What are the Timelines for Linkage Projects Applications and Funding?

The ARC Linkage Projects scheme now has annual rounds typically held in the second half of the year and, once outcomes are announced, project funding can be released for the start of the following financial year (ie 1 July).

Note that a project awarded by the ARC cannot commence until a contractual agreement between the University and the Partner Organisation (formalizing the Partner Organisation contributions and the management of IP) has been executed.

UNSW’s Linkage projects and Partner Organisations are incredibly varied. Recently funded projects include:

- Leveraging organisational context to maximise team performance and thriving: a dynamic approach to understand team learning across diverse settings, School of Management (UNSW) and Inenco Pty Ltd
- Australian art exhibitions 1968-2009: a generation of cultural transformation, College of Fine Arts (UNSW) and Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery of South Australia, Museums Australia Incorporated, National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria
- We can’t afford not to: supporting young people within their families and communities from early adolescence to early adulthood, Social Policy Research Centre (UNSW) and Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, The Foundation for Young Australians
- Novel recycling approach for automotive waste glass and plastics, School of Materials Science and Engineering (UNSW) and OneSteel Sydney Steel Mill
- Mechanism of action of an anti-inflammatory compound which targets alternatively activated macrophages, School of Medical Sciences (UNSW) and Isu Abxis Co., Ltd
- Contraception understandings and experiences of Australian women, School of Public Health and Community Medicine (UNSW) and Family Planning Australia
- Innovation for anchorage wedge manufacturing, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (UNSW) and Great Wall Prestress
- Multipoint voltage sensor for high power distribution lines, School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications (UNSW) and Smart Digital Optics Pty Ltd

Who Do I Talk To?

For advice on:
- Suitability of projects for this scheme
- How to maximize benefit
- Enhancing application success
- Partner Organisation contributions required (including in-kind)

Contact:
James Walsh, Manager Research Strategy (Industry)
UNSW Research Strategy Office
T: 61 2 9385 7930  M: 0412 364 592  E: j.walsh@unsw.edu.au

For advice on:
- Alternatives to ARC Linkage Projects for engagement with Partner Organisations
- Capacity at UNSW to engage in end-user research

Contact:
Warwick Dawson, Director, Research Partnerships Unit
UNSW Research Strategy Office
T: 61 2 9385 7929  M: 0419 415 872  E: w.dawson@unsw.edu.au

For advice on:
- Intellectual Property opportunities and options

Contact:
Graham Morton, Academic Services Team
NewSouth Innovations Pty Limited
T: 61 2 9385 7743  M: 0419 581 114  E: g.morton@nsinnovations.com.au
Research Partnerships with UNSW under the ARC Linkage Projects Scheme

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is one of Australia’s pre-eminent research institutions and a member of Australia’s elite Group of Eight (Go8) research-intensive universities. Founded with a mandate to engage and collaborate with industry, UNSW has a proud record of performance in the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project scheme, reflecting its broad engagement with external partners and community. UNSW’s success in attaining ARC Linkage Projects grants is well above the national average in both the number of grants and dollars awarded to successful projects.

UNSW has wide ranging expertise and experience in working with its research partners, from the earliest stages of research through to commercialisation, on projects ranging from social policy studies, through hi-tech industrial investigations, to medicine. Its subsidiary – NewSouth Innovations Pty Limited (NSI) - holds one of the largest patent portfolios of any organisation in Australia and its EasyAccessIP program increases the range of options available to partners for facilitating knowledge transfer.

What is the ARC Linkage Projects Scheme?

The ARC Linkage Projects scheme works to benefit the broader Australian community by funding collaborative research projects between the University and industry, government or community organisations. The scheme is designed to support projects that are of strategic value to end-users and will help advance the development of innovative solutions to current problems.

Which Organisations are Eligible to be Partner Organisations?

Almost all public, private, community, government and not-for-profit organisations are eligible to be Partner Organisations, but the extent to which they can contribute to the project’s resourcing depends on their source of funding.

Overseas organisations, including overseas Universities and their Research Institutes may be Partner Organisations, but each project needs to ensure that Australia benefits from project outcomes.

How is the Project Funded?

The ARC will provide funding from a minimum of $50,000 per year to a maximum of $300,000 per year, for projects from 2 to 3 years duration. The scheme operates on the principle of co-investment by which collaborating Partner Organisations collectively provide resources that at least match the funding to be provided by the ARC. The funding provided by the ARC, together with any cash contributions of the Partner Organisation(s), make up the project’s resources.

What Contribution is the Partner Organisation Required to Make?

The Partner Organisation(s) need to collectively provide a minimum cash contribution equivalent to 25% of the amount applied for from the ARC, with the balance of the matching funds being the value of other resources (referred to as “in-kind”). Some Partner Organisations, such as registered charities, not-for-profit organisations, spin-out companies and museums/herbaria may be exempt from the requirement to contribute cash support to the project. Entities that are funded by Commonwealth, State and/or Territory sources for the purposes of research may be eligible Partner Organisation, but collectively, contributions from such Organisations can only count for 25% of the requisite co-investment.

In general, higher levels of commitment from Partner Organisation(s) increase the competitiveness of proposals and the above considerations only reflect the minimum required for the project to be eligible.

Partner Organisation participation is vital. Each Partner Organisation needs to contribute a Partner Investigator to the project who will make a significant contribution to the project. The value of the time commitment of the Partner Investigator will count towards the in-kind that the Partner Organisation is providing. Most resources specifically provided for the project by the Partner Organisation can count towards the in-kind value.

Partner Organisation contributions to the ARC Linkage Projects scheme may be eligible for a R&D Tax Incentive to the extent that the expenditure is incurred by an eligible company in respect of eligible R&D activities, but you should seek independent advice as to whether this applies in your case.

What Does the ARC Grant Fund?

The ARC funding and Partner Organisation cash contributions support the direct costs of research such as salaries for personnel and the equipment, maintenance, consumables and travel required for the research to be carried out.

It is possible in designing research programs with UNSW to develop an approach to minimize budgetary impact for Partner Organisations and thus we strongly encourage you to discuss this with UNSW’s Strategic Development Manager (Industry).

Who owns the Intellectual Property (IP)?

IP arrangements are negotiated on a project-by-project basis and are determined in terms of the proposed research and relative contributions of each party. UNSW’s longstanding experience in this area ensures that the result is advantageous to all parties.

UNSW encourages you to contact NewSouth Innovations Pty Ltd (NSI) if you have any specific queries regarding intellectual property and its management.

What Role Does the Partner Organisation Fulfill?

Linkage projects are jointly initiated and undertaken by the Partner Organisation and the University-based researchers. Consistent with the collaborative intent of the scheme, you are encouraged to assist in shaping the research question and the choice of methodology. However, Linkage Projects need to advance the knowledge base and so cannot be of the type of scope that would normally be performed as contract research.