Ideas Grants 2019 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ - 1: Associate Investigator (AI) Salary

Question**:**

Can an Associate Investigator request a salary from their Ideas Grants application?

Answer**:**

AIs are not able to draw a salary from any Ideas Grants where they are a named AI.

FAQ - 2: Career Disruption

Question:

How will career disruption be accounted for in the assessment of Ideas Grants applications?

Answer:

There is no assessment of track record, so career disruption does not need to be outlined in applications to the Ideas Grant scheme.

FAQ - 3: Lead Chief Investigator

Question:

Can you confirm that a 'Lead Chief Investigator' refers to the CIA?

Answer:

Yes, a lead chief investigator refers to the CIA. See Appendix C of the Ideas Grants 2019 Category Descriptors, 'It is expected that the CIA will have the scientific leadership and skills to achieve the proposed project aims.'

FAQ - 4: Co-funded Applications and Eligibility

Question:

If a CI on an Ideas Grant application submits and is successful for an Investigator Grant application, only the Investigator Grant will be offered. Will this still be the case if the Ideas application is seeking funding from a funding partner?

Answer:

Applications seeking funding from Cancer Council and/or Cancer Australia are not affected by NHMRC capping rules. If a successful Investigator Grants applicant has applied through the Ideas Grants scheme for funding by a funding partner, the application will remain in the Ideas Grant round for assessment.

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FAQ - 5: Ideas Grants vs Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies

Question:

How will NHMRC manage an Ideas Grant application for a clinical trial or cohort study that meets the objectives and desired outcomes for the Ideas Grants scheme *more than* (or *as well as*) the objectives and desired outcomes of the CTCS scheme?

Answer:

If the main component of the research is a clinical trial or cohort study, the application should be submitted to the Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies scheme. The Ideas Grant scheme is not intended to support research where a clinical trial or cohort study is the primary objective.

It is up to the applicant to consider the objectives of the scheme and the grant guidelines in order to determine which scheme they wish to apply for. The applicant may also wish to consider the category descriptors to see where their application would be most competitive.

FAQ - 6: Administering Institution - RGMS

Question**:**

In instances where all of the research is to be undertaken at the Administering Institution, can section A-Pinst in RGMS be left blank?

Answer**:**

Yes, the A-Pinst section can be left blank if all research is being undertaken at one participating institution. A-Pinst is only required as part of Minimum Data if there is more than one participating institution involved in the research. Please refer to Appendix D, section 3.2.2 of the Grant Guidelines for further information.

FAQ - 7: Peer Review Guidelines

Question:

When will the Ideas Grants Peer Review Guidelines be published?

Answer:

NHMRC will advise when the Peer Review Guidelines are on our website via Tracker and RAO Alert. The Guide to Applicants, Category Descriptors and Assessment Criteria for the scheme can be found in the Ideas Grants 2019 Guidelines on Grant Connect.

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FAQ - 8: Total Salary

Question:

Can you please clarify that an applicant is permitted to draw multiple partial salaries across multiple applications?

Answer:

Yes, an applicant can draw multiple partial salaries if allowed in the grant guidelines for the schemes, but cannot receive more than 100% salary.

FAQ - 9: Grant Review Panel (GRP) membership appointment

Question:

When will researchers be approached about Ideas Grant Review Panel (GRP) membership?

Answer:

Membership requirements for GRPs will be reviewed after the minimum data due date (10 April 2019) and appointments will be confirmed shortly after.

FAQ - 10: Applying to multiple schemes

Question:
Can I submit the same application to multiple grant opportunities at NHMRC?

Answer:

NHMRC will not fund research that it considers duplicates research previously or currently being funded. Applicants may submit the same application to multiple schemes, if they consider that it meets the relevant objectives and desired outcomes. However, if the application is successful to more than one scheme, the applicant may be required to decline or relinquish one of the grants in line with section 5.3 of the Grant Guidelines.

Limits also apply to the number of NHMRC grants that a CI may concurrently hold and/or apply for. Applicants should refer Appendix B of the Ideas Grant Guidelines and the NHMRC eligibility tool for further clarification on eligibility caps.

FAQ - 11: Feasibility - Scientific leadership

Question:

The feasibility criteria requires the lead CI to demonstrate they have scientific leadership skills. How do applicants (lead CIs) demonstrate scientific leadership and how will peer reviewers assess this?

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Answer:

As per Appendix C. Ideas Grants 2019 Category Descriptors in the Grant Guidelines, the lead CI will be assessed on the scientific leadership skills they possess **relevant to achieving the proposed aims. Therefore**, peer reviewers will be assessing the leadership skills of the lead CI in conjunction with the intended outcome of the research proposal. Lead CI's should consider any leadership skills they consider relevant when addressing the feasibility criteria (this includes the Feasibility Statement within the Grant Proposal, and Part A-RT ('Qualifications and Skills') of the application form).

FAQ - 12: Grant Proposal Template Formatting

Question:

The text under the section titles D-G in the Grant Proposal Template is bolded and further indented than the other sections. Should these sections be consistent with the formatting of sections A-C?

Answer:

There was a formatting error in sections D to G of the Grant Proposal Template. The sections are meant to be consistent with A to C.

The Proposal template has been updated on GrantConnect.

FAQ - 13: Associate Investigator - RGMS Accounts

Question:

Do 'Associate Investigators' (AI) need to have a RGMS profile?

Answer:

An AI on an Ideas Grants application is not required to have a RGMS account. Please refer to section 3.2.5 A-RT: Research Team of the Ideas Grants 2019 Guidelines on GrantConnect.

FAQ - 14: References

Question:
Can you please clarify if the 2 page references section in the Grant Proposal is intended to be used for references for the entire grant proposal document or just for the 7 page research proposal?

Answer:

All references for the entire grant proposal should be included in Section B – References. References can be made in other sections of the grant proposal, however should be referred to in full in Section B.

FAQ - 15: Chief Investigator Salary

Question:

Do all CIs requesting NHMRC salary need to be based in Australia for 80% of the funding period?

Answer:

Yes, all CIs on the grant requesting a salary must be based in Australia for at least 80% of the funding period. Please note this further clarifies the information provided at section 5.2 of the Grant Guidelines.

FAQ - 16: Ideas Grants and support for postgraduate students

Question:

Can Direct Research Costs from Ideas Grants be used to support post graduate students?

Answer:

As per section 5 of the *Ideas Grants Guidelines,* expenditure of Ideas Grants funds must be compliant with eligible grant activities and deemed essential to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the Research Activity. Postgraduate students may be supported on NHMRC research grants in line with the conditions of the Administering Institution. Responsibility for taxation and other issues associated with their classification as a postgraduate student are entirely between students and their institutions. The student must not be named as being in receipt of an NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship, as this is a specific category of competitively awarded NHMRC grant funding.

FAQ - 17: Publication Metrics and Weblinks

Question:

Are publication metrics and weblinks allowed for any aspect of the research proposal?

Answer:

The application should contain all information necessary for assessment without the need for further written or oral explanation or reference to additional documentation For example, the application should not include any links to external websites, apart from references to journal articles, guidelines, government reports, datasets and other outputs that are only available online. Where links are included, provide the URL in full (e.g. the NHMRC website as https://www.nhmrc.gov.au).

NHMRC is a signatory of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment. As such, it is not appropriate to use journal-based metrics such as Journal Impact Factors in any part of your application.

Please note this further clarifies the information provided at section 7.3 of the grant guidelines.

FAQ - 18: Changes to Minimum Data

Question:

Can Minimum Data fields be changed/edited once the Minimum Data due date has passed?

Answer:

RGMS allows certain amendments after the Minimum data deadline. However, it is not recommended that applicants make any significant changes following the Minimum data deadline, as NHMRC will have begun identifying peer reviewers. NHMRC uses the information collected from minimum data to identify the allocation of applications to the most appropriate grant review panel. As such, changes may impact on the review of the application.

FAQ - 19: Direct Research Costs – Stipends

Question:

Can Direct Research Costs be used for stipends? The *Direct Research Cost Guidelines* do not outline stipends.

Answer:

A Personnel Support Package (PSP) 1 at 50% may be claimed for postgraduate students supported on NHMRC research grants, including under the Ideas Grants and Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grants schemes. Further information is available on the NHMRC website at: https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/personnel-and-salary-support-packages. Please note that postgraduate students supported through NHMRC research support grants cannot be named as a recipient of an NHMRC Scholarship as this is a specific category of competitive NHMRC grant funding.

Our current guidelines do not provide advice on stipends. Our guidance only indicates how to account for postgraduate students when building budgets for research grant applications. Responsibility for taxation and other issues associated with the postgraduate student's classification rest with the students and their institutions.

NHMRC's principle mechanism for supporting postgraduate students is through the NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarships scheme. Grants are awarded through a competitive process to support the most meritorious scholars. We note that eligible higher education institutions can also support students through the Department of Education's Research Training Program.

FAQ - 20: Withdrawing an Application

Question:

Can you withdraw an application after submitting minimum data?

Answer:

An applicant can withdraw their application at any time. Please refer to page 10 Section 2.5 - Deleting an Application of the RGMS User Guide – Applying for Grants**.**

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FAQ - 21: Individual Track Record

Question:

Can you please confirm that RGMS does not generate a Publication snapshot for Ideas Grants applicants?

Answer:

Publication snapshots will not be generated as there is no assessment of individual track records in the Ideas Grants scheme.

Please refer to Section E. Feasibility statement of Appendix E. of the Ideas Grants 2019 Guidelines for further clarification.