Overview of the 2013 ARC Discovery Program & Changes to the Funding Rules

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Overview of ARC DP 2013 Program

The ARC DP program provides funding to Eligible Organisations to fund research. They define research as the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative.
Overview of ARC DP 2013 Program

Objectives

- support excellent basic and applied research by individuals and teams;
- enhance the scale and focus of research in the National Research Priorities;
- expand Australia’s knowledge base and research capability;
- encourage research and research training in high-quality research environments;
- enhance international collaboration in research; and
- foster the international competitiveness of Australian research.

Overview of ARC DP 2013 Program

Features:

- On line application requiring an unique login for all named investigators
- Specific selection criteria
- Clear and detailed rules setting out how an application is formatted and presented
- Assessment by experts and panel members who may not be in the same field of research as the application
Overview of ARC DP 2013 Program

Elements:
A. Administrative Summary – overview of key aspects of the application, title, applicants, submitting organisation, summaries
B. Classifications – FoR codes / SEO codes / Keywords (up to 3 of each)
C. Project Description
D. Project Cost – Budget tables
E. Budget justifications
F. Personnel – personal details for all named investigators (CIs and PIs) and track record information on qualifications, contributions, impact, achievements, publications, previous funding etc.
G. Research Support – previous (funding received in 2011), current (2012) and requested support from all external sources.
H. Statements on Progress – of previous ARC Fellowships or DP or LP Project grants that were awarded funding in 2011
I. Additional Details

Overview of ARC DP 2013 Program

Support available at RMIT:

SEH College R&I – Draft checking and advice, general advice, assistance preparing budgets, College level peer review assistance, sign off by Deputy PVC R&I
URL: http://www.rmit.edu.au/seh/grants

Central Research Support and Performance Team – general advice, guidance on budgets and completing the application, final compliance checks, sign off, and submission to ARC
URL: http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=k33ottx95ahx1
Changes in the 2013 ARC Discovery Funding Rules

**Definitions:** Three key changes:

**Conflict of interest** – clarified and expanded

**Medical and Dental Research** – means research and/or training primarily and substantially aimed at understanding or treating a human disease or health condition.

**Research Environment** – means the laboratory, department, school, centre or institute within the Administering Organisation where the majority of the research will be undertaken.

Changes in the 2013 ARC Discovery Funding Rules

**Selection Criteria:**

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<th>2012</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigator(s)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>Investigator(s)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>Project Quality</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project Quality &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Feasibility and Benefit</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Research Environment</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Research Environment</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Changes in the 2013 ARC Discovery Funding Rules

<table>
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<th>2012</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>b. Project Quality</strong></td>
<td><strong>b. Project Quality and Innovation</strong></td>
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<td>• does the research address a significant problem?</td>
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<td>• is the conceptual/theoretical framework innovative and original?</td>
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<td>• will the aims, concepts, methods and results advance knowledge?</td>
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<td>• are the project design and methods appropriate?</td>
<td>• Do the Project’s design, participants and requested budget create confidence in the timely and successful completion of the Project?</td>
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<td>• will the proposed research provide economic, environmental and/or social benefit to Australia?</td>
<td>• Will the completed Project produce innovative economic, environmental, social and/or cultural benefit to the Australian and international community?</td>
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<td>• does the project address National Research Priorities?</td>
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5.2 Budget items supported

e. PhD stipends, at a minimum of $23,728 (2012$);

g. specialised computer equipment and software essential to the Project;

h. teaching relief up to a total value of $40,000 per year;

i. travel costs essential to the Project, including economy travel costs for domestic and/or international travel and not exceeding $50,000, over the life of the Project. Funding is permitted for CIs, PIs and research support personnel.
Changes in the 2013 ARC Discovery Funding Rules

5.2 Budget items not supported

d. costs not directly related to research, for example, professional membership fees, fees for patent application and holding, visas, relocation, costs of dependants, insurance, and mobile phones (purchase or call charges); and

e. bench fees or similar laboratory access fees.

Changes in the 2013 ARC Discovery Funding Rules

5.4 Research / Activities Not Supported

Change in the definition of Medical and Dental research:

2012

5.4.2 The Discovery Projects scheme does not support medical and dental research, defined as research and/or training which, in the opinion of the ARC, has a significant focus on near-term clinical medical (including dental) outcomes. This includes but is not limited to Projects that deal substantially with any of the following areas of research:

• Using human subjects to test the clinical efficacy of a diagnostic or therapeutic agent or medically applicable device or material;
• Using material collected from human subjects for the purpose of studying disease prevalence, epidemiology or mode of inheritance;
• Observation or treatment of human patients for clinical medical or dental purposes; or
• Prevention of disease by medical and/or dental intervention in human subjects.

2013

5.4.2 The Discovery Projects scheme does not support medical and dental research, defined as research and/or training primarily and substantially aimed at understanding or treating a human disease or human health condition. This includes, but is not limited to, Projects that involve any of the following:

• late pre-clinical or early human trials of a human therapeutic agent, material or diagnostic test or device, or other interventional research involving humans;
• using material collected from human subjects for the primary purpose of studying the underlying causes, prevalence, epidemiology or mode of inheritance of a disease or human condition; or
• using established animal models or established cell lines for the purpose of studying the underlying causes, prevalence, epidemiology or mode of inheritance of a human disease or human health condition.
Changes in the 2013 ARC Discovery Funding Rules

**Discovery Outstanding Researcher Award (DORA):**

- CIs may apply for one DORA only in the current round
- Only **one** may be requested per proposal
- A DORA recipient may not commence another ARC Fellowship or Award until after the entire DORA component has been expended.
- A DORA recipient may hold only one more DORA
- DORA funds may be used for other purposes to support the Project in exceptional or changed personal circumstances, but only with approval of ARC

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Changes in the 2013 ARC Discovery Funding Rules

- DECRA recipient may be funded concurrently for only **ONE** other Project under the Discovery Scheme or Centres Program
- The ARC will not accept applications for Fellowships or Awards where the candidate has applied, or intends to apply, for another Commonwealth-funded fellowship within the **six months** before or after the ARC closing date for proposals.
- A CI on a Program or Project Grant or Centre of Research Excellence receiving funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2013 may only apply for a **maximum of one Discovery Project** for funding commencing in 2013.
Changes in the 2013 ARC Discovery Funding Rules

14.3 Confidentiality

2012

14.3.1 The ARC gives no undertaking to keep confidential any information provided in the Proposal except where required by law.

2013

14.3.1 The ARC will treat information contained in a Proposal as confidential. However, the ARC may disclose information contained in a Proposal, or otherwise provided to the ARC, to the extent that the information is:

14.3.2 Where information contained in a Proposal is made available to third parties for evaluation or assessment purposes the ARC will require the third parties to maintain the confidentiality of the material.