



ALERT 7: ARC DISCOVERY ROUND

This Bulletin is the seventh of the regular alerts that are issued by the Grants Management Office in the lead-up to the closing date for this year's ARC Discovery Round.

TOPICS COVERED

1. DP10 Current Statistics
2. Reminder – You must meet your ARC reporting requirements to be eligible for ARC funding
3. Eligibility conditions applying to researchers at Commonwealth-funded Research Centres
4. PhD Stipend rate
5. Budget Tips

1. DP10 CURRENT STATISTICS

As at Monday 16 February, 362 applications have been registered on GAMS. With only 146 drafts received by last Friday 13 February, the Grants Management Office is going to find it extremely difficult to thoroughly compliance-check those applications that come through over the next two weeks. If you fall in that number (and particularly if you are going to be very late in providing your draft), make sure you complete your own compliance check using our [Compliance Checklist](#). The [UNSW Instructions to Applicants](#) will also be useful to those taking a "DIY" approach.

Our most up to date statistics on the round are available at http://www.gmo.unsw.edu.au/ApplyingForFunds/ARC/weekly_dp09_vs_dp10.xls

2. REMINDER – MEET YOUR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS!

Progress reports for Discovery Projects, Linkage Projects and Federation Fellowships were due on 31 January 2009. The ARC does grant some leeway, given the time of year and the volumes of reports they receive but they do expect your reports to be provided in a timely manner. Please note the ARC may rule ineligible any new application where a named CI has not met their reporting requirements on prior grants. Please check your records and submit a report or, alternatively, alert us to the problem if our grant records are incorrect.

3. NUMBER OF DPS ALLOWABLE WHEN ASSOCIATED WITH A COMMONWEALTH-FUNDED RESEARCH CENTRE

The limit on number of DPS held/applied for is the same for Commonwealth Funded Research Centres as non Centres: that is it is a maximum of 2 DPS (unless you are a sole CI); both of which can be as a CI or as one fellowship and one CI. This is dealt with under sec. 6.6.2 of the Funding Rules with part a for non Centres and part h for Centres. It appears the reason why the two are listed separately under sec 6.6.2 is financial, as project costs are allowed in the budgets for non-Commonwealth-funded Research Centres but not in the budgets for Commonwealth Research Centres; otherwise they are both the same from a total number of DPS held/applied for, point of view. See sec 7.1.3 and Appendix C1.3 of the Funding Rules for details on limitations to project funding.

However if you are a named associate of an **ARC-funded** Centre, then you can only be involved in one "Discovery Projects" Project.

And there is one important requirement for all Centre-associated researchers. A supporting letter must be provided as the final page of your application. The supporting letter must:

- describe the relationship between the proposed research and the research undertaken by the Centre; and
- for CIs explain how, and explicitly state that, the proposed research does not duplicate work that is already funded or could reasonably be expected to be funded by the Centre; and
- for Fellows confirm that her/his project costs will be funded by the Centre; and
- provide details regarding the future of the Centre's research activities and the employment circumstances of the CI or Fellowship candidate if Commonwealth funding for the Centre is likely, or is due, to terminate during the 2010 calendar year (Funding Rules sec 9.3)

4. PHD STIPENDS

PhD stipends have not been set by the ARC and therefore UNSW has adopted a nominal rate of \$26,000 pa. Do not build in annual increases to this amount.

5. Budget Tips

- i) Put only UNSW costs/in-kind contributions into column 3 "University". In-kind contributions for PIs or CIs from other institutions go into column 4 "Other".
- ii) For indirect costs multiply the combined salary contribution for each professional staff member who has an amount listed in columns 2 and/or 3 and/or 4 by a multiplier of 1.25 on the direct payroll costs (salary plus on-costs) of laboratory-based research and 0.92 on the direct payroll costs for non-laboratory based research (see the examples below). Do not apply the salary multiplier to general staff positions, eg research or technical assistants.
- iii) ICAs are for CIs visiting PI overseas or for PI to visit CI in Australia and must be fully justified against the project (use Part C2 and Part E4 – in particular the project plan – to demonstrate the importance of the face-to-face contact at critical points in the research program. If someone is not named on the grant then a travel request should be made instead of an ICA.

6. Formatting

We are receiving applications with simple formatting issues especially the non-observance of 2 cm margins and formatting in 12 point type face. Whilst we can and do address these, it does take time and this is time we could otherwise be spending on more complex compliance issues on grant review. Therefore your assistance would be appreciated.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

Email mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au

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