

Deadline	<b>18 March 2025; 5:00 pm (ACT Local Time)</b> <b>“Request not to assess” (excluded reviewers) close 5 March 2025</b>
Call name	<b>Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) Australia 2026</b>
www	<a href="https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/funding-schemes/discovery-program/discovery-early-career-researcher-award-decra">https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/funding-schemes/discovery-program/discovery-early-career-researcher-award-decra</a> <a href="https://www.grants.gov.au/Fo/Show?FoUuid=cf99d1f8-26bf-4eff-90f1-50a1e59d2b30">https://www.grants.gov.au/Fo/Show?FoUuid=cf99d1f8-26bf-4eff-90f1-50a1e59d2b30</a>
Focused on	Basic research support for early career researchers in both “teaching and research” and “research-only” positions at Australian research organisations.
Applicant	Postdocs of any nationality with up to 5 years after their PhD completion at the time of application, i.e. a PhD completed on or after 01 Mar 2020. International applicants must obtain a legal right to work and reside in Australia for the duration of the Award.
Host institution	Australian University
Expected outputs	(J) reviewed specialist article; Expanded knowledge base and research capacity in Australia; and economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia.
Call opens	30 January 2025
Final deadline	<b>18 March 2025; 5:00 pm (ACT Local Time)</b>
Evaluation results	Rejoinders <b>June 5 to July 8, 2025.</b> Evaluation results <b>14 to 27 November 2025</b>
Signature of agreement	
Earliest date of implementation	Jan 2026
Latest date of implementation	Normally 31 Dec 2029, but can be 31 Dec 2032 if part-time
Sustainability	NA
Reporting	end of year financial report by 31 March in the year following each calendar year for which the grant was awarded (forms available in RMS) progress reporting final report for the project within 12 months of the final ARC approved project end date
Project duration (min-max)	<b>3 years (can be taken on a part-time basis</b> , provided that the DECRA does not exceed six years from the project start date, excluding any approved periods of suspension)
Allocation for the call	NA, 200 fellowships awarded each year
Project budget (min-max)	<b>AUD from \$338,691.00 to \$488,691.00</b> (salary AUS \$112,897.00, incl 30 per cent on-costs, and AUS \$50,000.00 per year project funding)
Success rate	19.6 % (2024), 15.0 % (2023), 19.7 % (2022), 17.1 % (2021), 16.0 % (2020)
Eligible costs	Project funding may be used for: personnel, postdoctoral research associates and research assistants, technicians and laboratory attendants; access to research and infrastructure facilities and technical workshop services; essential field research; expert third party services; equipment and consumables; publication and dissemination of project research outputs and outreach activities; specialised computer equipment and software; travel costs essential to the project for up to \$50,000 over the project activity period; web hosting and development; workshops, focus groups and conferences; and reasonable essential costs for researchers who are carers or who themselves require care.
Mode of funding	ex-ante
Language of application	English
Provider	Australian Research Council, <a href="https://www.arc.gov.au/">https://www.arc.gov.au/</a> , Email: <a href="mailto:info@arc.gov.au">info@arc.gov.au</a> , Phone: + 61 2 6287 6600, Address: GPO Box 2702, CANBERRA 2601 Australian Capital Territory
Call identifier	DECRA Fellow 2026; DE26 Round 1
Call info	The Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) grant opportunity provides focused research support for early career researchers in both teaching and research, and research-only positions. The DECRA scheme objectives are to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support excellent basic and applied research by early career researchers;</li> <li>• support national and international research collaboration;</li> <li>• support excellent and innovative research that addresses a significant problem or gap in knowledge and represents value for money;</li> <li>• enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas;</li> <li>• advance promising early career researchers and promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways; and</li> <li>• enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments.</li> </ul>
Conditions / Restrictions	<p>The application must be submitted as a mature research plan presenting the proposed project ready for implementation and must contain all the information necessary for its assessment without the need for further written or oral explanation, or reference to additional documentation, unless requested by the ARC.</p> <p>An application may only be submitted through the Research Office of an Eligible Organisation (Australian University) listed in the grant guidelines.</p> <p>A DECRA candidate must satisfy the eligibility criteria as listed in the grant guidelines.</p> <p>A previous recipient, or an individual who has been nominated for a DECRA on two previous occasions, is not eligible to apply for another DECRA. This includes withdrawn and ineligible applications.</p> <p>To be eligible, the candidate must, as at the grant opportunity closing date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not be nominated for more than one DECRA in a grant opportunity;</li> <li>• have met their obligations regarding previously funded projects, including submission of satisfactory final reports to the ARC at the grant opportunity closing date.</li> <li>• have an award of PhD date on, or after 1 March 2020; or</li> <li>• have an award of PhD date together with an allowable period of career interruptions that would be commensurate with an award of PhD date on, or after 1 March 2020. The allowable career interruptions set out and the period allowed for each is available in the Instructions to Applicants and the 'Eligibility and Career Interruptions Statement'. Each period of career interruption must be significant and not overlapping, occur after the conferral of a researcher's PhD, or equivalent; and certified by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) or equivalent.</li> </ul> <p>If a DECRA candidate has more than one PhD, the earliest awarded PhD must fall within this timeframe.</p> <p>A DECRA candidate can be concurrently funded through the Discovery Program for a maximum of: one ARC Fellowship and one project as a Chief Investigator (CI); or one ARC Fellowship or project if the individual is also a CI or Director on an active ARC Centre of Excellence or a Special Research Initiative project. Limits will be calculated at the grant opportunity closing date.</p> <p>Named participants on successful applications for DECRA must meet the project limit requirements. (Applications for DECRA don't need to meet the project limit requirements at the grant opportunity closing date. If successful, project limits must be met before the project can start).</p>
Proposal consists of	<p>Administering Organisation must submit applications through Research Management System (RMS; <a href="https://rms.arc.gov.au">https://rms.arc.gov.au</a>) unless otherwise advised by the ARC.</p> <p>All queries by researchers should be directed to the administering organisation of the application.</p> <p>There are 6 Parts (A-F) in the DECRA25 application form:</p> <p>A) Administrative Summary (title; person participant summary; organisation participant summary; application summary; objectives of proposed project; national interest test statement)</p> <p>B) Participant Details including ROPE (<i>This section will not appear until the DECRA candidate has been added/accepted in Part A.</i>) (personal details; current country of residence; qualifications; research load non-ARC grants; current and previous appointments; career interruptions; career highlights; DECRA's contribution to the field; supervised Masters, Honours and PhD students; research outputs; 10 career-best research outputs; currently held ARC projects; relevant qualification; extension due to career interruptions; project relinquishment or application withdrawal; certification by the DECRA candidate)</p>

	<p>C) Project Description (project description – max 7 A4 pages in the required format, incl. project title, project quality and innovation, benefit, feasibility, communications of results, references, acknowledgements; administering organisation letter of support)</p> <p>D) Project Cost (proposed budget for project; justification of non-salary research funding requested from the ARC; details of non-ARC contributions)</p> <p>E) Classifications and Other Statistical Information (Australian Government priority areas; field of research; socio-economic objective; interdisciplinary research; international collaborations and their nature and countries involved; number of PhD/Masters/Honours students involved)</p> <p>F) Project Eligibility (involvement of medical research; medical research statement)</p>
Evaluation criteria	<p>The assessment criteria for the DECRA grant opportunity are:</p> <p><b>Investigator/Capability (35%)</b> Describe the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) including record of high-quality research outputs appropriate to the discipline/s.</li> <li>ii) Capability of candidate to build collaborations both within Australia and internationally.</li> </ul> <p><b>Project quality and innovation (35%)</b> Describe the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii) Contribution to an important gap in knowledge or significant problem;</li> <li>iv) Novelty/originality and innovation of the proposed research (including any new methods, technologies, theories or ideas that will be developed);</li> <li>v) Clarity of the hypothesis, theories and research questions;</li> <li>vi) Cohesiveness of the project design and implementation plan (including the appropriateness of the aim, conceptual framework, method, data and/or analyses); and</li> <li>vii) Extent to which the research has the potential to enhance international collaboration.</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefit (15%)</b> Describe the potential benefits including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>viii) New or advanced knowledge resulting from outcomes of the research;</li> <li>ix) Economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia and international communities; and</li> <li>x) Potential contribution to capacity in the Australian Government's National Science and Research Priorities and other priorities identified by government.</li> </ul> <p><b>Feasibility (15%)</b> Describe the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>xi) Cost-effectiveness of the research and its value for money;</li> <li>xii) Feasibility of the research (including contribution of the project's design, participants and resources to the timely completion of the project);</li> <li>xiii) Supportive environment for the DECRA candidate and their project, and for HDR students where appropriate; and</li> <li>xiv) Availability of the necessary facilities to complete the project.</li> </ul>
Research areas	all research fields
Call workshop	NA
IOCB contact	<p>Please inform the <a href="#">IOCB Project Office</a> about your intention to apply.</p> <p>Do not hesitate to contact us anytime on <a href="mailto:projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz">projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz</a> for consulting, discussion or help. Šárka Křížová, <a href="mailto:sarka.krizova@uochb.cas.cz">sarka.krizova@uochb.cas.cz</a>; +420 220 183 527</p>
Download documents	<p>DECRA Fellow 2025 summary</p> <p>DECRA 2025 Guidelines</p> <p>DECRA 2025 Instructions to Applicants</p> <p>DECRA 2025 Sample Application Form</p> <p>RMS User guide - Submitting an Application</p> <p>DECRA 2025 Salary and Stipend Rates</p> <p>DECRA 2025 Detailed Assessor Handbook</p> <p>DECRA 2025 FAQs</p> <p>DECRA 2025 Factsheet</p>