Identifying appropriate funding opportunities for researchers and projects

RESEARCH SUPPORT GUIDANCE

Eligibility requirements

For **Grant Applicants** these often include citizenship (e.g. require chief investigators to hold Australian citizenship or permanent residency) and specific tertiary qualifications, usually PhD, MD or ‘equivalent’. In addition, there may be constraints around whether the host institution is, for example, a university or otherwise.

Common eligibility requirements for **Fellowship Applicants**, in addition to the above, may include:

- a maximum or a minimum number of years post-award for an applicant’s PhD or equivalent tertiary qualification
- a contract of employment and/or a commitment from the host organisation to employ the applicant for the period of the fellowship
- a commitment from an employee of the Host Organisation to supervise the Fellow

Scheme objectives

Consider whether the project, the applicant and/or the various members of a research team and/or the research area or topic fit with the objectives of the funding scheme.

Specifically, what are the expected **Outcomes and Significance** of the research and how do these fit with the **scheme objectives**? Consider the following:

- importance of the problem to be researched
- planned outcome of the research plan
- potential significance of the research

If this is still not clear to you after careful consideration of the scheme objectives, it may be worthwhile checking to see if there is a list of previously funded applications. These may help you to gauge the expectations in terms of the research project, area of research, research team and so on.

Selection and assessment criteria

The proposed research project must directly address any stated Selection Criteria for the scheme.

In addition, applicants will need to demonstrate **sufficient experience and expertise in a relevant field of research** to apply for specific grants. The latter will be reflected in their Track Record in the relevant area of research and will include a record of an applicant’s publications, past grant funding, invitations to speak at conferences, communication of research outcomes to the public, and so on.

The scientific quality of the proposed research will be assessed, as will the quality, capability and previous record of collaboration (e.g. joint publications, grants) of the team of researchers who intend to undertake the research.

ARC and NHMRC provide guidance on the degree of merit associated with particular scoring bands (ARC) or scheme specific scoring category descriptors (NHMRC) which are useful reference guides for both applicants and assessors.