

In **Part D1-Project Description**, researchers are asked to describe “*how they will have the time and capacity to undertake the proposed research, taking into account any other grants or roles they may hold*” under the heading **DECRA Candidate**.

**Focus on CAPACITY, not Capability:**

The Instructions to Applicants indicate that this section is not to be viewed as a revisiting of the track record and the capability of the applicant but rather the CAPACITY of the applicant to deliver the DECRA project. The ARC’s inclusion of this heading is potentially a response to instances where successful DECRA candidates have on-going commitments to projects and other duties which have hampered the delivery of the project.

In this brief section (< 1/2 page), you should reiterate your capacity to deliver on the project by describing how this research project will be balanced with competing pressures and responsibilities and how you will manage this. Some reaffirmation of your track record regarding how you have previously successfully delivered on other projects under similar circumstances would help.

The DECRA scheme has amongst its objectives “*to promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways*”, so it is not advisable to say that you will spend 100% of your time on the project (*\*see further advice below*), as this would work against that objective. Instead, explain how you will manage this project and other activities such that the DECRA would enhance such opportunities.

**Be Consistent with D2 Statement and Research Environment:**

Your DECRA Candidate response should accord with the 3<sup>rd</sup> section of the D2 statement (*Extent to which this DECRA project aligns with core or emerging strengths at UNSW Australia*) and your Research Environment argument. This does not mean cutting and pasting one into the other –there should simply not be any inconsistencies. Note that DECRA recipients can teach for up to 0.2 FTE.

**\*Further Advice on Time Commitment to the DECRA Project**

Section C12 asks candidates to indicate “what will your time commitment (% of your time) be to research activities related to this project?”. Your answer to this question should be consistent with any information entered under the “DECRA Candidate” section of Part D, noting that a minimum time commitment of 80% is required. You should consider that DECRA candidates can hold/apply for additional Discovery Project funding (depending on eligibility), so you shouldn’t preclude spending time on other projects in your field of research. Second, Assessors will want to see a significant but feasible project and their views on the required time commitment will vary, so the appropriateness of that estimate needs to be well thought through. Lastly, as indicated above, DECRA candidates can undertake up to 0.2FTE on teaching related activities and if this is an appropriate plan for your project and circumstances, it will reduce the FTE that you can indicate at C12.