The NEW NHMRC Grants Program
What’s changed and what can I apply for?

How can I prepare and what are my chances of being funded?

How do I get more information? Who do I ask and where do I look?
What’s changed and what can I apply for?

How can I prepare and what are my chances of being funded?

How do I get more information? Who do I ask and where do I look?
New and awesome GMS

RGMS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRANT TYPE</th>
<th>INVESTIGATOR GRANTS</th>
<th>SYNERGY GRANTS</th>
<th>IDEAS GRANTS</th>
<th>STRATEGIC &amp; LEVERAGING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
<td>Varies with scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Chief Investigators</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4 – 10</td>
<td>1 – 10</td>
<td>Varies with scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Salary (optional) + Research Support Package</td>
<td>Grant of a fixed budget</td>
<td>Based on the requested budget for research support</td>
<td>Varies with scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheme</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator Grants</td>
<td>To support the research program of outstanding investigators at all career stages</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synergy Grants</td>
<td>To support outstanding multidisciplinary teams of investigators to work together to answer major questions that cannot be answered by a single investigator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas Grants</td>
<td>To support focussed innovative research projects addressing a specific question</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic and Leveraging Grants</td>
<td>To support research that addresses identified national needs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Investigator Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Levels</th>
<th>Salary&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Allocation method</th>
<th>No. of terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leadership</strong></td>
<td>L3</td>
<td>$175,201</td>
<td>Self-select</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>$164,911</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>$141,474</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emerging Leadership</strong></td>
<td>EL2</td>
<td>$107,750</td>
<td>Self-select for ≤10 years post-PhD&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EL1</td>
<td>$75,738</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup>Salary per annum (AUD). Salaries will increase in line with indexation and are quoted as 1 FTE.

<sup>b</sup>For example, a researcher may hold L1 once, L2 twice and L3 twice to have a total of five terms.

<sup>c</sup>Or equivalent, census date is 1 March of year of application.
## Investigator Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Tiers</th>
<th>RSP per annum(^a)</th>
<th>Allocation Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>LT4</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>Peer review – based on overall score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LT3</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LT2</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LT1</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Leadership</td>
<td>ELT2</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>Automatic allocation according to EL level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ELT1</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) Average Project Grant is approximately $600,000 ($200,000 per annum of a typical 3-year grant).
Investigator Grants – Peer Review

• Five member Panel
• Discussion by exception only on ranked list
• Track record – 35% (last 10 years, 5 best pubs)
  o Research Impact – 20% (case study)
  o Leadership – 15%
• Knowledge gain 30% (research significance and quality)
Synergy Grants

- Fixed budget of $5 million per grant ($1 million/year?)
- Up to 10 awarded per year
- Budget can be used for Personnel Support Packages (PSPs) and direct research costs
- Chief Investigator salaries can be paid from budget up to PSP5
- Each Chief Investigator (CIA – CIJ) may apply for and hold one Synergy Grant
Synergy Grants – Peer Review

- Panel only – at least 5 assessors per an app
- Two stages (Synergy and Knowledge gain only for stage 1)
- Synergy (30%) - Diverse research teams & Engagement
- Knowledge gain 30% (research significance and quality)
- Track record – 40% (last 10 years, 5 best pubs)
Ideas Grants

• As for current Project Grants:
  o Grant size will be based on requested budget
  o Budget request will be based on Personnel Support Packages (PSPs) and direct research costs
  o Chief Investigators may request their salary up to PSP5

• Chief Investigators (CIA – CIJ) may apply for and hold up to two Ideas Grants concurrently (depending on other grants held)

• Purpose is to fund innovative research projects
  – Innovation criterion
Ideas Grants – Peer Review

• Panel only (discipline based – at least 4 assessors per an app)
• GRP style review
• Research Quality (35%)
• Innovation and Creativity (25%)
• Significance (20%)
• Feasibility (20%)
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# New Grant Program eligibility – steady state

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<th>STRATEGIC &amp; LEVERAGING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum number of applications allowed per round</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not capped relative to Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum number of each grant type that can be held</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not capped relative to Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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Five Point Plan

1. It’s still about the science. Get your research ideas together and your track record as strong as possible

2. Find out what you can apply for and start thinking about your application now

3. Get informed. Schemes & Peer Review

4. Seek out resources from RIC and from your Faculty

5. Don’t act on rumour
Will I get one?

Total ‘NHMRC’ MREA Budget unchanged but expect MRFF to contribute and result in more awards being funded.

Apply

550 Project grants to 227 Ideas grants ??

285 Fellowships to 600 Investigator grant ??

Changes to peer review and eligibility criteria
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How do I get more information? Who do I ask and where do I look?
Where are we?

http://research.unimelb.edu.au/

Level 5, Alan Gilbert Building,
161 Barry Street
Where are we?

Local and University-wide research contacts

Find University-wide research services and your local faculty contacts

University-wide research contacts
Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (RIC) contacts for grants, contracts, Themis agreements administrators, ethics, technology licensing and IP

Chancellery research and associate deans
The University of Melbourne’s research executive and leadership teams

YOUR LOCAL FACULTY RESEARCH CONTACTS

Medicine, dentistry and health sciences research contacts
Find your local grants coordinators, research managers, agreement administrators, publications coordinators and commercial engagement contacts

Engineering research contacts
Find your local grants coordinators, research managers, agreement administrators, publications coordinators and commercial engagement contacts

https://staff.unimelb.edu.au/research/research-contacts-advice
Dedicated ‘NHMRC Changes’ webpage and email

https://research.unimelb.edu.au/support/funding/nhmrc/nhmrc-changes-to-grant-funding-program

uom-nhmrc-change@unimelb.edu.au

NHMRC Changes to Grant Funding Program

On Thursday 25 May 2017, the NHMRC announced significant changes to the structure of its grant funding program. The changes will see the current NHMRC Project Grants, Program Grants and full suite of Fellowships schemes replaced with three new schemes: Investigator Grants, Synergy Grants and Ideas Grants. In addition, there will be a Strategic and Leveraging Grants stream, designed to support research that addresses identified national needs. While the terminology is new, the underlying elements are familiar. The Investigator grants are an evolved version of the Fellowships, and the Ideas the counterpart of Projects, Synergy of Program.

The NHMRC website provides a comprehensive overview and background to the changes, next steps and FAQs. We encourage those of you who may have questions to refer to this website as a first point of reference. A snapshot of the changes can be found on Overview of NHMRC Restructured Grant Program and Timing and Next Steps.

**Update** - NHMRC has released a tool designed to assist researchers in determining their eligibility for funding in the first round of the new grant program, the tool can be accessed on: https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/restructure/changes/eligibility-tool-2019. Researchers may find it useful to use now whilst thinking about the number of 2018 applications they propose submitting. The new program will open for applications in late 2018-early 2019 for funding in 2020, this is deemed the “2019 grant round”. To determine your eligibility applicants are able to select their
NHMRC ‘mini-site’

RIC Seminars

The NEW NHMRC Grants Program – what’s changed? what hasn’t? what can I apply for and how? – April 2018

The NEW NHMRC Grants Program – how to prepare and what to expect – July/August 2018

The NEW NHMRC Grants Program – your questions answered (with NHMRC in attendance for Q&A) – October 2018
Research Professional

An online database of research funding opportunities

University of Melbourne’s primary source for communicating research funding opportunities and internal submission guidelines

Research Professional Alerts

https://www.researchprofessional.com/0/rr/home