

Discovery Program Grant Guidelines Changes

Changes in Variation No.1 (March 2022)

1. Schemes

Discovery Projects has been added to the Discovery Program Grant Guidelines.

Guidelines reference: Part E, and throughout Guidelines as applicable.

2. Flow chart

Updated words under “We make grant recommendations” to more clearly capture relevant considerations. The sentence now reads: “The CEO will make grant recommendations to the Minister that are peer assessed for research excellence, satisfy the National Interest Test and which are eligible for funding.”

Changes in Discovery Projects (March 2022)

3. National Interest Test

Additional text has been provided on the National Interest Test, to support applicants to clearly articulate the potential of the project to support Australia’s national interests.

Guidelines reference: E6.1

4. Assessment criteria

- The wording of the ARC’s standard Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities section of the assessment criteria has been updated to more accurately reflect the criteria’s intention in line with clarifications provided in past grant opportunity Frequently Asked Questions.

Guidelines reference: E5

- The wording of the benefits section of the assessment criteria has been updated, consistent with the other Discovery schemes, to reflect a broader range of ‘Australian Government priority areas’ than the National Science and Research Priorities. A definition for ‘Australian Government priority areas’ has also been added to the Definitions section.

Guidelines reference: E1.4, E5.1; 16.1

5. Participants

- The Project Leader must be employed by the Administering Organisation for at least 20% of Full Time Equivalent (0.2 FTE). This change has been introduced to enable capacity building in the research sector. Researchers who hold an honorary academic appointment can participate as Chief Investigators or Partner Investigators if they meet the other eligibility criteria.

Guidelines reference: E3.4

- Based on feedback identifying that the definition of an ‘honorary academic appointment’ was unclear and being inconsistently applied across the sector, it has been moved from the glossary into the body of the Guidelines and changed to note that a researcher is not eligible to be a Chief

Investigator using their honorary academic appointment if they are employed by an organisation other than an eligible organisation for more than 0.2 FTE.

Guidelines reference: E3.5b

- Greater clarity has been provided about timing of named participants meeting eligibility criteria. Named participants must meet eligibility requirements at the grant commencement date, unless otherwise specified. If the application is successful, eligibility criteria must continue to be met for the project activity period and any changes, including those relating to employment, must be submitted as a post-award variation request.

Guidelines reference: E3.4-7

- To reflect Whole of Government requirements, no named organisation may be included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' (nationalredress.gov.au).

Guidelines reference: E3.9

6. Definitions

- The definition of 'research output' has been updated to encompass a broader range of research projects. The previous definition implied that only products of *ARC-funded* projects counted as research outputs, from which it could have been inferred that only research conducted under an ARC grant could be counted towards assessment of a researcher's track record, which was not the intention.
- A new definition has been added for National Manufacturing Priorities.

Guidelines reference: 16.1