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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.
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.
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?
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).