Alert 1: ARC Discovery Projects 2016

This Bulletin is the first of the alerts that will be issued by the Grants Management Office throughout the round. Your DP16 application toolkit and additional information can be found at the DP16 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.

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1. Key Dates

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<tr>
<td>Monday 13 October 2014</td>
<td>Funding Rules released</td>
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<tr>
<td>To be advised- approximately December 2014</td>
<td>To access RSO support, contact <a href="mailto:dp.rso@unsw.edu.au">dp.rso@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4 February 2015</td>
<td>Internal Deadline for Compliance Advice (GMO) - Details of your Compliance Advisor will be advised shortly after the internal close.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16 February 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 16 February for submission to the ARC by Wednesday 18 February 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4 March 2015</td>
<td>ARC External Close - Finalise and submit applications on RMS 2.0.</td>
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2. Eligibility Criteria for Chief Investigators

This year, the ARC has significantly simplified the Discovery Projects 2016 eligibility criteria to:

As at 1 January 2016, a CI must meet at least one of the following criteria:

a. Be an employee for at least 0.2 (20 per cent of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) at an Eligible Organisation; or
b. Be a holder of an Emeritus appointment at an Eligible Organisation.

This represents a significant change in eligibility for holders of, Adjunct, Conjoint, Visiting Fellows, or equivalent appointments as they are no longer eligible to apply for Discovery Project funding as a CI. The ARC considers an employee as someone who is paid via the UNSW payroll.

Applicants who are unsure of their eligibility status or fall into one of the above categories are encouraged to discuss their individual circumstances with the GMO as soon as possible - contact mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au.
3. 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 (Discovery Projects, Discovery indigenous, DECRA, 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 who currently has a CI role on an existing ITRP or one of the currently open ITRP rounds could apply for one DP16 in addition to holding another DP (e.g. a DP14) or could apply for two 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 two DP16 proposals 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 DP16.

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.

NOTE: the above has to be considered relative to other holdings. A DECRA for example takes up one ‘DP slot’ as does a Future Fellowship.

Treatment for Laureate Fellowships:

Limitations apply to Laureate Fellows; however those applying in the current round (FL15) are given special treatment to allow them to apply/hold two Discovery Program slots (e.g. two DP16), or hold a DP and apply for a new one (e.g. DP14 and DP16) with the assumption that if the Laureate proposal is successful, one of the DPs will be relinquished.

All researchers are encouraged to run their individual holdings and ARC grant plans past the GMO for a tailored ruling on their eligibility to apply. This should be done as early as possible before the round gets underway and not left to the compliance review process. The GMO can also send specific scenario questions to the ARC for further clarification where not clear in the rules.

Email mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au for advice.
4. Additional Changes to DP16 Funding Rules

As per the previous round, the ARC has released the Funding Rules for all Discovery Program funding schemes (Laureate Fellowships, Discovery Projects, Discovery Indigenous and Discovery Early Career Researcher Award) as a single document. Below is a summary of key changes to Discovery Projects 2016. All intending applicants should read the DP16 Funding Rules in full prior to commencing an application.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes to Funding Rules</th>
<th>DP15</th>
<th>DP16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget items supported</strong></td>
<td>Hospital costs were included under “Budget Items Not Supported” (A5.3.1c)</td>
<td>You may request workshops, focus groups and conference costs; (including reasonable hospitality costs such as morning/afternoon tea and lunch) ensuring the request is fully justified. (A5.2.1m – pg. 11)</td>
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<td><strong>Limits on Projects and Proposals</strong></td>
<td>No limits for CIs on future ARC Centres of Excellence, Industrial Transformation Research Hubs, Industrial Transformation Training Centres, or Special Research Initiatives.</td>
<td>Limitations for future cross-scheme eligibility have been introduced. (A6.2.2 – pg. 12) See ‘Limits on Projects and Proposals’ article above for full details.</td>
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<td><strong>Maximum number of ARC grants funded concurrently</strong></td>
<td>Within the Discovery Program a researcher can be funded for a maximum of: a. two Projects as a CI, or b. one ARC Fellowship or ARC Award, and one Project as a CI (A6.2.1)</td>
<td>The above limits still apply, however successful Australian Laureate Fellows are now allowed to relinquish existing projects in order to comply with the limit should their Laureate proposal be successful. (A6.2.6 – pg. 13) See ‘Limits on Projects and Proposals’ article above for full details.</td>
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<td><strong>Selection Criteria</strong></td>
<td>A new point has been added to the Project Quality and Innovation selection criteria- “What is the potential for the research to enhance international collaboration?” (C3.1b – pg. 30)</td>
<td>Additional information has been included in this point under the Research Environment selection criteria- “Is there an existing, or developing, supportive and high quality research environment for this Project and for HDR students where appropriate?” (C3.1d – pg. 31)</td>
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<td><strong>Discovery International Award (DIA)</strong></td>
<td>The Award is now named the Discovery International Award (DIA) (C5.1d – pg. 31)</td>
<td>The 12-month limit and funding limits no longer apply: A DIA may be requested for up to two researchers (either CIs or PIs) per Proposal. For a CI to work overseas on the Project with an overseas based PI and/or a PI based overseas to work in Australia on the Project. Preference will be given to overseas-based PIs to travel to Australia for collaborative research. DIAs do not fund travel to Australia by PIs located at an overseas campus of an Australian Eligible Organisation. You can apply for a DIA for more than 12 months, with no cap on the funding amount that may be requested. Note that CIs must spend at least 50% of their time in Australia. (C5.1d – pg. 31-32)</td>
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For up to two researchers (either CIs or PIs) per Proposal. Up to twelve months, per Award, over the life of the Project; and up to a maximum amount of $20,000 per year of the Project per CI or PI. (C5.1d)
5. 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

6. 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 dp.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.

**Discovery Projects 2016 Resource Page**

The DP16 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.

**DP16 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.