ARC will not seek further clarification.

- Be clear as to the main aim of the application, which may include well identified, big picture and long term intent beyond the scope of the application.
- Address why areas of research which may appear to be medical are required, for example, to provide proof-of-concept, demonstrate a platform technology and are many years from medical application.
- Avoid simply quoting the policy in your response and provide sufficient detail for the ARC to properly understand the intent and limits of the research aims.

F3 Integrated research facilities

In special circumstances a LIEF application may be submitted for an integrated facility consisting of a number of small items, as specified at subsection 5.3.e in the Grant Guidelines. Such applications will be considered only where justification to the satisfaction of the ARC has been provided that an integrated facility is necessary to support research activities.

F3.1 Is this application a request for an integrated facility?

This question must be answered. This is a 'Yes' or 'No' question.

F3.2 If this application is for an integrated facility, provide a statement, justifying why an integrated facility is necessary to support the research activities outlined in this application and how the overall research outcomes will be enhanced by this arrangement (up to 750 characters, approximately 100 words).

F4 Experimental Development

This is a 'Yes' or 'No' question. Will ARC funds awarded under this Scheme be used for activities classified as 'experimental development' according to the definition in the Grant Guidelines?

(This question must be answered)

Does this application only contain content that is compliant with the requirements set out in the [ARC Experimental Development Policy](#), located on the ARC website?

As defined in the Grant Guidelines, experimental development is systematic work, drawing on knowledge gained from research and practical experience and producing additional knowledge, which is directed to producing new products or to improving existing products or processes.

Research activities that could be considered 'experimental development' cannot be funded by the ARC.

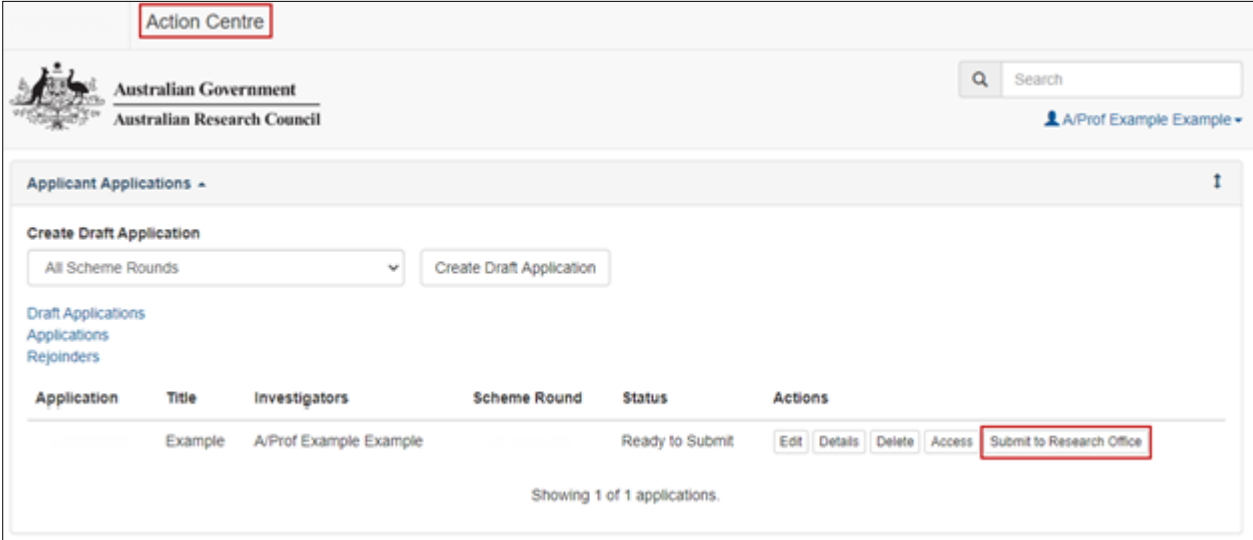
Please see [Appendix B](#) of these Instructions for examples of experimental development research activities.

4. Submitting the Application to the Research Office

Once all form components of the application are completed and saved, the application header should be validated and have changed from red (invalid) to green (valid).

Before submitting the application to the Research Office, the Project Leader must review all components to ensure the information to be submitted is complete and valid.

When you are ready to submit the application to the Research Office return to the Action Centre home page and click on 'Submit to Research Office'.



The screenshot shows the 'Action Centre' interface for the Australian Government Australian Research Council. At the top, there is a search bar and a user profile for 'A/Prof Example Example'. Below this is a section for 'Applicant Applications' with a 'Create Draft Application' button and a dropdown menu set to 'All Scheme Rounds'. A table lists draft applications, with one application titled 'Example' by 'A/Prof Example Example' in a 'Ready to Submit' status. The 'Actions' column for this application includes buttons for 'Edit', 'Details', 'Delete', 'Access', and 'Submit to Research Office', which is highlighted with a red box. The footer of the table indicates 'Showing 1 of 1 applications.'

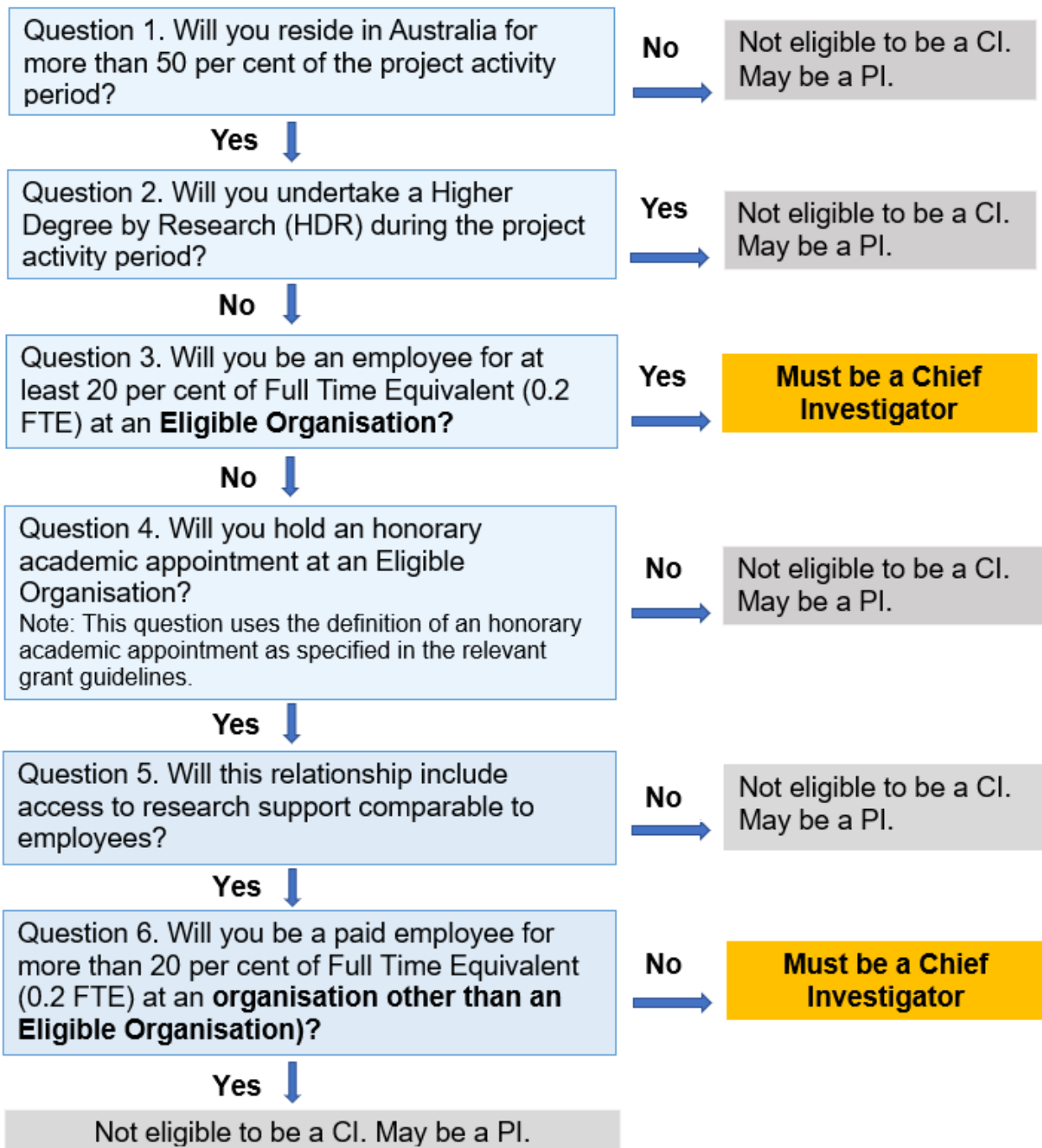
Note: Many users will be attempting to submit concurrently as the deadline approaches for each round. Allow sufficient time to complete and submit applications before the closing time. As the time on a computer server may differ slightly from the ARC servers, submission should **not** be delayed until the last possible moment. Note that Research Offices may impose their own internal deadlines on researchers to submit applications.

Participants and Research Office staff who wish to generate a PDF so that they can keep a hard copy of the submitted application may generate a PDF by selecting the PDF icon next to the 'Save' button (top right).

Appendix A – Chief Investigator/Partner Investigator role decision tree

Which role should I select – Chief Investigator (CI) or Partner Investigator (PI)?

Please note: This decision tree is provided to assist participants to select the appropriate role for their circumstances. It is not a definitive assessment for all cases. Please refer to the relevant Grant Guidelines for detailed information regarding role eligibility, and discuss your circumstances with the Research Office.



Appendix B - Experimental Development Examples

The ARC funds the following types of research activities, defined according to the ABS Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification 2020, Type of Activity (ABS ANZRC 2020):

Pure basic research is basic research carried out for the advancement of knowledge, without seeking long-term economic or social benefits or making any effort to apply the results to practical problems or to transfer the results to sectors responsible for their application.

Strategic basic research is experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge directed into specified broad areas in the expectation of practical discoveries. It provides the broad base of knowledge necessary for the solution of recognised practical problems.

Applied research is original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective.

The ARC Act 2001 (amended 2024) excludes the use of ARC funding for activities classified as 'experimental development', which the ABS ANZRC 2020 defines as:

Experimental development is systematic work drawing on knowledge gained from research and practical experience that produces additional knowledge which is directed to producing new products or processes or to improving existing products or processes.

The *ARC Experimental Development Policy* is located on the [ARC website](#).

As outlined in the ARC Experimental Development Policy, this exclusion applies only to applications that propose to use ARC funds for experimental development. Should experimental development be included in a project or application requesting funding from the ARC, where these activities are to be funded from non-ARC sources, the application should make clear this differentiation.

The Policy confirms that administering organisations will be responsible for certifying that ARC funds will not be used for experimental development.

To comply with the exclusion on funding experimental development there is:

1. A new Eligibility question at G3: "Will ARC funds awarded under this Scheme be used for activities classified as 'experimental development' according to the definition in the Grant Guidelines?"

This is a Yes/No question.

2. The certification provided by the Deputy/Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) or their delegate or equivalent in the Administering Organisation now also includes an additional clause stating that:

‘This application complies with the eligible research requirements set out in the ARC Experimental Development Policy, located on the ARC website’.

The ARC will not adjudicate on queries sent from administering organisations regarding the presence of activities that may constitute experimental development. Instead, we will rely on the DVCR certification of applications regarding this question.

We provide several examples below for further guidance to applicants on how to understand the distinction between types of research activities eligible for ARC funding (whether these are classified as pure basic research, strategic basic research (collectively, ‘basic research’) or applied research) and those activities that constitute experimental development.

Example 1

A study of how the mechanical properties of carbon fibres depend on the structure and composition of precursor fibre materials is basic research. Development of a method to fabricate carbon fibre materials with nanoscale precision is applied research. Characterising the strength of new carbon fibre materials in different application settings (e.g. aerospace, industrial and sporting goods) is experimental development.

Example 2

Research into how macroscopic materials can be fabricated with atomic-scale precision in such a way that quantum effects are evident is basic research. Developing semiconductor materials to create light-emitting diodes with improved efficiency is applied research. Identifying new consumer applications for light-emitting diodes is experimental development.

Example 3

Developing new algorithms suitable for implementation on a quantum computer is basic research. Application of information processing in novel ways (e.g. developing a new programming language) or in new fields (e.g. developing geographic information systems which integrate sensor data from drones) is applied research. Development of application software using off-the-shelf hardware and existing algorithms is experimental development.

Example 4

The discovery, or study of novel polymerisation reactions or conditions, including to understand their influence on the physical or mechanical properties of the polymeric product, is basic research. Studies aimed at optimising the reaction conditions to generate polymers with certain physical or mechanical properties, and with particular utility in mind, is applied research. Piloting or scaling up the improved reaction processes, and testing and validation of methods to produce new or improved polymeric materials for application in specific products or environments, is experimental development.

Example 5

Studies aimed at developing a fundamental understanding or control of quantum effects in certain materials is basic research. The development of specific quantum materials or components to optimise the efficiency of inorganic or organic light-emitting diodes is applied research. Studies directed toward prototype development and application of advanced diodes incorporated into new or improved consumer devices is experimental development.

Example 6

Theoretical or laboratory-based experimental studies to understand the absorption properties of electromagnetic radiation in certain materials under varying conditions (e.g., temperature, impurities, concentration, etc.), is basic research. Studies aimed at optimising the absorption of electromagnetic radiation by a material using specific conditions, to obtain desired properties for radiation detection (sensitivity, rapidity, etc.) is applied research. Developing or testing new devices that incorporate these materials to obtain a better radiation detector than those currently available is experimental development.

Example 7

Investigation of the biology/biochemistry of a species of plant to understand the way in which it naturally controls for disease resistance is basic research. Use of genetic/genomic and biochemical approaches to identify the genes and gene products responsible for disease resistance and demonstrating their role in improving disease resistance in specific crops is applied research. Use of gene editing to generate disease resistant plants which enables a commercial partner to achieve a specific goal of developing a new variety with disease resistant traits is experimental development.

Example 8

Investigation of the mechanism of action of a cell-signalling modulator using structural and biochemical approaches is basic research. Investigations undertaken to identify the effect of a cell-signalling modulator in relation to various diseases is applied research. Developing a therapeutic for a particular disease on the basis of knowledge of its structure and mode of action and testing its efficacy in clinical trials is experimental development.

Example 9

Investigation of the behaviour and diversity of birds in a habitat and the way in which they influence healthy ecosystems is basic research. Investigation and analysis of changes in bird populations to develop an environmental indicator of altered ecosystem conditions is applied research. Application of an environmental indicator to manage an ecosystem and promote its conservation is experimental development.