Australian Research Council Schemes (excluding support for ARC Research Centres and Special Initiatives)

There are many considerations when choosing an appropriate ARC scheme. These include:

- Scheme objectives
- Eligibility criteria
- Funding available through the scheme
- Duration of grant funding
- Success rates
- Submission dates
- Financial support from the University or external organisations

Each scheme has specific eligibility and selection criteria and it is important to understand these before dedicating valuable time to preparing an application only to find that you are not eligible.

Most staff applying to the ARC will be submitting to Discovery or Linkage schemes. These two schemes provide a wide range of support including fellowships, salaries, teaching relief, equipment, consumables, travel and other costs to individuals and research groups. One of the major differences between the two schemes is the inclusion of official Partner Organisations in the LP scheme and the requirement for them to match the funding requested from the ARC with cash and in-kind contributions. This means that considerably more work is required to develop a collaborative proposal with one or more Partner Organisations that meets the aims and objectives of all the parties involved. But the national success rate for Linkage proposals is far higher than Discovery proposals.

Success rates vary year to year - these are the national success rates for the last 3 years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discovery</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
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It is also important to note the differences in selection criteria and the weighting given each of the selection criteria.

For Discovery, selection will be on the basis of: Investigator(s)-40%; Significance & Innovation-30%; Approach & Training- 20%; National Benefit-10%

For Linkage, selection will be on the basis of: Investigator(s)-20%; Significance & Innovation-25%; Approach & Training-20%; National Benefit-10%; Nature of the alliance, commitment from partner organisation(s)-25%

These differences dictate how you present your proposal and there is information on the Applying for Research Grants web site on preparing your track record for Discovery and Linkage applications and general information on preparing a budget (applicable to ALL external sponsorship, not just the ARC).

| Australian Laureate Fellowships | Previously known as Federation Fellowships this scheme seeks to attract and retain outstanding researchers and research leaders of international repute as a means of building Australia's research capacity, providing support and mentorship |
for early career researchers, and expanding Australia's knowledge base. It provides Project Funding in addition to a salary supplement and salary-related (on-cost) support. Fellows must play a leadership and mentoring role in building Australia's international competitive research capacity. The ARC particularly encourages proposals from women and early-to-mid-career researchers.

**Funding:** Funded for five years on a full-time basis, this award provides a salary supplement of $100,000 pa plus 28% on-costs, as well as up to $300,000 pa project funding.


Selection will be on the basis of: Investigator (40%), Project/Program of research activity (30%), Mentoring/Capacity Building (30%).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Discovery Indigenous Researcher Development</th>
<th>Provides salary support to researchers and postgraduate research students of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent to develop research expertise that is competitive for mainstream funding. Eligible researchers must be of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. Applicants do not have to hold a PhD, but must have completed a research degree or have equivalent research experience. ARC website: <a href="http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dird/dird_default.htm">http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dird/dird_default.htm</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>Discovery Projects</td>
<td>Supports fundamental research conducted by both individuals and teams. A variety of fellowships are offered from postdoctoral to professorial levels, including: Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship (APD), Australian Research Fellowship (ARF), Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship (QEII), and Australian Professorial Fellowships (APF). Minimum level of funding of $20,000 pa and a maximum of $500,000 pa for 1 to 5 years. ARC web site: <a href="http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_default.htm">http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_default.htm</a> Selection will be on the basis of: Investigator(s)-40%; Significance &amp; Innovation-30%; Approach &amp; Training- 20%; National Benefit-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Fellowships</td>
<td>Scheme attracting the best mid-career researchers to Australia, and encouraging outstanding domestic researchers currently based overseas to return to Australia. Preference is given to researchers with a capacity to build cross-disciplinary collaboration between industry and research institutions. ARC web site: <a href="http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/future_default.htm">http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/future_default.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage Infrastructure</td>
<td>Provides funding for large-scale cooperative initiatives so that expensive infrastructure, equipment and facilities can be shared by partnered organisations. Applicants may seek funding for infrastructure, equipment and facility purchases, construction and installation. Requests for support can be made by researchers in any discipline. Although successful applications</td>
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normally involve two or more universities, proposals involving government research organisations and businesses are also encouraged, provided that a higher education institution is involved.  
ARC web site:  

| **Linkage Projects** | Supports collaborative research between higher education organisations and other bodies (including industry), enabling the application of advanced knowledge to problems, typically those involving risk. Proposals must involve a collaborating organisation from outside the higher education sector. The scheme also provides awards and fellowships for industry-oriented research training, including Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry) and Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (Industry)  
ARC web site:  
Selection will be on the basis of: Investigator(s)-20%;Significance & Innovation-25%; Approach & Training-20%; National Benefit-10%; Nature of the alliance, commitment from partner organisation(s)-25% |

| **Super Science Fellowships** | In 2009, the Super Science Fellowships will offer three-year fellowships, funded up to $72,500 a year plus 28% on-costs, to 100 outstanding Australian and international early-career researchers. Of the 100 fellowships on offer, 50 fellowships may be awarded in Round One for funding commencing in 2010, and a further 50 fellowships may be awarded in Round Two for funding commencing in 2011. One call for Proposals for the Super Science Fellowships scheme will be made by the Australian  
ARC web site:  