ARC Discovery – Research Environment

Caroline Northwood,
Senior Manager, R&I Development

Selection Criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigator(s)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Quality</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Environment</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you don’t do this section well, you won’t get a grant!
ARC Discovery 2012 – Research Environment

ARC DP12 Funding Rules:
Section 4.3c. Research Environment 20%
• Is there an existing, or developing, supportive and high quality research environment for this Project?
• are the necessary facilities to complete the project available?
• are there adequate strategies to encourage dissemination, commercialisation, if appropriate; and promotion of research outcomes?

ARC DP12 Instructions to Applicants:
RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT
• Describe the existing, or developing research environment within the Administering Organisation/ Collaborating Organisation(s) for this Project.
• Describe how the Project fits with the Administering Organisation’s strategic Research Plan or other strategic developments, if applicable.
• Outline the plans for communicating research results, including scholarly and public communication and dissemination.

This section is not about saying how wonderful RMIT is, its about why RMIT is the best place to do the project you propose.

TELL A GOOD NEWS STORY
The Government will support excellent research in the best environment for that research. You need to demonstrate momentum, networks and clusters of expertise that are clearly connected to RMIT University's articulated strategies. Strategies might be at School/College/Centre/Institute/Central level.

Elements:

- Strategy
- Intellectual Environment of Team/Project
- Facilities
- Support
- Communication/dissemination of research outcomes

Your statement must be RELEVANT to your project and team
1. Specific SCHOOL strategies for research focus and development

2. RMIT Strategy:
   - Strategic Plan Goals: Urban, Connected, Global
   - Five research focus areas:
     - Designing the future
     - Smart technology solutions
     - Improving health and lifestyle
     - Sustainability and climate change challenges
     - The future of cities
   - Five broad industry sectors

ARC Discovery 2012 – Research Environment

RMIT Research Institutes:
- Does your research fit within a research institute?
- How does it contribute to the focused capacity of that institute platform?
Strategic networks and affiliations:

• Centres of Research Excellence (particularly those funded by the ARC)
• CSIRO
• CRCs
• International Universities (with formally agreed links e.g. MOUs etc)

ARC Discovery 2012 – Research Environment

Strategy (cont):

Responses must be specific to YOUR team/project

• What School / College / Centre / Institute / Central initiatives and strategies or plans support your research
• How does YOUR research contribute to research focus areas in your School?
• How do you contribute to/boost the capacity of this research area at RMIT?
• Are you (or is your group) a member of a University Research Centre or Institute? How does your research contribute?
Intellectual environment:

How would you describe your research environment at RMIT?

How would you like to be able to describe it?

What are the elements of an IDEAL research environment?

What elements ARE present? Focus on those.
The strongest case will be tailored to your research:

- Is this an existing research area with a top quality research environment? OR
- Could it be described as a DEVELOPING area?
  - What aspects are improving?
  - Have there been any new appointments?
  - How does the area have momentum and show growth?
  - What is the level of enthusiasm among researchers working in this area?
  - Does it have critical mass?
  - Is it dynamic?
- Have there been any recent strategic developments that add value to the research area?

ARC Discovery 2012 – Research Environment

Intellectual environment (cont):

- Who has the highest research profile in this research area at RMIT and do they act as a mentor to you? If it’s you, who is in your team to support you? HDR students, junior postdoctoral researchers, mid career researchers?
- Have researchers in the area received acclaim or awards for their research?
- What opportunities for research training are there in the project and what strategies are there to enhance the research environment, to stimulate, promote and enhance the research experience of HDR candidates?
  
  RMIT International Industry Experience and Research Program (RIIERP)? Industry placements? Strong connections with key industries? Industry co supervision? Supportive environment? Dedicated Graduate Research School to support HDR candidates?
Facilities & Equipment:

- What specialist facilities or items of equipment are available at RMIT for your work that are not available elsewhere?

- Do you make use of:
  - Equipment funded by the ARC through its LIEF scheme?
  - E-research office?
  - Microscopy lab?
  - Design Hub?

Support:

- What opportunities are available to you as a researcher at RMIT that will enhance your capacity to produce high quality research?

- RMIT Research Repository

- What other support of facilitation services relevant to research and the promotion of research outcomes do you use/benefit from?
Consider the initiatives at RMIT to support research:

- Enabling international visitors (through the RMIT Distinguished Research Fellows Scheme and other mechanisms)
- Supporting research leave
- Support for travel to conferences
- Seed funding to develop new ideas
- Initiatives to build research culture and stimulate new ideas
- Research repository – and its role in building citations for RMIT research outputs
- HDR conferences and events at School and College level

Communication and dissemination:

- What support do you have to disseminate the results of your work – in top journals, at conferences, to the media, to develop work to proof of concept, submit patents and to commercialise?
- Does RMIT have any strong industry or community links in this area that might streamline the translation of research into commercial outcomes or practice?
- Are there any strong relationships with stakeholders or partners that might enable the dissemination of your research outcomes into the wider community?
- How might the work reinforce international partnerships?
- What potential future collaborations might be facilitated or enhanced by the proposed project and how will these build Australia’s reputation and capabilities in this area?
Links:

• Research Institutes: http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=szg5xnk3iyv11

• RMIT Research Centres:
  http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=jms9j6whqbc

• SEH College Research Strength groups:
  http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=vdt5qtljgfkgz

(NOTE: Strengths are currently being cross referenced with ERA performance and should be used with discretion and supporting evidence for excellence)

• Partnerships in ARC Research Centres of Excellence:
  ARC Centre for Ultrahigh bandwidth Devices for Optical Systems http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=99a3b7nb70w51

And:

• E-research office:
  http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=k88bcp9vlf6tz

• Design Hub:
  http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=4nzf9378h5ulz

• Advanced Manufacturing Precinct:
  http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=21qtfq3c3d9c3

• Frequently Asked Questions about RMIT research strategy:
  http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=vt6p8p3n9pj9

• RMITs performance in Excellence in Research Australia (ERA):
  http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=hhvc1iybieep

• ERA News:
  http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=7uzznb4dkm0pz

• Research collaborations and partnerships with industry and government:
  http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=2rtse4htdzdo
ARC Discovery 2012 – Research Environment

**Further advice and guidance:**

1. Trusted mentors, particularly those who are great at giving high quality constructive feedback and can be critical when needed;
2. Relevant Institute Directors – David Adams, Xinghuo Yu, Paul James, Mark Burry;
3. Head of School and Deputy Head of School, Research whoever knows the School research strategy best (perhaps your School Manager?);
4. Senior Academic Colleagues who are connected and involved and attuned to developments around strategy and plans for improving research;
5. Peers who are positive about the future at RMIT;
6. Grant development staff at College and University level

---

ARC Discovery 2012 – Research Environment

Remember – this is a new component of ARC Discovery we are all

**NOVICES**

Share your ideas and support each other.

If you have a great idea that could be added to the Research Environment guidelines let me know.