Australian Government
Australian Research Council

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY DISCOVERY RESEARCH GRANTS

Intelligence Challenges Application Support (ICAS) Initiative

The National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants (NISDRG) Intelligence Challenges Grant Opportunity is funded by the Office of National Intelligence (ONI) supporting excellent research that deepens our understanding of emerging science and technology and addresses intelligence interests.

With the aim of facilitating innovation and developing intelligence capacity, the program values equality, diversity, and inclusion in the research workforce and aligns with ARC's approach based on a number of established policies and practices, including the ARC's Gender Equality strategy.

In order to drive greater equality, diversity, and inclusion in the ONI-funded research workforce, ARC, on behalf of ONI, will pilot the Intelligence Challenges Application Support (ICAS) Initiative to provide additional support to eligible Applicants in the application process and support the program intent of identifying and building capability in the University Sector.

Aims of ICAS

The aims of the ICAS Initiative are to:

- level the application playing field for the researchers from underrepresented/disadvantaged groups;
- drive greater equality, diversity, and inclusion in the ONI-funded research workforce in support of the National Intelligence Community (NIC);
- support the program intent of identifying and building best-quality capability in the University Sector.

> " **Did you know the National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants (NISDRG) program is piloting the ICAS initiative to help level the playing field for less established researchers?**
>
> – JUDY SATRAPA
> DIRECTOR RESEARCH GRANTS SERVICES

ARC | **RGS** RESEARCH GRANTS SERVICES

Eligibility:

Applicants, who fulfill the eligibility criteria to become a Project Leader or Chief Investigator (CI) according to the NISDRG Grant Guidelines (NI24), will be eligible to access ICAS where they also meet the following criteria:

Category	Criteria
All named participants in an application must be Australian citizens, Australian Permanent Residents or New Zealand Special Category Visa holders.	
Early-mid-career researchers (EMCRs)	Researchers with less than 10 years since the award of earliest PhD including an allowable period of career interruption as outlined in Appendix A
AND **fulfills at least one of the below criteria**	
Indigenous/First Nation researchers	Self-reported as Indigenous/First Nation People
Female and non-binary researchers	Researchers who identify themselves as women and/or non-binary
People from Non-English-Speaking Background (NESB) or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)	Researchers with a non-English speaking background who arrived in Australia less than 10 years from a non-English-speaking country
People with Disability	Self-reported as a person with a disability
Researchers from regional and remote areas	Researchers from regional and remote areas having a permanent home address in an SA1/postcode area that is classified as regional or remote using historic MCEETYA classifications and the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

How to Access ICAS

- Enquiries regarding the ICAS Initiative must come through the Research Office.

- Eligible applicants must submit their Notification of Interest to join the ICAS Webinar Series through the Research Office of their respective University.

- The Research Offices will conduct an eligibility check for each applicant and forward a compiled list of Notification of Interest confirming the eligibility of the participants (a template will be provided in due course) to the ARC.

- ARC will invite eligible applicants to the ICAS Webinar Series directly.
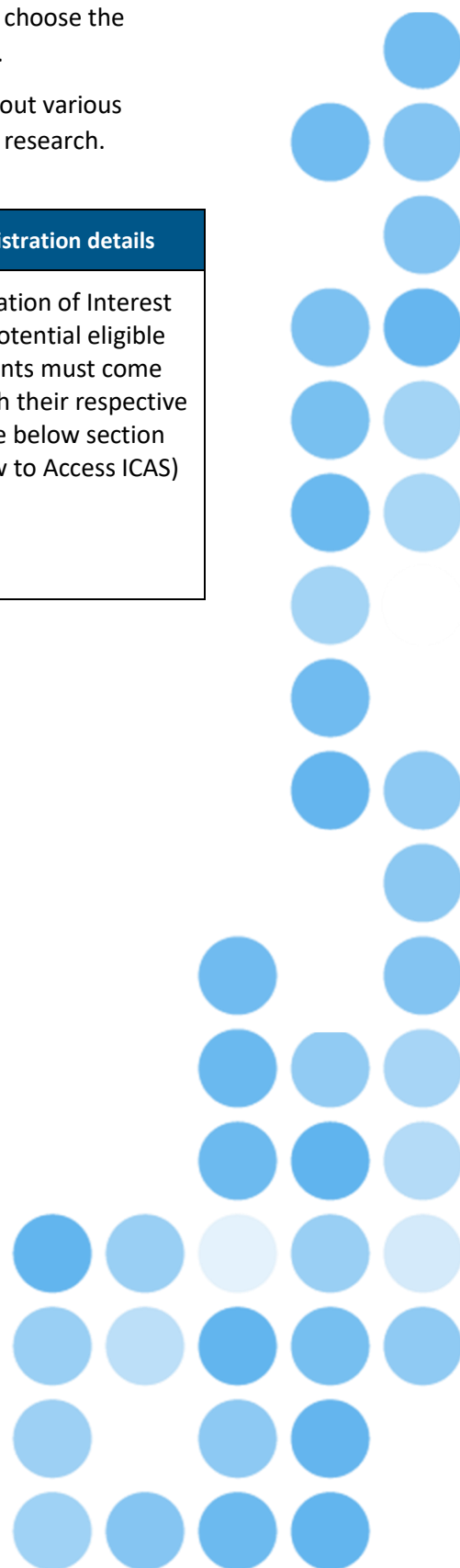
ICAS Webinar Series

- Three Webinars will be conducted for attendees and Research Office staff prior to the opening of the EOI.

- An Expert Panel, comprising Senior Researchers from funded Intelligence Challenges grants and representatives from ONI and the ARC, will provide their insights and guidance on various aspects of applying for grants, specific to the NISDRG Intelligence Challenges.

- Each Webinar will cover a different topic allowing participants to choose the session(s) they attend. Webinar topics will be announced shortly.

- The ICAS Webinar Series will allow attendees to ask questions about various aspects of NISDRG grant applications and Intelligence Challenges research.

Webinar	Date and time	Registration details
ICAS Webinar 1 for Applicants	Wednesday, 9 August 2023 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Notification of Interest from potential eligible applicants must come through their respective RO (see below section on How to Access ICAS)
ICAS Webinar 2 for Applicants	Monday, 14 August 2023 from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	
ICAS Webinar 3 for Applicants	Thursday, 17 August 2023 from 1:00 pm – - 2:30 pm	

Contact Information

Research Grants Services
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researchgrants.gov.au
twitter.com/GrantsResearch

Appendix A: Allowable Career Interruptions

Allowable career interruptions and timeframes for NISDRG Application Support Initiative

Reason for Career Interruption	Time that can be claimed
Disruption due to international relocation.	A period of time commensurate with the interruption not exceeding three months per international relocation
- Caring responsibilities - Disability - Disaster management and recovery - Limited or no access to facilities and resources—such as through workplace interruptions - Medical conditions - Non-research positions, not concurrent with research employment - Parental leave - Unemployment	A period of time commensurate with the interruption
Primary carer of a dependent child	Up to 2 years, inclusive of parental leave, per dependent child. If required, an additional period of time commensurate with the interruption.