Alert 1: ARC DECRA 2016

This Bulletin is the first of the alerts that will be issued by the Grants Management Office throughout the round. Your DECRA application toolkit and additional information can be found at the DECRA 2016 Resource Page. Suggestions for items you would like to see in future alerts or on the resource page can be directed to mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au.

Topics Covered
1. Key Dates ................................................................. 1
2. Obtain Head of School Support prior to Application Commencement .................................................. 1
3. Eligibility Considerations for DECRA Candidates .............................................................................. 2
4. Limits on Projects and Proposals ........................................................................................................... 2
5. Additional Changes to DECRA 2016 Funding Rules ........................................................................... 3
6. Upgrade to the new RMS 2.0: What you need to know and do ................................................................. 4
7. Contacts and Support ............................................................................................................................... 4

1. Key Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13 October 2014</td>
<td>Funding Rules released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8 December 2014</td>
<td>RSO Workshop: ARC DECRA 2016 Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion on changes and the culture of the scheme and information on what applicants should concentrate on within applications; plus tips on the assessment process and how you can prepare for this in advance of submitting your application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be advised- approximately early February 2015</td>
<td>Applications open in RMS 2.0. <strong>All intending applicants should initiate an application in RMS 2.0 as soon as practical</strong>. This will allow the Research Strategy Office (RSO) and Grants Management Office (GMO) to provide you with key information and strategic and compliance support throughout the round.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To access RSO support, contact <a href="mailto:decra.rso@unsw.edu.au">decra.rso@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Strategic Support (Research Strategy Office) - email <a href="mailto:decra.rso@unsw.edu.au">decra.rso@unsw.edu.au</a> as early as possible for strategic support/advice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 5 March 2015</td>
<td>Internal Deadline for Compliance Advice (GMO) - Details of your Compliance Advisor will be advised shortly after the internal close.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 9 March 2015</td>
<td>Request not to Assess Due- Submit your RNTA Form to the GMO (<a href="mailto:mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au">mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au</a>) by 9 March for ARC submission by 11 March 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 25 March 2015</td>
<td>ARC External Close- Finalise and submit applications on RMS 2.0.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Obtain Head of School Support prior to Application Commencement

All applicants must discuss their intention to submit a DECRA proposal with their Head of School/Centre Director in the first instance to confirm support of the application.

Head of School sign-off is required prior to ARC submission. In addition, the support provided by your individual school will need to be clearly detailed in a project-specific Organisational Statement within your DECRA application, so it is beneficial to start conversations early on.

If you have not already discussed your DECRA application with your relevant Head of School/Centre Director, commence discussions now. You may do this directly with your Head of School/Centre or through your UNSW mentor (the person who is supporting your application to join a UNSW research group). The HR Heads of School Page provides a list of all current Head of Schools.
3. Eligibility Considerations for DECRA Candidates

- You may only apply for 1 DECRA per funding round and up to 2 DECRAs over the life of the scheme.
- To be eligible to apply for DE16, you must have been awarded a PhD on or between 1 March 2010 and 25 March 2015 (exception can only be made if you had an eligible career disruption between 1 March 2006 and 25 March 2015).
- DECRA candidates may only hold/apply for one other Project within the Discovery Program (Discovery Projects, Discovery Indigenous, Future Fellowships and Laureate Fellowships). Section 4 of this Alert provides further details on limits on projects and proposals for other ARC schemes.
- Holders of ARC Fellowships cannot concurrently hold another Commonwealth funded fellowship. This does not preclude applicants from applying but if successful, the other Commonwealth Fellowship must be relinquished prior to commencing the DECRA.
- Medical and dental research is not supported - the ARC Medical Research Policy provides a list of eligible and ineligible research for ARC support.

Applicants who are unsure of their eligibility status are encouraged to discuss their individual circumstances with the GMO as soon as possible - contact mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au.

4. Limits on Projects and Proposals

Limitations for future cross-scheme eligibility have been introduced in the ARC Discovery Program. CIs on future ARC Centres of Excellence (CoE), Industrial Transformation Research Hubs/Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITRP), or Special Research Initiatives (SRI) may only apply for or hold one Project/Award/Fellowship under the Discovery Program. This applies to all Discovery Program schemes with funding commencing in 2015 or later.

- **What does this mean?**
  Researchers who wish to apply for future rounds of CoE, ITRP or SRI may not be able to if they already hold any combination of two projects under the Discovery Program (DECRA, Discovery Projects, Discovery Indigenous, Laureates and Future Fellowships). As such, researchers may either have to relinquish one of their projects or not participate in one of these future rounds.

- **Do the new cross-scheme rules apply to currently open rounds or previously awarded rounds of ITRP?**
  No. ITRH14 (Round 1) and ITTC15 (Round 1) – the currently open rounds – as well as ITRH13 (Round 2) and ITTC14 (Round 1) – the previous rounds – will not be counted towards these limits. As such, a researcher with a current CI role on an existing ITRP or one of the currently open ITRP rounds could apply for a DECRA in addition to holding an existing DP (e.g. a DP14) or could apply for a DECRA and a DP16 (assuming they do not hold any current Projects/Fellowship/Awards under the Discovery Program that will be funded in 2016).

- **Do the new cross-scheme rules apply to Centres of Excellence?**
  CE11 and CE14 researchers can apply for a DECRA and a DP16 if they do not hold any current Projects/Fellowship/Awards under the Discovery Program. A researcher who holds one DP that will be funded in 2016 (e.g. a DP14) could apply for one DECRA. As the future Centres round (CE17) does not have rules published at this stage, there are no certainties however, it is expected that researchers who have two Discovery Program slots at the time of applying for CE17 can continue to apply on the assumption that if the Centre proposal is successful, one of the Discovery Program holdings will need to be relinquished.

See the ARC FAQs on DECRA cross-scheme eligibility for more information, and consult the GMO for individual advice - email mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au
5. Additional Changes to DECRA 2016 Funding Rules

As per the previous round, the ARC has released the Funding Rules for all Discovery Program schemes (DECRA, Laureate Fellowships, Discovery Projects and Discovery Indigenous) as a single document. Below is a summary of key changes to DECRA 2016. All intending applicants should read the [DE16 Funding Rules](#) in full prior to commencing an application.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DE15</th>
<th>DE16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget items supported</strong></td>
<td><strong>You may request workshops, focus groups and conference costs;</strong> (including reasonable hospitality costs such as morning/afternoon tea and lunch) ensuring the request is fully justified. (A5.2.1m – pg. 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality costs were included under “Budget Items Not Supported” (A5.2.1m)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategic Statement**

The Strategic Statement previously required:

a. extent to which the DECRA Project aligns with the existing and/or emerging research strengths of the Administering Organisation;

b. arrangements under which the DECRA Candidate will be supported in a collaborative research environment;

c. opportunities for the DECRA Candidate to demonstrate the level of independence required to be competitive for research and/or research and teaching pathways at the Administering Organisation during and after the Project. (D5.1)

Strategic Statement requirements have been aligned with the selection criteria:

a. indicates that this area is a core or emerging research strength and describes the level of resources to be provided to support the successful DECRA candidate (for example, project costs, PhD students, or salary top-up);

b. details opportunities for the DECRA Candidate to demonstrate the level of independence required to be competitive for research and/or research and teaching pathways at the Administering Organisation during and after the Project; and

c. is signed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) or equivalent. (D5.1 – pg. 35)

**DECRA Candidate and DECRA Employment**

**NEW: a point has been added under ‘DECRA Candidate and Role’:**

The DECRA Recipient is expected to spend 20 per cent of her/his time on activities at the Administering Organisation, and 80 per cent of her/his time on research activities related to the proposed DECRA. (D7.2.2 and D7.2.3 – pg. 37)

**NEW: a new point has been added under ‘DECRA Candidate and Role’ in relation to the employment of DECRA recipients:**

The DECRA Recipient may not engage in other professional employment for the duration of the DECRA without prior approval from the ARC. (D7.2.4 and subsection D7.2.6. – pg. 37)

The rules from the previous round stated the DECRA Recipient was permitted to spend up to 0.15 FTE of her/his time annually on teaching activities. (D7.3.12)

The permitted annual time a DECRA recipient can spend on teaching activities has been increased to 0.20 FTE (20% of full time equivalent). As per the previous rules, a DECRA will not be extended to accommodate any periods of teaching. Supervision of honours or postgraduate students is not included in this limit. (D7.2.9 – pg. 38)

**Eligibility Exemption Request**

**NEW: the ARC has introduced an Eligibility Exemption Request process for recognition of research experience equivalent to having been awarded a PhD and timing of PhD outside eligible period.**

DECRA Candidates who do not have a PhD or are outside the timing requirements must submit an Eligibility Exemption Request. The ARC will determine whether an eligibility exemption is to be granted. The GMO will provide further details on this process upon release of the Instructions to Applicants. (D7.3 and D7.4- pg. 39)
6. Upgrade to the new RMS 2.0: What you need to know and do

As you may be aware, the ARC has upgraded its application system to RMS 2.0. All current accounts have now been transferred over to the new system. Researchers who have not been active on RMS since the upgrade are encouraged to view the below webpage detailing action points for new account setup.

- **GMO Resource Page: RMS 2.0: What you need to know and do**

7. Contacts and Support

- **Strategic Advice (Research Strategy Office – RSO)**
  Strategic advice on the scope, nature and suitability of any proposed project, how to address the selection criteria including track record, and general grantsmanship advice. Discuss your project with the RSO at the early stages of the application process as fundamental issues are difficult to resolve late in the process. Please send any component of your proposal for strategic advice, as a Word file, to decra.rso@unsw.edu.au.

- **Compliance & Eligibility Advice (Grants Management Office - GMO)**
  Your individual Compliance Advisor will be in touch shortly after the internal close. In the meantime, contact the GMO on mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au. Note that the ARC will not respond directly to enquiries from researchers – they request that enquiries are made through the Grants Management Office. For RMS technical issues, contact the GMO Systems Team- systems.gmo@unsw.edu.au.

- **GMO Successful Grant Library**
  Consult successful grant applications for ideas on structuring your proposal and for a better understanding of the level at which your proposal should be pitched. Email mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au to arrange access. Please note, you will need to bring your UNSW staff card, and applications may not be copied.

- **DECRA 2016 Resource Page**
  The DECRA 2016 Resource Page contains information and tools for completing your application. This page is continually updated throughout the round as information is released and new resources become available.

- **DECRA 2016 Alerts**
  If you have received this Alert by other means and wish to have it emailed to you directly, email grantsnews@unsw.edu.au with 'subscribe grant-news' in the body of the message.