



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Australian Laureate Fellowships for funding commencing 2024 (FL24)

Version 1.0 - Release Date: 16 August 2023

- All participants should read the Discovery Program Grant Guidelines - Fellowships (2023 edition) (Grant Guidelines) available on [GrantConnect](#) and specific *Instructions to Applicants* documents available on Grant Connect as they contain important information for Research Office staff and individual participants preparing applications.
- The Australian Research Council (ARC) does not respond to queries from individual participants. Individual participants should direct all queries regarding ARC grant opportunities to their Administering Organisation's Research Office (or equivalent). If further information regarding the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) is required, the Research Office should contact the NCGP at arc-ncgp@arc.gov.au
- Information regarding the Research Management System (RMS) is available at the [ARC website](#), or by contacting arc-systems@arc.gov.au for assistance.

This Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated as required.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Timing of Grant Opportunities

1.1 Where are the key dates for upcoming ARC Grant Opportunities advised?

Dates of all upcoming ARC Grant Opportunities are published on the NCGP scheme timelines on the [ARC Grants Calendar](#).

1.2 When will the Funding Outcomes be announced?

The ARC now publishes anticipated Funding Announcement dates. Please refer to the Scheme Calendar PDF on the [ARC Grants Calendar](#).

2. Application information

2.1 Can I include requests for domestic and international travel in my application?

Yes. You can include requests for domestic and international travel in accordance with the requirements set out in the relevant Grant Guidelines, noting that researchers should include a realistic plan of how their research will be undertaken. Where an application is successful, any changes to the proposed travel plans due to the impact of environmental factors (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics, etc.) will be managed as a post award issue.

2.2 What font size can I use for figures, tables, or pictures in my application to comply with ARC submission requirements?

Applicants should ensure that the text is readable both online and in print as detailed in the Instructions to Applicants. It is recommended that 12pt font is used. Readability needs to also be ensured with regards to text within figures and tables and it is recommended that 10pt font is used.

2.3 Why won't Question A2 'Person Participant Summary' validate?

For Question A2 of the Application Form to validate, three things must be done:

1. The Australian Laureate Fellowships candidate must be entered. If they are not the one creating the applications, they must have accepted the invitation. This will show with the following error message:
 - There must be 1 person on the application with the role of Chief Investigator and the award type Australian Laureate Fellowship
 - An invited participant has not yet accepted the invitation to participate in this application.
2. 2 x Postdoctoral Research Associates (PDRAs) and 2 x Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) must be entered into the Budget Table at Question D1 'What is the proposed budget for your project?', using the drop-down list:

Add Participant type		
ALF - Postgraduate Researcher	Level 1 starting in year 1	Add
ALF - Postdoctoral Research Associate	Level 1 starting in year 1	
ALF - Postgraduate Researcher	Level 1 starting in year 2	

If the required number of PDRAs and PGRs have not been added at Question D1, Question A2 will show the following error message and the Question, and in turn Form Part, will not validate:







- There must be 2 people on the application with the role of Fellow/Awardee and the award type ALF – Post Research Associate. Go to Budget to resolve.
- There must be 2 people on the application with the role of Fellow/Awardee and the award type ALF – Postgraduate Researcher. Go to Budget resolve.

Note: While the validation appears in Question A2, the PDRA and PGR cannot be entered into this question; they are entered only the Budget Table at Question D1.

2.4 How should I complete the Question D1 'What is the proposed budget for your project'?

The ARC strongly recommends entering a simplified budget into the Budget Table at Question D1, meaning that each category (e.g., Travel, Field Research, Equipment) should have a one-line budget figure, instead of listing each item.

For example, if you are requesting two sets of Travel in Year 1, one costing \$5000 and another costing \$1500, the Budget Table should only show the total amount of funding as \$6500 for that category. The request will need to be justified in Question D2.

✓	Travel	+	6,500
	Total Travel Costs	 	6,500
✗	Travel	+	6,500
	Trip 1	 	5,000
	Trip 2	 	1,500

Note: You will not be able to enter all 'Personnel' as a one-line budget figure, as the Australian Laureate Fellowship Salary, Postdoctoral Research Associates (PDRAs), Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) and Kathleen Fitzpatrick/Georgina Sweet Additional Award (if answered 'Yes' to Question B12) are automatically entered into the Budget Table and will require their own budget line.

3. Career Interruptions

3.1 COVID-19 has affected my academic record. Is this considered a career interruption as part of Question B6 'Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – Career Interruptions'?

Yes. The Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) assessment criterion allows inclusion and consideration of any significant career interruption, which has affected a participant's ability to undertake and contribute to research.

Career interruptions arising from COVID-19 can be included under ROPE.

3.2 How do I enter my career interruptions in the Application Form? Will assessors be able to see the details of my interruptions?

Information on how to enter the candidate's career interruptions can be found in Question B6 'Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – Career Interruptions' of the Instructions to Applicants (ITAs). Examples of how career interruptions can be entered can be found in the Appendix of the ITAs.

Assessors will not be able to see the details of the entered career interruptions, nor will they be made visible in the PDF.

Assessors will only see the total period which RMS will automatically calculate using the entered career interruptions. The following question and answers from Question B6 will be viewable:

Question: Has the Australian Laureate Fellowship candidate experienced a significant interruption that has impacted on research opportunity?
Answer: 'Yes' or 'No'

If answered 'Yes' and career interruptions are entered:

Question: Total Period of Career Interruptions
Answer (auto-fill): 'Researcher [Participant Name] has reported a career interruption of [duration] since [Year of earliest interruption].'

4. Time Commitments

4.1 How much time must I commit to research activities relating to the project?

As per the Grant Agreement, it is a requirement for the Australian Laureate Fellow candidate to commit a minimum of 80% (0.8 FTE) of their time to research and research capacity-building activities related to the Australian Laureate Fellowship. Research capacity-building activities could include research leadership in teams and centres (ARC Centres) and supervision of HDR students, but do not include a major role in administration.

4.2 How much time can I spend on activities not related to the Australian Laureate Fellowship such as teaching?

As per the Grant Agreement, the Australian Laureate Fellow candidate may not spend more than 20% (0.2 FTE) of their time on activities not related to the Australian Laureate Fellowship such as teaching. The Australian Laureate Fellowship will not be extended to accommodate any periods of teaching.

5. Logistics support for Antarctic research

5.1 What logistics advice should I seek if my proposed research project included Antarctic research?

If your proposed research project includes Antarctic research that will require logistical support, please contact the [Australian Antarctic Division](#) for advice about available logistical support prior to submitting your application.

6. Assessment of applications

6.1 Requests Not to Assess process

A Request Not to Assess (RNTA) form is now submitted in RMS as detailed on [GrantConnect](#) and the [ARC website](#).

6.2 What is the maximum character limit for justification for RNTA?

If a request includes the name of a current ARC College of Experts member, as listed on the [ARC website](#), or in RMS at the time of submitting the RNTA form, the request must be accompanied by a justification (the maximum character count for the justification has been increased to 2500).

7. The National Interest Test (NIT)

7.1 What is the NIT statement and how is it assessed?

Information regarding the requirements of the National Interest Test, including examples and detailed FAQs, can be found on the [ARC website](#).

8. Budget

8.1 What are the expectations for non-mandated contributions in applications submitted for upcoming Grant Opportunities?

For those schemes where Grant Guidelines do not require minimum co-contributions by participating organisations the ARC understands that the level of cash and/or in-kind contributions pledged by Administering Organisations to show support for a proposed research project may be reduced in future applications due to financial impacts. Noting that Administering Organisations still need to take into account the feasibility of the proposed research project if there are reduced contributions.

ARC assessors will be instructed that they should not make assumptions about an Administering Organisation's level of commitment and support of an application solely based on lower levels of pledged additional cash and/or in-kind support than historically provided.

8.2 What salary and stipend figures will appear in the Australian Laureate Fellowships 2024 (FL24) application form?

The salary and stipend figures for FL24 have been updated to 2023\$ in RMS and are displayed in the table below.

Salary and Stipend rates 2023\$

Personnel	Amount
Australian Laureate Fellowship	\$179,840
Postdoctoral Research Associate	\$110,418
Postgraduate Researcher	\$29,880
Australian Laureate Fellowship - Additional Award	up to \$20,000

The salary and stipend figures will be indexed again once the fellowships are awarded so they will be paid at the appropriate rates.

Updated salary and stipend rates are available on the [ARC website](#).

8.3 How does the salary for Australian Laureate Fellows work?

In accordance with subsection A2.4 of the Grant Guidelines, Administering Organisations must provide an Australian Laureate Fellow with a Level E professorial appointment (or equivalent) and salary in line with the Administering Organisation's normal arrangements for the duration of the Australian Laureate Fellowship. The salary provided by the ARC contributes to that salary.

The ARC currently provides a salary for the Australian Laureate Fellow of \$179,840 (2023\$), including 30 per cent on-costs, towards a Professorial Level E (or equivalent) salary provided by the Administering Organisation.

The budget in the application form will automatically populate with the ARC salary amount once an Australian Laureate Fellowship candidate is added to the application. The salary contributes to the Professorial Level E salary already provided by the Administering Organisation and is not intended to be additional funds on top of the salary.

For example, if an Australian Laureate Fellow is currently receiving a salary of \$200,000 per year (including on-costs), the Administering Organisation would use the ARC salary to contribute to the Fellow's salary and provide an additional \$20,160 per year in-kind in the Administering Organisation Letter of Support in Question C2 of the application form to meet the salary level.

The guidance in the Grant Guidelines does not specify a limit on the salary that an Australian Laureate Fellow can receive. Should the Administering Organisation wish to provide the Fellow with additional salary funding beyond the Administering Organisation's normal Professorial Level E amount it can also be shown as an in-kind contribution to the salary of the Fellow via the Administering Organisation Letter of Support in Question C2 of the application form.