

Linkage Projects Grant Guidelines Changes

ABOUT THE GRANT PROGRAM

1. Compliance with amended ARC Act

- Following passage of the Australian Research Council (Review Response) Bill, the Linkage Projects grant guidelines (Guidelines) have been updated to comply with the amended ARC Act. Key changes include:
 - Updated clause numbers of the ARC Act.
Guidelines reference: Front page, Definitions
 - Updated terminology to refer to the ARC Accountable Authority throughout the document, and removing references to the ARC CEO and Minister where no longer applicable.
Guidelines reference: Flowchart, 8.2, 8.6, 8.8, 9.1, Definitions
 - Additional information provided stating that the ARC administers funding for excellent pure basic, strategic basic and applied research in all disciplines excluding medical research, and does not fund experimental development.
Guidelines reference: 2.2, Definitions
 - Additional clause stating that applicants may not request or use grant funds for experimental development, with definition added.
Guidelines reference: 5.4, Definitions

ELIGIBILITY

2. Additional certification requirements

- New clause added about ensuring provision of additional certification requirements to more accurately represent the ARC's research integrity processes, and to make eligibility requirements clear to researchers and Administering Organisations.
Guidelines reference: 4.5

3. Medical Research as an eligibility clause

- New clause added stating that applications must not include medical research, as detailed in the ARC Medical Research Policy, to more accurately represent the ARC's eligibility processes and to make eligibility requirements clear to researchers and Administering Organisations.
Guidelines reference: 4.6

ASSESSMENT

4. Use of Detailed Assessors

- The Flowchart and descriptions of assessment have been updated to provide greater clarity on the use of Detailed Assessors, stating that an application may be assigned to Detailed Assessors and that the applicant will have the opportunity to respond to any Detailed Assessors' written comments.
Guidelines reference: Flowchart

OTHER

5. Security, defence or international relations of Australia

- Additional information provided in relevant clauses outlining that if the Minister decides the ARC Accountable Authority should not fund a project for reasons relevant to security, defence or international relations of Australia, the Minister must advise the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security and take any other steps required under the ARC Act. The ARC Accountable Authority must comply with the Minister's decision.

Guidelines reference: Flowchart, 8.8

6. Policies

- Updates made to all clauses referring to specific policies to include the date each policy took effect to ensure clarity and accuracy of policy references for applicants.

Guidelines reference: 4.5, 4.6, 4.18, 5.4, 9.18, 9.21, 10.6, 10.7, Definitions

7. Withdrawing applications

- Updated clause for withdrawing applications requiring applicants to inform ARC in writing to reflect ARC's requirements more accurately and to reduce administrative burden.

Guidelines reference: 7.7

8. Advice and Announcement

- Additional information provided to advise that for successful grants, the ARC will provide a copy of the ARC Accountable Authority's approval within 21 days after the decision, and, if earlier notice is provided, may impose a short embargo.

Guidelines reference: 9.1

9. Grant agreement information

- List of changes that would require a Grant Agreement Variation removed, with instruction that further information can be found in the Grant Agreement to reduce repetition between the grant guidelines and grant agreement.

Guidelines reference: 9.14

10. Persistent identifier clause

- The clause strongly encourages named participants to have a persistent identifier such as an Open Researcher and Contributor Identifier (ORCID) in their RMS profile to emphasise the importance of persistent identifiers and reflect ARC open access policy accurately.

Guidelines reference: 9.23

11. Appeals process

- Sentence referring to 30-day limitation for lodging appeals removed to reflect the ARC's most recent appeals process.

Guidelines reference: 10.3

12. Freedom of Information

- Added clause to the Freedom of information section stating that the Freedom of Information process is set out on the ARC website.

Guidelines reference: 10.15

13. Acronyms and definitions

- Acronyms deleted or updated where terms are self-explanatory, are no longer used in the Guidelines, or are only used in other definitions.

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- New definitions or definitions updated to increase clarity:
 - Accountable Authority
 - Applied research
 - ARC Board
 - Exempt Herbarium
 - Experimental development
 - Grant Guidelines
 - Medical Research
 - Project
 - Pure basic research
 - Selection Advisory Committee (SAC)
 - Strategic basic research

Guidelines reference: Appendix A