GRANT ACCELERATOR PROGRAM –
Session #2
ARC Linkage projects

10.00 – 11.00am Thursday 20 February 2020
ATC 210 [Advanced Technology Centre], Callaghan Campus
We acknowledge and respect the Pambalong clan of the Awabakal people, traditional custodians of the land on which this campus of The University of Newcastle is situated and also acknowledge and pay respect to the other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations from which our students, staff and community are drawn.
Outline

• Linkage Projects – the scheme
• Changes to the Scheme and timelines
• Medical Research Policy
• Partner Organisations
• Linkage Projects outcomes
• Proposal development
• ARC Grants Search
The Linkage Projects scheme objectives are to:

a. Support the development of long-term strategic research alliances between higher education organisations and industry and other research end-users, in order to apply advanced knowledge to problems;

b. Provide opportunities for internationally competitive research projects to be conducted in collaboration with organisations outside the higher education sector; and

c. Enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas.

The intended outcomes of the Linkage Projects scheme are:

a. the growth of a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of the broader Australian innovation system; and

b. economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia.
Linkage Projects – Key guidelines

• Proposals must include at least one Partner Organisation.

• The Partner Organisation must make a contribution in cash and/or in kind to the project.

• The combined Partner Organisation contributions for a Proposal (i.e. the total of the cash and in-kind contributions of the Partner Organisations) must at least match the total funding requested from the ARC.

• The Linkage Projects scheme provides project funding of $50,000 to $300,000 per year for two to five years.

• The ARC Linkage Projects scheme opened for continuous submission and assessment on 1 July 2016. Proposals are assessed as soon as they are submitted in the ARC’s Research Management System (RMS).
Linkage Projects – Changes

• Multi-year guidelines. Specific dates now on http://www.arc.gov.au/

• Assessments have now moved to three Linkage Projects assessment rounds per year. Applications can be submitted at any time between 20 December 2019 and 1 December 2020 and will be assessed within one of three assessment rounds.

• Key dates for these three rounds are on the UON Linkage Projects page.

• Information is also now available on the ARC website about the assessment processes and expected timeframes.
# Linkage Projects – Key dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round</th>
<th>UON eligibility and compliance check</th>
<th>UON deadline</th>
<th>ARC Close</th>
<th>ARC anticipated outcomes</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Round 2, 2020</td>
<td>Up to 22/7/2020</td>
<td>29/7/2020</td>
<td>5/8/2020</td>
<td>February 2021</td>
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Linkage Projects – Other Changes

- To assist with feedback the ARC will:
  - Publish selection reports for each round of applications as they are announced.
  - develop functionality to provide additional feedback to unsuccessful applicants via RMS
  - Consider options to implement more frequent releases of initial funding for the scheme so research can start as quickly as possible.

- Part D - Project Description
  - Removed the Aims and Background
  - Management of Data – no in Agreement

- Minor changes to the Assessment Criteria

- Request not to Assess
  - limited to 3 nominations.
  - Justification if College member

- Project limits have been simplified

- National Interest Test Statement (NITS) – more rigorous assessment by ARC

Further details are in the Grant Guidelines and Grant Agreement Changes document available on GrantConnect
Linkage Projects – Partner Benefits

• Leverage up to four times your cash contribution in Australian Government funds
• Develop links with one of Australia’s leading research universities through direct collaboration
• Opportunities to recruit our outstanding research scholars
• Potential access to research and development tax concessions
• The ARC will award grants in the range from $50,000 - $300,000 per year for two to five years
• The ARC Linkage Projects scheme is open for continuous submission and assessment.
Linkage Projects – Partner Requirements

Who can be a partner

• Private sector organisations, both industry and not-for-profit
• Most state, territory and Commonwealth government departments and organisations.

Partner Organisation requirements

• A letter of support to be provided with the proposal to the ARC
• A written research agreement with the University that outlines roles, contributions and intellectual property arrangements
• Active participation for the life of the project
Linkage Project - Partnership

Industry “Wants”
- A source of solutions
- Something novel that really works
- Trusted expert technical opinion of value
- Visibility working for public benefit on world-class research, addressing a topical issue

Ongoing Industry “Needs”
- Regular connection and education - part of the team
- Reports against milestones - continuation of research funds
- Data archiving and official records
- Technology transfer
Linkage Projects – Contributions

• Total cash plus in-kind Partner Organisation (PO) contributions must at least equal requested ARC funds.

• Total minimum cash contribution of 25% of requested ARC funds.
  o Applications may be exempt from this cash requirement if all partner organisations are, for example: start-ups; small businesses with less than 20 employees; not-for-profit (other categories apply).
Linkage Projects - Budget

• Is the proposal economically feasible and realistic
• The budget estimates the cost of completing the objectives identified in the proposal
• Don’t underestimate, it doesn’t increase success.
• A poorly written budget can lead to a variety of issues in the assessment of a grant application.
• Mapping out the budget in detail can help you to confirm or reassess the project methodology/approach.
Linkage Project – Partner support letter

THESE ALWAYS TAKE LONGER THAN PLANNED!

• Provide draft to partners early
• Advise of planned submission and deadline
• Confirm delegate
Linkage Projects - Planning

• **what** are the challenges/opportunities you are addressing and potential benefits?
• **who** will be doing the work?
• **how** will each party be involved, what is a realistic time contribution?
• **what** contributions the parties will make - cash and in-kind
• **intellectual property** expectations (ownership and use)
• **what** the specific outputs are and when they are expected to be delivered
Medical Research Policy

- “the ARC does not normally fund health and medical research through its competitive funding schemes”
- “There are research activities that potentially intersect with both ARC and NHMRC responsibilities.”
- “The ARC remains committed to ensuring that there is no eligibility 'gap' between the two agencies (in terms of disciplines or fields of research).”
- Definition of Medical Research can be found on the ARC website and within the relevant scheme Funding Rules.
- The ARC does not consider ‘hypotheticals’ or provide pre-eligibility rulings.
- The ARC does provide examples.
- Please see ARC Medical Research Policy
- Look at ARC Grants Search

Dr Fiona Cameron ARC May 2017
We have had a few applications considered ineligible under the ARC Medical Research Policy.

If there is any possibility that your application could be considered to be Health or Medical research please ensure you select YES at Question C1.

This is a ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ question. Does this project have content which requires a statement to demonstrate that it complies with the eligible research requirements set out in the ARC Medical Research Policy located on the ARC website?

If you select YES at C1, question C2 will be activated.

If applicable, justify why this project complies with the eligible research requirements set out in the ARC Medical Research Policy located on the ARC website. Eligibility will be based solely on the information contained in this application. This is the only chance to provide justification and the ARC will not seek further clarification (up to 750 characters, approximately 100 words).

This is your opportunity to justify why this application does not breach the Medical Research Policy.

Read the LP20 Instructions to Applicants to assist with completing Question C2.
ARC Data Portal

ARC DATA PORTAL

NCGP
National Competitive Grants Program
Grants Search

ERA
Excellence in Research for Australia
National Report
Research Outputs
Outcomes

EI
Engagement and Impact
National Report
Impact Studies
Outcomes

Link from ARC Home Page - https://www.arc.gov.au/
Available support

• Please start RMS applications early to enable the best support including:
  • Grant guidelines advice and interpretation
  • Explanation of application and assessment processes
  • Start RMS application early to receive additional information and guidance!
  • Referral to NI/NIER to assist with identifying partners
Available support (cont)

- Eligibility and compliance review
- Review of rejoinder
- Support with resubmission of unsuccessful or successive Linkage Projects applications
- Advice on leveraging existing partnerships towards Linkage Projects application(s)
- Connection to Newcastle Innovation, mentors, peer reviewers

Talk to me early!

For more information

CONTACTS

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