ARC

Australian Government

Australian Research Council

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Future Fellowships for funding commencing 2024 (FT24)

Version 1.4   **Release Date: October 31, 2023**

- All participants should read the Discovery Program Grant Guidelines - Fellowships (2023 edition) (Grant Guidelines) available on GrantConnect and specific *Instructions to Applicants* documents available on Grant Connect as they contain important information for Research Office staff and individual participants preparing applications.

- The Australian Research Council (ARC) does not respond to queries from individual participants. Individual participants should direct all queries regarding ARC grant opportunities to their Administering Organisation's Research Office (or equivalent). If further information regarding the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) is required, the Research Office should contact the NCGP at arc-ncgp@arc.gov.au

- Information regarding the Research Management System (RMS) is available at the ARC website, or by contacting arc-systems@arc.gov.au for assistance.

This Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated as required.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Timing of Grant Opportunities**

1.1 **Where are the key dates for upcoming ARC Grant Opportunities advised?**

Dates of all upcoming ARC Grant Opportunities are published on the NCGP scheme timelines on the [ARC Grants Calendar.](#)

1.2 **When will the Funding Outcomes be announced?**

The ARC publishes anticipated Funding Announcement dates. Please refer to the Scheme Calendar PDF on the [ARC Grants Calendar.](#)

2. **Application information**

2.1 **Can I include requests for both domestic and international travel in my application?**

Yes. You can include requests for both domestic and international travel in accordance with the requirements set out in the relevant Grant Guidelines, noting that researchers should include a realistic plan of how their research will be undertaken. Where an application is successful, any changes to the proposed travel plans due to the impact of environmental factors (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics, etc) will be managed as a post award issue.

2.2 **What font size can I use for figures, tables, or pictures in my application to comply with ARC submission requirements?**

Applicants should ensure that the text is readable both online and in print as detailed in the Instructions to Applicants. It is recommended that 12pt font is used. Readability also needs to be ensured for text within figures and tables and it is recommended that 10pt font is used.

2.3 **Why am I getting a warning message at Question D1 'What is the proposed budget for your project'?**

For Question D1 of the Application Form, you should ensure that the Future Fellowship Salary Level selected at Question D1 corresponds with the academic salary level selected at Question B18 – 'What is the Future Fellowship candidate's current academic level'. If the correct level does not correspond a warning message will appear at Question D1 advising applicants to check their answers to Question B18.

As described in the Discovery Program Grant Guidelines – Fellowships (2023 edition), clause B 2.6 (b), a candidate may choose a Future Fellowship salary level that does not align with their current academic level. In such a case the warning message will remain in Question D1 and will not prevent submission of the application. Justification for choosing a Future Fellowship salary level that

does not align with the candidate's current academic level may be included in the 'Administering Organisation Letter of Support' at Question C2.

The budget table at Question D1 will by default auto-populate to Future Fellowship Salary Level 1 once a candidate has been added at Question A2 'Person Participant Summary'. To change the level, you must use the drop-down menu in the budget at Question D1 to select the appropriate Future Fellowship Salary Level.

2.4 How should I complete the Question D1 'What is the proposed budget for your project'?

The ARC strongly recommends entering a simplified budget into the Budget Table at Question D1, meaning that each category (e.g., Travel, Field Research, Equipment) should have a one-line budget figure, instead of listing each item.

For example, if you are requesting two sets of Travel in Year 1, one at a cost of $5000 and another at a cost of $1500, the Budget Table should show only the total amount of funding requested for travel in Year 1 i.e. $6500. The request will need to be justified in Question D2.

3. Career Interruptions

3.1 COVID-19 has affected my academic record. Is this considered a career interruption as part of the Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – Career Interruptions?

Yes. The Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) assessment criterion allows inclusion and consideration of any career interruption, which has affected a candidate's opportunities to undertake and contribute to research.

Career interruptions arising from COVID-19 can be included under ROPE.

3.2 How do I enter my career interruptions in the Application Form? Will assessors be able to see the details of my interruptions?

Information on how to enter the candidate's career interruptions can be found in Question B6 'Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – Career Interruptions' of the Instructions to Applicants (ITAs). Examples of how career interruptions can be entered can be found in the Appendix of the ITAs.

Assessors will not be able to see the details of the entered career interruptions, nor will they be made visible in the PDF.

Assessors will only see the total period of interruption which RMS will automatically calculate using the entered career interruptions. The following question and answers from Question B6 will be viewable:

Question: Has the Future Fellowship candidate experienced a significant interruption that has impacted on research opportunity?
Answer: 'Yes' or 'No'

If 'Yes' is selected, and career interruptions are entered, the following statement will appear:

Question: Total Period of Career Interruptions
Answer (auto-fill): 'Researcher [Participant Name] has reported a career interruption of [duration] since [Year of earliest interruption].

4. Time Commitments

4.1 How much time must I commit to research activities relating to the project?

As per the Grant Guidelines, it is a requirement for the Future Fellowship candidate to commit a minimum of 80% (0.8 FTE) of their time to research and research capacity-building activities related to the Future Fellowship. Research capacity-building activities could include research leadership in teams and centres (ARC Centres) and supervision of HDR students but does not include a major role in administration.

4.2 How much time can I spend on activities not related to the Future Fellowship such as teaching?

As per the Grant Guidelines, the Future Fellow candidate must not spend more than 20% (0.2 FTE) of their time on activities not related to the Future Fellowship such as teaching. The Future Fellowship will not be extended to accommodate any periods of teaching.

5. Logistics support for Antarctic research

5.1 What logistics advice should I seek if my proposed research project included Antarctic research?

If your proposed research project includes Antarctic research that will require logistical support, please contact the [Australian Antarctic Division](#) for advice about available logistical support prior to submitting your application.

6.   Assessment of applications

6.1   Requests Not to Assess process

A Request Not to Assess (RNTA) form is now submitted in RMS as detailed on GrantConnect and the ARC website.

6.2   What is the maximum character limit for justification for RNTA?

If a request includes the name of a current ARC College of Experts member, as listed on the ARC website, or in RMS at the time of submitting the RNTA form, the request must be accompanied by a justification (the maximum character count for the justification has been increased to 2500 characters).

7.   The National Interest Test (NIT)

7.1   What is the NIT statement and how is it assessed?

Information regarding the requirements of the National Interest Test, including examples and detailed FAQs, can be found on the ARC Website

8.   Budget

8.1   What are the expectations for non-mandated contributions in applications submitted for upcoming Grant Opportunities?

For those schemes where Grant Guidelines do not require minimum co-contributions by participating organisations the ARC understands that the level of cash and/or in-kind contributions pledged by Administering Organisations to show support for a proposed research project may vary. Noting that, Administering Organisations still need to take into account the feasibility of the proposed research project if there are reduced contributions.
ARC assessors will be instructed that they should not make assumptions about an Administering Organisation's level of commitment and support of an application solely based on lower levels of pledged additional cash and/or in-kind support than historically provided.

8.2   What salary and stipend figures will appear in the Future Fellowships 2024 (FT24) application form?

The salary and stipend figures for FT24 have been updated to 2023$ in RMS and are displayed in the table below.

Future Fellow candidate Salary and Stipend rates 2023$

Current Academic Salary Level (or equivalent)	Future Fellowship salary level to be requested	Total
Level A and B	Level 1 (1.0 FTE)	$170,848 (including 30 per cent on-costs)
Level C	Level 2 (1.0 FTE)	$206,818 (including 30 per cent on-costs)

Current Academic Salary Level (or equivalent)	Future Fellowship salary level to be requested	Total
Level D and E	Level 3 (1.0 FTE)	$242,783 (including 30 per cent on-costs)

Stipend rates 2023$

Higher Degree by Research	$29,880

The salary and stipend figures will be indexed again once the fellowships are awarded so they will be paid at 2023$ rates.

Updated salary and stipend rates are available on the ARC website.

9. What has changed from last round? Summary of changes to the FT24 Application Form and FT24 Instructions to Applicants (ITAs)

9.1 The Form Parts in the FT24 Application Form have been re-ordered.

The Form Parts in the Application Form have been changed to the following order to assist assessors in finding the information most crucial to their assessments:

- Part A – Administrative Summary
- Part B – Participant Details including ROPE (previously Part F)
- Part C – Project Description (previously Part D)
- Part D – Project Cost (previously Part E)
- Part E – Classification and Other Statistical Information (previously Part B)
- Part F – Project Eligibility (previously Part C)

9.2 Part A – Administrative Summary

- Question A5 - The National Interest Test Statement has been made visible to assessors as it now provides an input to the peer review assessment of the application.

9.3 Part B - Participant Details including ROPE

- Question B2 - Current country of residence will no longer be viewable by the assessors.
- Question B6 'Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Interruptions' has been rebuilt so that participants can enter all periods of career interruption and RMS will automatically calculate their total interruptions. Additionally, the question has been updated so that the assessors will not see the specific dates, full time equivalent and category of each interruption, nor will this information be populated into the application PDF. Assessors will only be able to see the total period of interruptions to help determine research opportunity.
- Question B7 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Highlights is *a new question* intended to promote equity, recognising that applicants may have varied research opportunities and focusing the evaluation on the quality rather than quantity of an applicant's research activities. An applicant can list up to 10 career

highlights, such as prizes, awards, industry engagement, keynote and speaker addresses, research income, discipline specific accolades, intellectual property, supervision, non-traditional research outputs or any other career or research opportunity highlight.

- Question B8 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Details of the Future Fellowship candidate's career, evidence of research impact and contributions to the field, including those most relevant to this application and evidence of leadership, mentoring and research training or supervision. – This is *a new question* linked to the 'Investigator/Capability' assessment criteria and intended to demonstrate an applicant's capability, mentoring and capacity building skills and achievements.

- Question B9 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - How many PhDs, Masters and Honours students that the Future Fellowship candidate has supervised have completed their degree? – This is *a new question* linked to 'Investigator/Capability' selection criteria intended to demonstrate an applicant's capability, mentoring and capacity building skills and achievements in supervision.

- Question B10 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Research Outputs Context has a character limit of 3750 characters or 500 words in total for two purposes. 1). There is 200 words or up to 1500 characters in total to provide clear information that explains the relative importance of different research outputs and expectations in the Future Fellowship candidate's discipline. 2) There is up to 300 words or 2250 characters in total to provide clear information about the research impact of each of the ten selected career-best outputs. Each annotation can be up to 30 words in length.

- Question B11 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – 10 Career-Best Research Outputs now has a validation so that applicants can only list up to 10 outputs.
  Please note - applicants will receive an error message in RMS if more than 10 research outputs are added to Question B11. Although research outputs listed for this question that exceed the limit of 10 will appear if the 'generate PDF' option is selected and the error message will not show on the PDF, the application will not be able to be submitted through RMS until the error is resolved and the applicant has listed no more than 10 research outputs.

- Question B18 - What is the Future Fellowship candidate's current academic level? – The 'other' category has been removed from the drop-down list. If a candidate is applying from an academic position outside Australia, please select the Australian academic level that corresponds to the Future Fellowship level of their application.

- Question B19: Project Relinquishment and Application Withdrawal will no longer be viewable by the assessors.

9.4   Part C – Project Description

- Question C1 - Project Description has had the page limit reduced from 10 to 7 pages and the questions to address the assessment criteria have also been updated and reduced. For instance, instead of the former heading "Feasibility and Strategic Alignment", applicants are encouraged to address these selection criteria across the relevant sections of their application: including, ROPE (B7-11); Project Quality and Innovation (C1

– Project Description); the Letter of Support (C2); and the Budget Justification (D2).

9.5 Part D – Project Cost

- Question D1 - What is the proposed budget for the project? In the Budget Table at Question D1, individual items are to be entered only in the Personnel sections. All other categories (Travel, Field Research etc.) should have a one-line budget figure giving the total funding request and contributions for that section. Details regarding the items making up this total amount should be provided in Question D2 (Justification of funding required from the ARC) and Question D3 (Details of non-ARC contributions) as appropriate.
- Question D1 has a new validation linked to Question B18. Question D1 will not validate if the salary level chosen does not align with the Academic Level chosen at Question B18. Refer to FAQ # 2.3 above for further details.
- Question D2 - Justification of funding requested from the ARC has had the page limit reduced from 5 to 3 pages.

9.6 Changes to FT24 Application Form

The Application Form and Instructions to Applicants have been streamlined to reduce duplication and to eliminate collection of the information that is no longer required.

9.6.1 The below questions were removed. Note the question numbers relate to their position in the last scheme round (FT23). Some of the questions have been removed where requirements are met through certification, where they duplicate information provided elsewhere in the application, or where they do not align with scheme objectives or assessment criteria.
- Question B6: What is the nature of the proposed international collaboration activities?
- Question C3: Current Funding
- Question C4: Other applications(s) for funding
- Question D1: Please confirm that potential risks have been taken into consideration for the proposed project, including the impacts of COVID-19.
- Question F3: Fields of Research (FoR-2020)
- Question F4: Expertise Text
- Question F7: What will the Future Fellowship candidate's time commitment be to research activities related to this project?
- Question F15: Eligibility - Academic level justification
- Question F16: Eligibility - Current Research Fellowship or Award funded by other Australian Government agencies
- Question F23: Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Detail the number of students the Future Fellowship candidate has supervised over the last 5 years

9.6.2 The ROPE questions have been updated:
- Question B6 'Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Interruptions' has been rebuilt so that participants can enter all periods of career interruption and RMS will automatically calculate their total interruptions. Additionally, the question has been updated so that

the assessors will not see the specific dates, full time equivalent and category of each interruption, nor will this information be populated into the application PDF. Assessors will only be able to see the total period of interruptions to help determine research opportunity.

- Question B7: Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Highlights
- Question B8: Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Details of the Future Fellowship candidate's career, evidence of research impact and contributions to the field, including those most relevant to this application and evidence of leadership, mentoring and research training or supervision.
- Question B9: Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - How many PhDs, Masters and Honours students that the Future Fellowship candidate has supervised have completed their degree?
- Question B10 - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Research Outputs Context has a character limit of 3750 characters or 500 words in total for two purposes. 1). There is 200 words or up to 1,500 characters in total to provide clear information that explains the relative importance of different research outputs and expectations in the Future Fellowship candidate's discipline. 2) There is up to 300 words or 2250 characters in total to provide clear information about the research impact of each of the ten selected career-best outputs. Each annotation can be up to 30 words in length.
- Question B11: The Research Outputs listing has been reduced to a maximum of 10 career-best outputs.
- Question B18 - What is the Future Fellowship candidate's current academic level? - The 'other' category has been removed from the drop-down list. If a candidate is applying from an academic position outside Australia, they are asked to select the Australian academic level that corresponds to the Future Fellowship level of their application.

9.6.3   Question D2: Justification of funding requested from the ARC has had the page limit reduced from 5 to 3 pages.

10. Discovery Program Information Session for FT24 Questions and Answers – 17 October 2023.

10.1 What options are available for Future Fellowships applicants who may be currently employed at a particular academic level at the University but wish to apply at a lower ARC level than recommended due to career interruptions and exceptional extenuating circumstances?

As described in the Discovery Program Grant Guidelines – Fellowships (2023 edition), clause B 2.6 (b), a candidate may choose a Future Fellowship salary level that does not align with their current academic level. In such cases where the Future Fellowship salary level selected at Question D1 does not correspond with the academic level selected at Question B18, a warning message will appear at Question D1 advising applicants to check their answers to Question B18. This warning message will not prevent submission of the application. Justification for choosing a Future Fellowship salary level that does not align with the candidate's current academic level may be included in the 'Administering Organisation Letter of Support' at Question C2.

The budget table at Question D1 will by default auto-populate to Future Fellowship Salary Level 1 once a candidate has been added at Question A2 'Person Participant Summary'. To change the level, you must use the drop-down menu in the budget at Question D1 to select the appropriate Future Fellowship Salary Level.

10.2 The Guidelines (B2.6) still say the circumstances of the career interruption and chosen salary level must be justified and certified by the DVCR. How/where is this justified? What are our guidelines for approving the candidate's circumstances?

As described in the Discovery Program Grant Guidelines – Fellowships (2023 edition), clause B 2.6 (b), a candidate may choose a Future Fellowship salary level that does not align with their current academic level. Justification for choosing a Future Fellowship salary level that does not align with the candidate's current academic level may be included in the 'Administering Organisation Letter of Support' at Question C2. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research (DVCR) or equivalent must be satisfied that there is evidence to support all career interruption claims. Please note that all periods of career interruption must be significant and not overlapping, occur after the conferral of a candidate's PhD, or equivalent, and be certified by the DVCR, or equivalent.

10.3 B6 ROPE – Career Interruptions, if an applicant has had legitimate career interruptions but was still able/required to work at 1.0 FTE in research based employment, is there a way for them to claim an estimated quantified Career Interruption in Section B6 of the Future Fellowship application that is still allowable i.e. if an applicant has had a Career Interruption that they estimate at 0.2 FTE, but still technically worked 1.0 FTE, are they able to still claim a Career Interruption in Section B6? If so, is evidence required for these circumstances?

Yes, quantified career interruptions can be specified at B6 when they have occurred concurrent with 1.0 FTE. The DVCR, or equivalent, must be satisfied that there is evidence to support all career interruption claims. They can then

certify the career interruption and its quantification. Please note that all periods of career interruption must be significant and not overlapping, occur after the conferral of a candidate's PhD, or equivalent, and be certified by the DVCR, or equivalent.

10.4   How should applicants deal with the percentage of time dedicated to research post PhD? E.g. - researcher A has worked on a standard 40/40/20 employment contract; researcher B has been 1.0FTE for research. Can researcher A's employment conditions be entered into B6 under the "Non-Research Employment" category even though they are concurrent with research employment?

The candidate is unable to claim "Non-Research Employment" because their employment conditions include a research component. They cannot claim the terms of their work contract as an allowable career interruption under the "Non-Research Employment" category at B6 or B15 if they have a research component in their employment conditions. In contrast, if a candidate is on a Teaching Only contract this would constitute a "Non-Research Employment" career interruption. Candidates are able to briefly describe their research opportunities, including the notional allocation of teaching and research activities specified in their employment contract, in Question B8 if they choose to outline such details for assessors.

10.5   Previously, applicants indicated in their ROPE the percentages of their time on research/teaching/administration. Should applicants claim FTE "lost" based on these percentages at B6? Do the Research Offices now need to keep evidence for this?

No. Applicants cannot claim career interruptions when they hold positions with standard allocations for research, teaching, and administration (e.g., 40/40/20) as there is a research component involved in their employment conditions. They can outline the details of such FTE allocations in B8, if relevant.

10.6   Question C2 now includes the instruction: 'detail how the 0.2 FTE allocated to the administering institution over the life of the Future Fellowship will be used to develop the candidate's career skills.' How should this be addressed if the applicant is dedicating 1.0 FTE to the project?

As specified in the Grant Guidelines, the Future Fellowship candidate must spend a minimum of 0.8 FTE of their time on research activities related to the Future Fellowship and must not spend more than 0.2 FTE of their time on activities not related to the Future Fellowship, such as teaching.

In other words, Future Fellowship candidates are allowed to spend no more than 0.2 FTE of their time on activities not related to the Future Fellowship.

In cases where the Administering Organisation certifies that the candidate will spend the minimum of 0.8 FTE of their time on research activities related to the Future Fellowship, the Letter of Support from the Administering Organisation needs to detail how the remaining 0.2 FTE will be used to develop the candidate's career skills. The explanation on how the remaining 0.2 FTE will be

used is required only if the applicant is committing 0.8 FTE over the duration of the Fellowship. If the Administering Organisation certifies that the applicant will commit 1.0 FTE to the FT, then additional explanation is not required, but this 1.0 FTE time commitment should be specified in the Letter of Support.

10.7   Regarding career interruptions - If applicants are seeking an extension at B15, does the period of extension need to match the period of career interruptions listed at B6?

Not necessarily, B6 includes all career interruptions to inform ROPE, whereas B15 are the allowable career interruptions that determine eligibility for the scheme as defined in the Grant Guidelines.

10.8   Regarding career interruptions - can you please confirm whether a primary carer of a dependent child is entitled to claim two-years career interruption for each dependent child regardless of the amount of leave taken as per the FT24 ITAs? If yes, can the two-years interruption be included at both B6 and B15?

Yes, the researcher can claim up to two years per child if they are the primary carer as an allowable career interruption in B15, regardless of the leave taken. However, B6 asks about significant career interruptions for assessment of ROPE and requires applicants to enter the exact amount of leave taken. In B15, an allowable career interruption is certified by the DVCR for the purpose of assessing candidate eligibility. The allowable career interruptions and associated timeframes for eligibility are listed in the Grant Guidelines and include up to two years per child.

10.9   How can I list my career highlights?

In Question B7 (Career Highlights) applicants have the option to list up to 10 career highlights (for FT) and 5 career highlights (for DE). For instance, if a candidate has been awarded a series of fellowships and they want all of them to be counted as 1 of 10 highlights, then they could state that 'For X achievement/discovery I have received Y fellowships and the most significant of these is Z Fellowship of a value of $A'. Noting, the applicant response to question B7 cannot exceed 1500 characters (approximately 200 words) for FT or 750 characters (approximately 100 words) for DE and the application form will not validate if this character limit is exceeded.
In other words, a themed approach to this question is permissible so that a candidate can group together numbers of relevant awards or achievements under separate, individually numbered highlights.

10.10   For ARC career interruptions, international relocation can apply up for three months interruption per relocation. Just wondering if the relocation only takes two weeks, can applicant still claim three months interruption?

The total interruption per international relocation cannot exceed three months. In this case if it has taken two weeks to relocate then only two weeks can be claimed. Relevant evidence must be maintained and certified by DVCR.

10.11 **Are any supporting documents required for claiming three months interruption? Given the difficulty for this would documents such as air ticket and/or contract or residential lease contract suffice?**

There should be supporting evidence if making a claim for a career interruption. The documents need to be acceptable to the DVCR or equivalent.

10.12 **The ITAs specify the use of institutional letterhead in C2 'where possible'. As this has changed from a statement of support to a Letter of Support, is the expectation that all Letters of Support be signed by an appropriate authority (ie. DVCR)?**

Letters of Support do not need to be signed as they will now be included as part of the DVCR certification of the application.

10.13 **In relation to open schemes, is there possibility of extension for those caught up in current Middle East political issues?**

This will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Applicants should contact their Research Office in the first instance and the research office is to contact ARC regarding this.

10.14 **Does the Research Office need to keep "evidence" of all career interruptions listed in B6 and if so, what evidence is acceptable as proof of career interruptions e.g., for unemployment etc? Is this evidence of career interruption also required for all ARC fellowships (i.e., including Industry Fellowships also)?**

Yes, The Research Office needs to keep evidence. The type of evidence is up to the DVCR as they will need to certify that the information is correct in the application.

10.15 **What level of detail do you want in the budget information for justifications. Does it need to be line by line or less justification?**

The budget justification needs to provide the Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) with enough information in order to make a judgement about whether the items are essential to the project and appropriate for what is being requested.

10.16 **How strictly do you want applicants to adhere to the 'no duplication' requirement?**

The request to not include information provided elsewhere in the application, is not an eligibility requirement, it is advice so that applicants present the strongest case for funding and don't repeat highlights listed in one part of the form in other sections, such as re-listing some of their '10 best career outputs' in the 'career highlights' section. Ideally, the career highlights section would include aspects of their career not already listed in other sections of ROPE.

10.17 **B10 is a two-part question with total character count of 3,750 characters (1,500 characters for the first part and 2,250 characters for the second part). Can you please confirm if applicants need to be within these individual limits to be eligible (e.g., that Research offices need to cut and paste into Word to check each section is not over the relevant character limit and the second part is not over 30 words per statement), or if it is sufficient to be within the total 3,750-character limit?**

The total character limit for Question B10 (Research Outputs Context) is 3,750 characters, or approximately 500 words. This means that Question B10 in the FT24 application form will not validate if the maximum character count is exceeded.

The ARC guide for B10 is that:

1) The character limit is more important given its role in determining validation. The number of words is a guide and dependant on the length of the words you use.

2) The exact number of words an applicant uses for each of the two responses required under Question B10 can vary slightly but needs to abide by the upper limit of the two required responses i.e., up to 200 words for the first part and up to 300 words for the second part.

3) We would like the annotation for each of the 10 best publications to be proportionate. The validation is based on characters so if you use approximately the same number of characters, but the number of words vary it is acceptable. The general premise is that we receive a similar amount of information for each output.

10.18 **For question B9 of the FT24 application, can you please clarify if the numbers reported for Masters student completions as Principal Supervisor can include both Master by Research and Master by Coursework theses? Can an FT candidate count supervision completion given changing organisations? Also, does it count when the FT candidate was an equal co-supervisor?**

In response to Question B9 (How many PhDs, Masters and Honours students that the FT candidate has supervised have completed their degree), the candidate can enter both types of theses 'Master by Research' and/or 'Master by Coursework' if the latter includes an applicable supervised research component as this is defined by the Administering Organisation

At Question B9 the FT candidate should enter the total numbers of completed supervisions as principal supervisor in their career. This will include supervisions completed as principal supervisor at organisations where they have previously held academic appointments and supervised graduate students.

In their response to B9 candidates should only provide the total number of completions where they have been the principal supervisor as designated by the Administering Organisation. Candidates can elaborate on the significance of

their record of associate supervision in B8 if they wish. Please be aware that information entered on the application form needs to be accurate and certified by the DVCR, or equivalent.

11.   Changes to document

09 October 2023 - Added clarification to 9.4 Part C – Project Description

11 October 2023 - Added clarification to 9.3 Part B - Participant Details including ROPE Question B11

17 October 2023 – Added clarification to 2.3 – Why am I getting a warning message at Question D1 'What is the proposed budget of your project'?

31 October 2023 - Added section from the Discovery Program Information Session for FT24 Questions and Answers