

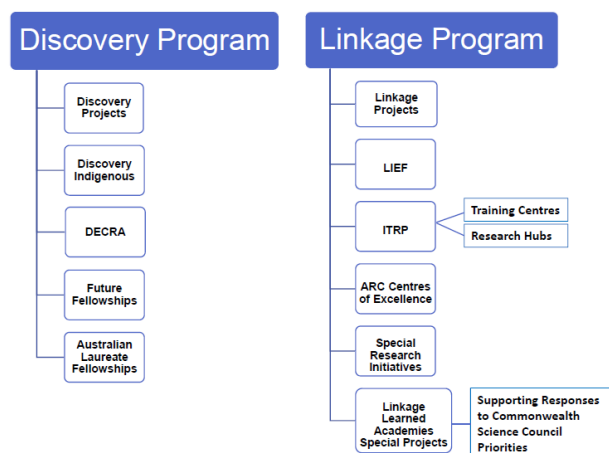
Research Advantage: ARC Grant Rounds: What's new and Lessons learnt for inclusion in the 2020 ARC DP Grant Rounds



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Research Services

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Overview of ARC National Competitive Grants Program



Discovery Program 2020/21 Round Dates

Future Fellowships	<i>Opens: 9 October 2019</i> <i>UON Final Deadline: 20 November 2019</i>
Australian Laureate Fellowship	<i>Opens: 9 October 2019</i> <i>UON Final Deadline: 27 November 2019</i>
Discovery Project	<i>Opens: 13 November 2019</i> <i>UON Final Deadline: 19 February 2020</i>
Discovery Early Career Research Award (DECRA)	<i>Opens: 16 October 2019</i> <i>UON Final Deadline: 5 March 2020</i>
Indigenous Discovery	<i>Opens: 27 November 2019</i> <i>UON Final Deadline: 11 March 2020</i>

All scheme dates are listed on the UON page:

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-and-innovation/resources/grants/apply>



Discovery Projects (DP) 2021

The objectives of the DP scheme are to:

- support excellent basic and applied research and research training by individuals and teams;
- support national and international research collaboration; and
- enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas

The intended outcomes of the Discovery Projects scheme are:

- expanded knowledge base and research capacity in Australia; and
- economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia.

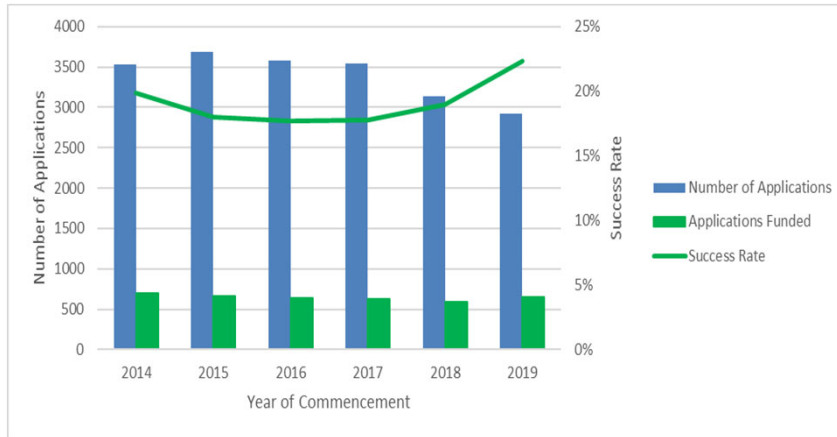
The DP scheme provides project funding of between \$30,000 and \$500,000 per year for up to five consecutive years.

The overall success rate for DPs for funding commencing in 2019 was 22.4%.

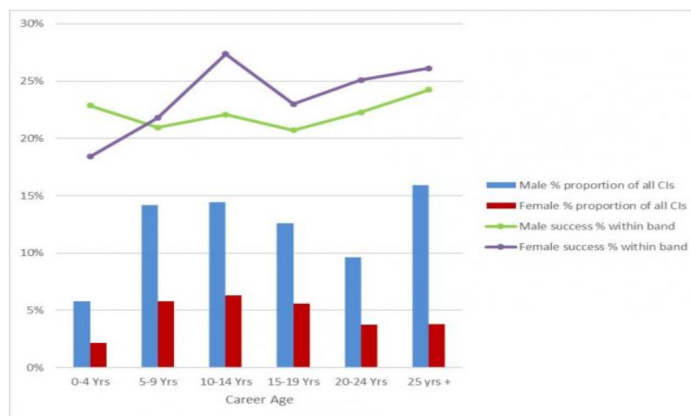
(The ARC assessment process for 2019 used 80 College of Experts members across five discipline panels and a total of 9,384 independent assessors' reports.)



Discovery Projects – return and success rates 2014-2019



Discovery Projects – participation and success rates of CIs by gender and age (2019)



Source: DP Selection Report 2019. Figure 1

<https://www.arc.gov.au/grants/grant-outcomes/selection-outcome-reports/selection-report-discovery-projects-funding-commencing-2019>



Discovery Indigenous (IN) 2021

The objectives of the IN scheme are to:

- support excellent basic and applied research and research training by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers as individuals and as teams;
- support national and international research collaboration;
- enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas; and
- support and retain established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers in higher education institutions.

The intended outcomes of the Discovery Indigenous scheme are:

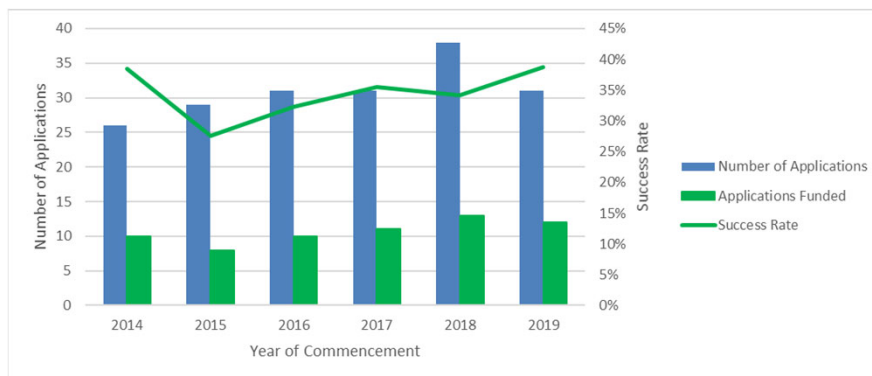
- expanded knowledge base and research capacity in Australia; and
- economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia.

The IN scheme provides project funding of between \$30,000 and \$500,000 per year for up to five consecutive years. This may include one Discovery Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award (DAATSIA), an award that includes salary and project funding for Indigenous Australian researchers.

The overall success rate for IN for funding commencing in 2019 was 38.7%.



Discovery Indigenous – return and success rates 2014-2019



Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) 2021

The objectives of the DECRA scheme are to:

- support excellent basic and applied research by early career researchers;
- support national and international research collaboration;
- enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas;
- advance promising early career researchers and promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways; and
- enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments.

The intended outcomes of the DECRA scheme are:

- expanded knowledge base and research capacity in Australia; and
- economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia.

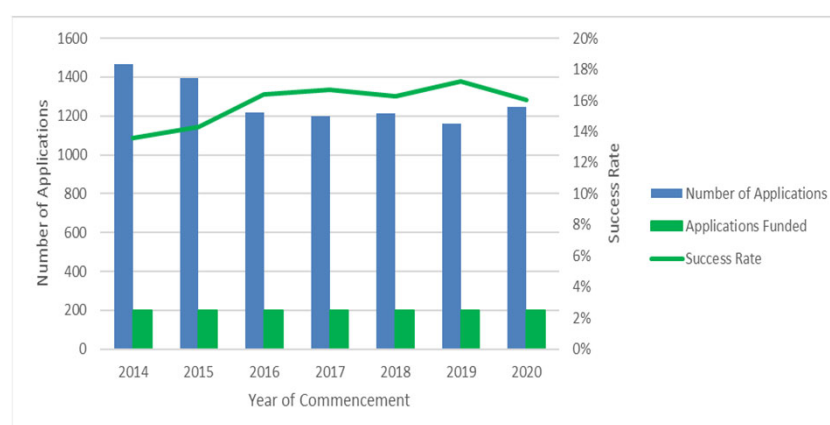
The DECRA scheme provides project funding of up to \$50,000 per year and an annual salary of \$104,316 (including 30% on-costs) for three consecutive years. It is anticipated up to 200 DECRA's may be awarded each year.

Researchers are eligible to apply if their PhD was awarded in the past five years (since 1 March 2015), or longer if they have an approved period of career interruption.

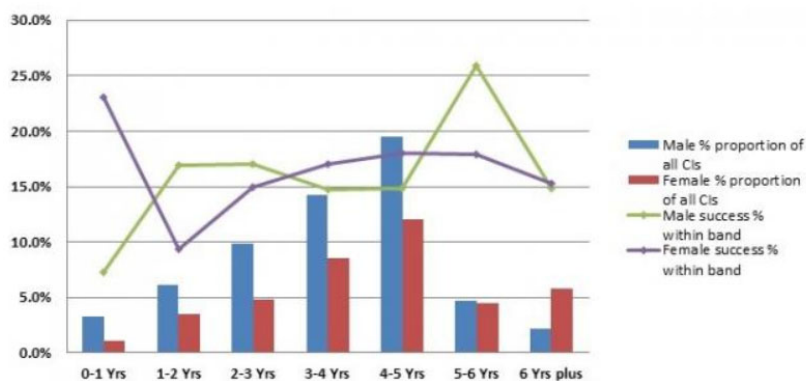
The overall success rate for DECRA's for funding commencing in 2020 was 16%.



DECRA – return and success rates 2014-2020



DECRA – participation and success rates of candidates by gender and age (2020)



Source: DECRA Selection Report 2020. Figure 1

<https://www.arc.gov.au/grants/grant-outcomes/selection-outcome-reports/selection-report-discovery-early-career-researcher-award-2020>

Career age is calculated as years since PhD



Future Fellowships 2020

The objectives of the Future Fellowships scheme are to:

- support excellent basic and applied research and research training by outstanding mid-career researchers to be recruited and retained by universities in continuing academic positions;
- support national and international research collaboration; and
- enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas.

The intended outcomes of the Future Fellowships scheme are:

- expanded knowledge base and research capacity in Australia; and
- economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia.

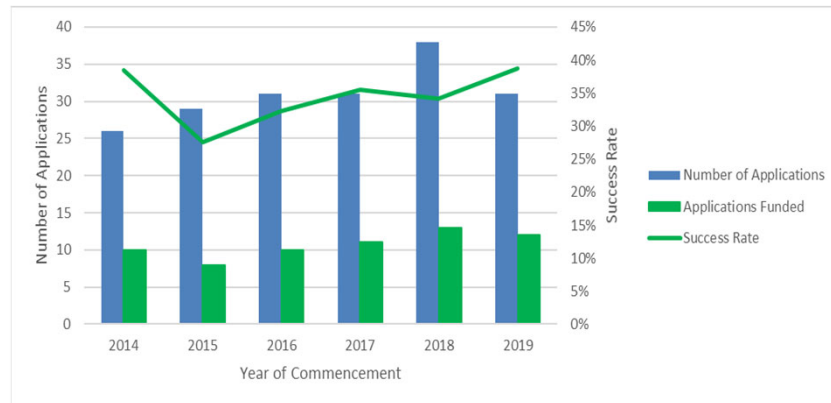
The Future Fellowships scheme provides project funding of up to \$60,000 per year and an annual salary between \$157,863 to \$224,332 (including 30% on-costs) for four consecutive years. It is anticipated up to 100 Futures may be awarded each year.

Researchers are eligible to apply if their PhD was awarded between 1 March 2005 and 1 March 2015, or longer if they have an approved period of career interruption.

The overall success rate for Future Fellowships for funding commencing in 2019 was 17%.



Future Fellowship – return and success rates 2014-2019



Discovery Projects 2021: Changes, selection process and lessons learned



Updates to Discovery Program Guidelines funding commencing in 2021

The ARC have included a number of changes to improve the format and streamlining of Grant Guidelines

- From 2019 Grant Guidelines will be released every two years – specific dates can now be found on the ARC's webpage for the specific opportunity
- Updated selection criteria for consistency including adding *Benefit* criterion
- Simplified eligibility requirements
- Project Description changes – Aims and Background has been removed. Details can be included in Project Quality and Innovation
- Request not to assess – only 3 assessors can be excluded
- Teaching relief limit now CI rather than at project level (up to \$50,000 per CI per year)
- DIAs have been removed
- A PI who is not undertaking a 'Research role' will need to upload a 2 page CV.
- Agreement has been modified to conform to Whole of-Government Grant Agreement template – some elements of guidelines now in agreement
- All documents must be accessed via GrantConnect

Further details in the Discovery Program guidelines and agreement changes document available on Grant Connect



DP 2021

Applications Open in RMS	Wednesday 13 November 2019
Academy of Reviewers EOI deadline	Wednesday 4 December 2019
UON Deadline for Request Not To Assess	Monday 10 February 2020
Eligibility and Compliance Check Period	Wednesday 22 January - Wednesday 12 February 2020
UON Deadline for Final Application	9:00am Wednesday 19 February 2020
ARC Submission Deadline	5:00pm Wednesday 26 February 2020
Rejoinder Period	18 June 2020 to 1 July 2020



DP 2021

Eligibility

- A participant can be funded through the Discovery Program for a maximum of:
 - a. two Projects as a CI; or
 - b. one ARC Fellowship (DECRA Futures or Laureates) and one Project as a CI; or
 - c. one ARC Fellowship or project if the individual is also a Director on an active ARC Centre of Excellence and/or a Special Research Initiative project.
- These limits do not apply to Partner Investigators or to unnamed participants on Projects
- Variation requests to relinquish in order to meet limits must be approved before close of application submission
- Applications for Australian Laureate Fellowships, Future Fellowships, ARC Centres of Excellence or Special Research Initiatives will not count towards limits – successful Projects do count.
- ARC Medical Research Policy - will no longer seek further clarification so ensure your justification is clear – do not simply state you certify the Proposal to be eligible.
- See ARC website for *Eligibility Matters* webpage



DP 2021

Selection Criteria

- Project Quality and Innovation 40%
- Investigator(s)/Capability 35%
- Feasibility 10%
- Benefit 15%



DP 2021

Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE)

Research Opportunity comprises:

1. Career interruptions
2. Career experiences (relative to opportunity)

Performance Evidence

- Recent significant research outputs (and ARC grants)
- Ten career-best research outputs
- Further evidence in relation to research impact and contributions to the field
- Most significant contributions to the research field of the Proposal.

Read the ROPE Statement at: <http://www.arc.gov.au/arc-research-opportunity-and-performance-evidence-rope-statement>



DP 2020

Budget Preparation

Be familiar with Eligible Expenditure (5.5 – 5.6) & Ineligible Expenditure (5.7 – 5.9) as well as the scheme specific Budget Items (E4.1) in the Grant Guidelines.

Project Cost (Part E) – How the money will be spent!

- Personnel
 - Include 30% on-costs for all academic and professional staff salary requests.
 - HEW Step increments can be included but not indexation.
 - Salary tables are available on the 'Preparing Research Budgets' webpage
- HDR Stipends
 - 4 year HDR stipends can be requested from the ARC for 4 years Proposals
 - Essential Instructions will provide details of UON support which includes:
 - two HDR Domestic tuition fee waiver OR
 - one HDR International tuition fee waiver

Note: the VC's Scholarships are competitive and are not available to be committed to competitive grants) <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-and-innovation/graduate-research/future-students/scholarships/vcs-hdr-scholarships>



DP 2021

Budget Preparation

Budget Justifications (E21 & E3) – *Why the money will be spent!*

- Use the same headings as the Budget at E1
- This section is not to show calculations for Part E - Provide full justifications
 - Need and cost for each item
 - Including roles and time commitments of CIs and PIs
- For travel – Include origins and destinations, accommodation & daily allowances.
 - Provide details of specific conferences, even if destination unknown
- Avoid vague support requests or UON Cash Contributions listings
- All UON Cash Contributions listed in application must be included on signed Coversheet.



DP 2021

Budget Preparation

Scheme specific Budget Items (E4.1):

- teaching relief for each CIs may be supported up to a total of \$50,000 per CI per year per project; and
- economy travel costs for domestic and/or international travel may be supported up to \$50,000 over the project activity period.
- Travel and accommodation costs related to carrying out field research or any carers' costs are not included in this \$50,000 limit. Travel costs must be listed by trip only with details provided in parts E2 and E3



DP 2021

National Interest Test?

- National Interest is defined as:
“ the extent to which the research contributes to Australia’s national interest through its potential to have economic, commercial, environmental, social or cultural benefits to the Australian community ”
- The target audience is the ARC CEO and the Minister who are unlikely to be experts in your field.
- The National Interest Test Statement may be read by assessors but does not form part of the assessment criteria for your application.
- Refer to the UON Guide for writing your Proposal Summary and National Interest Test Statement <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-and-innovation/resources/grants/apply/arc-grants/discovery-program>



Checklist



1. Start application in RMS
2. Book eligibility and compliance review
3. Submit draft proposal to Academy of Reviewers for review
4. Complete budget and budget justification sections
5. Complete ROPE statement
6. Complete Request Not to Assess Form and submit to Research Services (if required)
7. Submit proposal in RMS to Research Office for Compliance and Eligibility review by review appointment date
8. Incorporate feedback from Academy of Reviewers and Research Office into final draft of proposal
9. Submit Coversheet to Faculty for signature
10. Submit final version of application to Research Services in RMS

Further Help:

- Website: <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-and-innovation/resources/grants/apply>
- Exemplary DP applications available for viewing at the Research Office
- Subscribe to our email lists: What's New, ARC and NHMRC
- Questions? contact research-applications@newcastle.edu.au