Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP) Grant Guidelines Key Changes

Consultation

The ARC engaged with stakeholders as part of the development of these Guidelines. Stakeholders included the Department of Industry, researchers, university Research Office Directors and staff, Deputy Vice Chancellors (Research) and grant assessors. Feedback from stakeholders was considered in the drafting of these grant guidelines.

STREAMLINING

1. **Simplification of the Guidelines**
   The ITRP Guidelines (Guidelines) have been updated to reflect the findings of the ARC's Process Review of the National Competitive Grants Program; recommendations 3, 8 and 9 of *Trusting Australia's Ability: Review of the ARC Act 2001;* and the Minister for Education's Statement of Expectations of 26 August 2022 which emphasised the goal of minimising administrative burden on researchers. The Guidelines have been considerably shortened, reducing redundancy and repetition in order to produce more user-friendly, fit-for-purpose guidelines. Changes to the Guidelines align them with the recently approved streamlined Grant Guidelines for Linkage Projects, Industry Fellowship Program and, where appropriate, Discovery Fellowships.

   Key amendments include:
   - Removal of detailed contextual information introducing the document and the overarching Linkage Program, and including a reference to the ARC website for further information.
     Guidelines reference: 1; 2
   - Consolidation of information repeated across multiple sections into one place, either into general clauses (sections 1-9) where it applies to both schemes, or into Part A or B where information differs across schemes.
     Guidelines reference: 3; 4; 5.5; A2.2; A3; A5; B2.2; B3; B5
   - Simplification of the information about eligibility, including moving table of Eligible Organisations to Appendix B.
     Guidelines reference: 4.1-4.28; Appendix B
     Simplification of the 'What the grant money can be used for' section to two subheadings: 'Eligible grant activities' and 'Ineligible grant activities', and removal of detail provided in other documentation.
     Guidelines reference: 5.1-5.6
   - Inclusion of high-level summary of application process in 'How to apply' section, including updated 'National Interest Test' in line with Linkage Projects streamlining.
     Guidelines reference: 6
   - Simplification of 'The grant selection process' section.
     Guidelines reference: 7.1-7.14
   - Inclusion of a new 'Responsibilities' section, which brings together and simplifies material previously dispersed across eligibility and other sections.
     Guidelines reference: 8.14-8.19
   - Removal of sections 'How We monitor Your grant activity' and 'Consultation' and inclusion of relevant information under new subclauses in 'Successful grant applications' section.
     Guidelines reference: 8.26-8.31

- Streamlining of 'Probity' section with links to ARC website for more information.
  Guidelines reference: 9.1-9.12

ABOUT THE INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION RESEARCH PROGRAM GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

2. Industrial Transformation Priorities
The Guidelines have been updated to align the Industrial Transformation Priorities with the priority areas identified under the National Reconstruction Fund (NRF) – the current government industrial policy. The Guidelines refer applicants to the legislative instrument outlining the NRF priority areas for further detail about the NRF.
Guidelines reference: 2.2

ASSESSMENT

3. Removal of references to Industry Growth Centres
References to Industry Growth Centres have been removed throughout, including in the 'Feasibility and Commitment' criterion in the Assessment Criteria for both Industrial Transformation Research Hubs and Industrial Transformation Training Centres, as ITRP is no longer being aligned with the Industry Growth Centres.
Guidelines reference: Throughout; A5.1; B5.1

4. Clarification of wording on use of Detailed Assessors
The Flowchart has been updated to provide greater clarity on the use of Detailed Assessors, stating that an application may be assigned to Detailed Assessors and that the applicant will have the opportunity to respond to any Detailed Assessors' written comments.
Guidelines reference: 1

5. Updated wording on additional assessment criteria for projects involving Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research
The wording has been updated to bring the additional assessment criteria into alignment with recent developments around cultural, governance and ethical requirements, specifically in relation to the 2020 AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research and the 2018 Australian Indigenous Data Sovereignty Principles.
Guidelines reference: A5.1c, B5.1c

ELIGIBILITY

6. Cross-scheme eligibility limits
New clause added to clarify that, for the purposes of calculating project limits under these Guidelines, Linkage Program projects do not include Fellows under the Industry Fellowships Program.
Guidelines reference: 4.24.

7. Updated clause about additional certification requirements
New clause added about ensuring provision of additional certification requirements (replacing deleted clause, previously at 4.17, about not considering applications involving particular named participants) to more accurately represent the ARC's research integrity processes, and make eligibility requirements clear to researchers and Administering Organisations.
Guidelines reference: 4.7

OTHER

8.   Interviews
Clause about undertaking interviews as part of the assessment process has been deleted, as this provision has never been used for ITRP.
Guidelines reference: previously 10.1

9.   Appeals process
Sentence referring to 30-day limitation for lodging of appeals removed, to reflect the ARC's most recent appeals process.
Guidelines reference: 9.3

10.   Definitions have been added and removed

New definitions:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person
- Grant recipient
- Honorary academic appointment (moved from text into Definitions)
- National Reconstruction Fund

Definitions deleted where terms are self-explanatory, are no longer used in the Guidelines, or are only used in other definitions:

- ARC assessor community
- ARC website
- Chief Executive Officer
- Commonwealth
- General Assessors
- Industry Growth Centres
- Linkage Program
- Minister
- National interest
- Officials
- Participants
- Recipient (see Grant recipient above)
- Selection criteria

Guidelines reference: Appendix A