

Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP) Grant Guidelines Key Changes

Changes to Variation No1 (September 2021)

Following the adjustment to the ARC's position on preprints, the definition of research output has been amended to include preprints. A new definition for preprints has also been added.

Guidelines reference: Definitions

Consultation

Feedback from stakeholders was considered in the drafting of these grant guidelines. Key stakeholders have been engaged, particularly members of the Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS).

ABOUT THE INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION RESEARCH PROGRAM GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

1. Industrial Transformation Priorities

In recent rounds the Industrial Transformation Priorities have been based on research areas covered by the Industry Growth Centres sectors. In addition to these areas, the Industrial Transformation Priorities have been expanded to include research areas covered by the Modern Manufacturing Priorities.

The updated Industrial Transformation Priorities are:

- a. Advanced Manufacturing;
- b. Cyber Security;
- c. Food, Beverage and Agribusiness;
- d. Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals;
- e. Mining Equipment, Resources Technology and Services, Critical Minerals Processing; and
- f. Oil, Gas and Energy Resources;
- g. Recycling and Clean Energy;
- h. Defence; and
- f. Space.

Guidelines reference: 2.15.

ASSESSMENT

2. Due Diligence Updates

There are several updates in the grant guidelines to clearly outline the due diligence activities undertaken through the assessment process, and the responsibilities of the applicant in ensuring appropriate due diligence has been undertaken ahead of submitting an application.

Changes include:

Processes – Inclusion of any advice on national security risks in 'We make grant recommendations' and 'Grant decisions are made'

7.3d How to apply clause amended to reference having regard to the *Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector*.

7.10 How to apply clause amended to note revisions to the application prior to approval may be invited by the ARC as this may occur to ameliorate security concerns.

8.3-8.4 The grant selection process added new clauses:

We may seek advice on security or other matters from Commonwealth agencies in relation to the application.

We may seek information from You regarding due diligence activities in relation to the application.

8.34 Who will approve grants clause amended to specify that: The CEO may seek advice on security or other matters from Commonwealth agencies before making recommendations. The CEO will make recommendations for funding to the Minister based on any number of assessments and may take into account any advice received on security or other matters from Commonwealth agencies.

12.22 Grant agreement variations amended clause to reflecting due diligence occurring in relation to changes that may occur following approval of a grant.

3. **Assessment Criteria**

The 'Feasibility and Commitment' assessment criteria has been updated to include the ARC's standard Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities section in both Training Centres and Research Hubs for consistency across the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP).

Guidelines reference: A5 and B5

ELIGIBILITY

4. **Personnel**

Eligibility requirements for the Research Hub or Training Centre Director have been clarified to explicitly state that a person in this role must be employed by the Administering Organisation for at least 50 per cent of Full Time Equivalent (0.5 FTE).

Guidelines reference: 4.20.

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 document and changed to note that the 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: 4.22.

To ensure the scheme objectives are being met for *Industrial Transformation Training Centres*, a minimum number of higher degree by research candidates (10 ICHDRs) and postdoctoral fellows (1 ICPD) must be included in the application.

Guidelines reference: B3.3.

5. **Organisations**

In order 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' (<https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>).

Guidelines reference: 4.8.a. and 4.11

6. **Eligibility timing**

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: 4.22 and 4.26

BUDGET

7. Salary and Stipend Rates for higher degree by research candidates and postdoctoral fellows

The specified amounts for ICPD salaries, HDR and ICHDR stipends have been removed from the guidelines in order to streamline the application form, remove some of the complexities in the budget, reflect the salary and stipend policy applied to other Linkage Program grant opportunities and allow applicants additional flexibility to bring together an appropriate mix of people. These participants must be paid at a level appropriate to the employing organisation, which is no less than the level indicated on the salaries and stipends page of the [ARC website](#).

OTHER

8. Timeframes

The timeframe to execute a Grant Agreement and the timeframe to make an appeal have both been changed from 28 days to 30 days, reflecting whole of government practice.