UoM FAQs

Q: When will I know what the application forms look like?
A: Full information will be released by the NHMRC at the opening of schemes. However, NHMRC have acknowledged the specific pressures related to the timing of the Investigator Grants plan to ‘soft launch’ off-line versions of Investigator Grant application documents in October 2018.

Q: Will, as previously advised, these schemes run via SAPPHIRE? If so, when will SAPPHIRE be released?
A: The NHMRC’s intention is to run all the new grant schemes via SAPPHIRE. Rollout of SAPPHIRE is expected to commence in Q4 2018 and we expect that it will most probably be trailed on an NHMRC scheme (possibly a Target Call and/or the CRE scheme).

Q: How many Investigator Grants will be funded?
A: NHMRC expects (roughly) to award about as many Investigator Grants as the sum of the Fellowship Schemes that they replace (i.e. ~265 Investigator Grants annually, with ~33 awarded to UoM on current trends).

Q: For Investigator Grants at the ‘Leadership’ levels, how will RSPs be determined?
A: NHMRC have advised that ‘Overall scores and the consequential rank order of applications will determine which applications are funded and what tier of RSP (for Leadership Investigator Grants) will be received. There will be a limited number of tier 4 Research Support Packages awarded.’

Q: What happens if I apply for both an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant and am successful with the Investigator Grants scheme?
Successful Investigator Grant applicants must take the Investigator Grant (even if they have applied for an Ideas Grant in the same funding round).
**IMPORTANTLY, the Ideas Grant will be removed** from the funding round when the Investigator Grants outcomes are known. The CI receiving the Investigator Grant will not be able to vary off the Ideas Grant in order to allow the grant to continue in the review process.

Q: I have a teaching or joint teaching/research appointment. Can I apply for an Investigator Grant with a full salary support package with the intention of varying their employment to a full-time research appointment if awarded, and then receive a full salary support package?
A: Yes.
Q: Can a ‘Centre Director’ (or similar), apply for an Investigator Grant with a full salary support package?

A: The NHMRC position in relation to such situations remains unchanged from that currently applied to Research Fellowships. In some circumstances (e.g. role not salaried and not inconsistent with the funding rules) this is allowable, but it needs to be determined on a case by case basis.

Q: My Salary comes from an NHMRC Project Grant, can I still apply for an Investigator Grant with a full salary support package with the intention of drawing my salary from the Investigator Grant (and not the Project Grant) if successful?

A: Yes

Q: Can Ideas Grant funds be used to support the Salary of a CIA, CI or AI (based in Australia or OS)?

A: The policy of CIs requesting a salary from an Ideas or Synergy Grant will be the same as it is currently for Project Grants. That is, NHMRC does not expect senior researchers to request or receive a salary through these schemes, but CIs can request a salary up to Personnel Support Package (PSP) 5 level. Als cannot draw a salary.

Q: Can Synergy Grant funds be used to support the Salary of a CIA, CI or AI (based in Australia or OS)?

A: The policy of CIs requesting a salary from an Ideas or Synergy Grant will be the same as it is currently for Project Grants. That is, NHMRC does not expect senior researchers to request or receive a salary through these schemes, but CIs can request a salary up to Personnel Support Package (PSP) 5 level. Als cannot draw a salary.

Q: I am not an Australian or New Zealand Citizen or a permanent resident of Australian. Can I apply for an NHMRC Investigator grant?

A: Yes, but you must be an Australian or New Zealand Citizen or a permanent resident of Australian at the time of acceptance (i.e. for the current round, that means 1 Jan 2020).

Q: I am not an Australian or New Zealand Citizen or a permanent resident of Australian. Can I apply for an NHMRC Ideas grant?

A: If you are applying as the Chief Investigator A (CIA), you can apply, but you must be an Australian or New Zealand Citizen or a permanent resident of Australia at the time of acceptance (i.e. for the current round, that means 1 Jan 2020) or have an appropriate work visa in place (one that allows you to work and stay in Australia for the duration of the grant).

CIB-CIJ are not required to be Australian or New Zealand Citizens or a permanent residents of Australia or to have an appropriate work visa in place.