



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Future Fellowships for funding commencing in 2027 (FT27)

Version 1.0

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- All participants should read the *Discovery Program: Discovery Fellowships Grant Opportunity Guidelines (2026 edition) Future Fellowships* (Grant Opportunity Guidelines) available on [GrantConnect](#) and specific *Instructions to Applicants* documents available on GrantConnect 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 rmssupport@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 Calendar](#), available on the ARC website.

1.2 When will the Funding Outcomes be announced?

The ARC publishes anticipated Announcement dates on the [NCGP Scheme Calendar](#), available on the ARC website.

Please note that due diligence and research security screening processes may extend finalisation of outcomes for some applications.

1.3 Where can I find application and assessment key dates?

Key dates and timeframes for application and assessment activities (such as the Request Not to Assess (RNTA) period and Rejoinder process) are published, where relevant, on the individual scheme pages on the ARC website.

Scheme pages are updated following the release of outcomes for the previous round or the opening of the next round, whichever occurs first.

Additional information may also be provided through scheme-specific communications, including the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Will there be a cap on the number of Future Fellowships awarded in the FT27 scheme round?

No. The FT27 grant opportunity does not impose a cap on the number of fellowships that may be awarded in a round. Applications are considered through a competitive selection process, and funding decisions are made based on the available appropriation and the merit of applications assessed against the published assessment criteria.

2.2 If I used a submission attempt in the Future Fellowships 2026 round, can I still apply for FT27?

Application submission attempt limits remain unchanged from previous rounds, including the cap of a maximum of 3 submission attempts. Applicants who used an application attempt in the Future Fellowships 2026 round should refer to the Grant Opportunity Guidelines to determine their remaining eligibility.

3. Application Information

3.1 Can I include requests for 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.

3.2 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 (ITAs). 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.

3.3 Can I use generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in writing my application?

Please see the advice to participants in ARC's *Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the ARC's grants programs* available on the [ARC website](#).

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

The warning message appears when the Future Fellowship Salary Level selected in Question D1 does not correspond with the academic salary level selected at Question B18, 'What is the participant's current academic level?' The warning is intended to prompt applicants to review their responses.

Under clause A2.5(b) of the *Discovery Program: Discovery Fellowships Grant Opportunity Guidelines – Future Fellowships (2026 edition)*, a participant 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 participant's current academic level may be included in the 'Administering Organisation Letter of Support' at Question C2.

The budget table at Question D1 automatically defaults to Future Fellowship Salary Level 1 when a participant is added at Question A2 'Person Participant Summary'. To change the level, applicants can use the drop-down menu in Question D1 to select the appropriate Future Fellowship Salary Level.

The screenshot displays the 'Remunerated Participants' section of the application. A dropdown menu for 'Future Fellowship' is open, showing options: 'Level 1 from year 1 annually for 4 years' (selected), 'Level 2 from year 1 annually for 4 years', 'Level 3 from year 1 annually for 4 years', and 'Level 1 from year 1 annually for 4 years'. Below this, the 'Add Participant type' dropdown is set to 'Higher Degree by Research stipend'. The budget table below has tabs for 'Year 1', 'Year 2', 'Year 3', and 'Year 4'. The table has columns for 'Description', 'Australian Research Council', and 'Administering Organisation' (with sub-columns for 'Cash' and 'Cash'). The 'Total' row shows a value of 0 in the 'Cash' column. A warning message at the bottom states: 'The academic level for the Future Fellowship applicant, , must be set.'

Description		Australian Research Council		Administering Organisation	
				Cash	Cash
Total					
Personnel	+				
(Future Fellowship)					0
Travel	+				
Field Research	+				
Equipment	+				
Maintenance	+				
Other	+				

• The academic level for the Future Fellowship applicant, , must be set.

3.5 How should I complete 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 individual items.

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.



Travel	+	6,500
Total Travel Costs	 	6,500

Travel	+	6,500
Trip 1	 	5,000
Trip 2	 	1,500

3.6 Am I required to have an ORCID linked in my RMS Profile?

All named participants applying for ARC grants must have a digital persistent identifier (PID), such as an Open Researcher and Contributor Identifier (ORCID), recorded in their RMS Profile prior to the Project commencing. The ARC collects and may use this information for purposes related to ARC functions and activities (for example, ARC's administration of grant programs, performance of statutory functions, and provision of support to other Commonwealth entities).

Linking an ORCID to your RMS profile enables research outputs to be imported into your application form and helps reduce administrative burden.

ORCID is managed through a platform external to the ARC. Participants are encouraged to maintain and update their ORCID record to ensure their research outputs and other professional information are current and available for use when preparing and updating ARC applications.

You can refer to the ARC Persistent Identifier (PID) Action Plan on the [ARC website](#) for further information.

3.7 The Grant Opportunity Guidelines state that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) (DVCR), or equivalent, must provide the certification and does not specify a delegate. What does this mean?

This means that the certification is non-delegable and that the certification must be undertaken by the person in the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) (DVCR) position, or an equivalent senior executive officer with equivalent responsibility for research oversight, as specified in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. This responsibility cannot be delegated to another staff member, administrator, or a research office employee. For clarity, non-delegable certifications are set apart from other certifications in the RMS application form.

By making the certification, the DVCR (or their equivalent) is confirming that they have considered the matters set out in the certification and is satisfied that appropriate processes have been applied in relation to the application.

4. ARC Policies

4.1 Where can the ARC's strategies and policies be found?

ARC policies can be found on the [ARC website](#).

If you require further assistance in locating a particular policy or statement, individual researchers should contact their Research Office in the first instance.

5. Career Interruptions

5.1 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 participant's career interruptions can be found in Question B6 'Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – Career Interruptions' of the 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 participant 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].

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

Not necessarily. Question B6 includes all career interruptions to inform the assessment of the applicant's ROPE, whereas question B15 captures only the allowable career interruptions that determine eligibility for the scheme as defined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

5.3 If I am the primary carer of a dependent child, am I able to claim two-years career interruption for each dependent child regardless of the amount of leave taken as per the FT27 ITAs? If yes, can both the two-years interruptions be included at both Question B6 and Question B15?

A researcher can claim up to two years per child if they are the primary carer as an allowable career interruption in Question B15, regardless of the leave taken. However, Question B6 captures 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 Opportunity Guidelines and include up to two years per child.

6. Time Commitments

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

As per the Grant Agreement, it is a requirement for the Future Fellowship participant to commit a minimum of 80% of their time on research 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.

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

As per the Grant Agreement, the Future Fellow participant must not spend more than 20% 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.

7. Logistics Support for Antarctic Research

7.1 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.

8. Assessment of Applications

8.1 Requests Not to Assess process

A Request Not to Assess (RNTA) form is submitted in RMS as detailed on [Request Not to Assess page of the ARC website](#).

8.2 Is a justification required if the RNTA form includes a current ARC College of Experts member?

No. While ARC College of Experts must still be identified, a justification is no longer required if a request not to assess includes the name of a current ARC College of Experts member as listed on the [ARC website](#).

9. The National Interest Test (NIT)

9.1 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](#).

10. Budget

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

For those schemes where Grant Opportunity 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 consider 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.

10.2 What salary and stipend figures will appear in the FT27 application form?

The salary and stipend figures for FT27 have been updated to 2026\$ in RMS and are displayed in the table below.

Future Fellow participant Salary and Stipend rates 2026\$

Current Academic Salary Level (or equivalent)	Future Fellowship salary level to be requested	Total
Level A and B	Level 1 (1.0 FTE)	\$196,328 (including 30 per cent on-costs)
Level C	Level 2 (1.0 FTE)	\$237,662 (including 30 per cent on-costs)
Level D and E	Level 3 (1.0 FTE)	\$278,991 (including 30 per cent on-costs)

Stipend rates 2026\$

Higher Degree by Research	\$34,338
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The salary and stipend figures will be indexed prior to the award of the Fellowships and will be paid at the applicable 2027\$ rates.

Updated salary and stipend rates are available on the [ARC website](#).