NIT purpose

The NIT is a simple cohesive statement that demonstrates to a member of the general public how the proposed research can be of value to Australia.

These statements deepen community understanding of why public money is being invested in each research project, and help Australia’s policymakers, community and industry draw on that research.

Additionally, the statements provide an opportunity for applicants to promote the value of their research to the broader community.

More information:

https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/national-interest-test-statement
### Changes from 1 December 2022

- Considerations to be addressed in the statement have been refined
- Word/character limit has been increased to 200/1500
- NIT statements will be certified by the Deputy Vice Chancellors Research as addressing the three considerations in plain English and that the statement is directed towards the public audience
- There will be no revisions to the NIT once submitted to ARC
- The NIT will be provided to assessors as an input to the peer review process

### Previous Considerations vs. For schemes opening from 1 December 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous Considerations</th>
<th>For schemes opening from 1 December 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What is the project about? Describe the project in 1-2 sentences.</td>
<td>1. What is the project about and what research gap is it addressing for Australia?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. What are the expected outcomes of the project? What gap is it addressing</td>
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<td>3. How will the research benefit Australia (economically, socially, environmentally, commercially, or culturally)? How might the research be used?</td>
<td>2. How could the research benefit Australians (economically, socially, environmentally, commercially, or culturally)?</td>
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<td>4. What translation and adoption pathway(s) might be used to achieve the outcome? For example, are there conditions that would need to be in place for the outcome to occur? If so, briefly describe them.</td>
<td>3. How might you promote your research outcomes beyond academia to maximise understanding, translation, use and adoption of the research in future?</td>
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Previous ARC feedback

Most commonly, feedback related to understandability by the general public. Technical language was questioned even though it might be considered common in a discipline. Unjustified sweeping claims were questioned.

**Most Common comments**

• Please revise to address the audience - a member of the public with no background.

• Consider using practical examples of how the research will benefit a member of the public or the community

**Sweeping Claims**

• The project will generate high-quality, field-leading advanced knowledge of the processes of ...

• ... will provide new insights, which are previously unknown, and their value is only recognized once found

**Technical language**

• species distributions

• domain developers

• quantum computing and quantum communication

• solvent streams

• solutes
Writing approach

- The NIT is considered as a whole statement but focusing on answering the questions to start with will make sure that you have addressed them.

- Don’t use sweeping or grandiose statements or adjectives (world-leading, cutting-edge) to justify the importance of the research, focus on the anticipated benefits.

- No technical language, even common technical terms, you might need to use more words to describe something in plain English. NB technical terms used regularly in news and current affairs or popular culture might be fine.

- You can be speculative about the benefits (“How could it benefit Australians?”) but be specific about what those benefits might be.

- Use practical, relatable examples to describe both the project and the benefits.

- Have someone outside your discipline review your NIT.

- Write it early and come back to it.
Examples of accepted NITs


More: https://www.arc.gov.au/national-interest-test-statements