

ARC Discovery Projects 2013- Funding Rule changes

2012 Selection Criteria	2013 Selection Criteria	Comments
<p>Investigator(s) 40%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> research opportunity and performance evidence (ROPE); and capacity to undertake the proposed research. 	<p>Investigator(s) 40%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> research opportunity and performance evidence (ROPE); and capacity to undertake the proposed research. 	<p>No change from 2011 to 2013</p>
<p>Project Quality 40%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does the research address a significant problem? is the conceptual/theoretical framework innovative and original? will the aims, concepts, methods and results advance knowledge? are the project design and methods appropriate? will the proposed research provide economic, environmental and/or social benefit to Australia? does the project address National Research Priorities? 	<p>Project Quality and Innovation 25%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> does the research address a significant problem? is the conceptual/theoretical framework innovative and original? will the aims, concepts, methods and results advance knowledge? 	<p>The weighting and content of this section has been reduced to make way for the new criteria below</p> <p>Project design and methods and economic/environmental and/or social benefits have been moved and expanded under the new category of Feasibility and Benefit.</p> <p>Innovation is upgraded to inclusion in the title</p> <p>National Research Priorities is no longer a criteria here, but is still listed in 4.2.b objectives: “enhance the scale and focus of research in the National Research Priorities” (these are the Environmentally Sustainable Australia, Promoting Good Health etc categories)</p>
<p>(New Category for 2013)</p>	<p>Feasibility and Benefit 20%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the Project’s design, participants and requested budget create confidence in the timely and successful completion of the Project? Will the completed Project produce innovative economic, environmental, social and/or cultural benefit to the Australian and international community? 	<p>Feasibility and Benefit is a new category for 2013.</p> <p>Project design and methods (from 2012 Project Quality) expanded to include participants and the budget, “appropriate” expanded to confidence in timely completion of the Project</p> <p>Economic/environmental and/or social benefits have been moved here and refer to the completed Project, not the proposed Project, and includes international.</p>

2012 Selection Criteria	2013 Selection Criteria	Comments
<p>Research Environment 20%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is there an existing, or developing, supportive and high quality research environment for this Project? • are the necessary facilities to complete the project available? • are there adequate strategies to encourage dissemination, commercialisation, if appropriate; and promotion of research outcomes? 	<p>Research Environment 15%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is there an existing, or developing, supportive and high quality research environment for this Project? • are the necessary facilities to complete the project available? • are there adequate strategies to encourage dissemination, commercialisation, if appropriate; and promotion of research outcomes? 	<p>Research Environment is a new criterion for 2012 and 2013. It still carries significant weighting in 2013 but is reduced from 20% to 15%.</p> <p>Research Environment has been added to the definitions listed in the Funding Rules (P7) as:</p> <p>“Research Environment means the laboratory, department, school, centre or institute within the Administering Organisation where the majority of the research will be undertaken.”</p>

New ARC Terminology

- DORA – Discovery Outstanding Researcher Award

Replaces previous fellowships available in the Discovery Projects scheme

- DECRA – Discovery Early Career Researcher Award

Introduced 2012, separate early career researcher (5 years post award) scheme. Replaces APD level available in DP scheme. Funding Rules & Instruction now available for 2013 at <http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/decra/fundingrules.htm>

Major Changes introduced 2012 and continued 2013

- Projects are to be funded for a Max of 3 Years

- Funding:

Min funding \$30,000 per year

Max funding \$500,000 per Year

- Removal of APD, ARF, APF, and QEII fellowships

- **International collaboration awards**

- For up to 2 CI 's or PI's per proposal

-up to a maximum amount of \$20,000 for up to 6 months over the life of the Project

NOTE: ICA's are awarded as a special condition and therefore once awarded to a CI/PI they are the only ones who can use the ICA

- **Teaching relief**

- **2012:**

-Can only be requested for 2 CI's per project

- for up to 6 months per CI for the duration of the project

- Maximum \$34,879 (6 months)

- **2013**

-Simplified, these restrictions have been removed.

-Now "up to a total value of \$40,000 per year" (presumably for all CI's)

- approval "as a Special Condition" has been removed

Other changes in 2013

- Travel costs restricted to \$50,000 over the life of the Project and can also include research support personnel
- Personnel: now specifies “including 28% on costs”, must be costed at this rate
- PhD stipends increased to \$23,728
- Specialised computer equipment and software essential to the Project is now included as a Budget Item Supported
- some re-ordering of budget items, e.g. access tofacilities moved up from item d to item a, and now specifies “including specialist archives, collections and databases”

Budget items not supported

- costs not directly related to research restrictions have been expanded. Note- relocation expenses have been excluded.
- Bench fees or similar laboratory access fees are specifically excluded.

Research activities not supported

Please note the updated definition of medical and dental research exclusions at 5.4.2.

The *Discovery Projects* scheme does not support medical and dental research, defined as research and/or training primarily and substantially aimed at understanding or treating a human disease or human health condition. This includes, but is not limited to, Projects that involve any of the following:

- a. late pre-clinical or early human trials of a human therapeutic agent, material or diagnostic test or device; or other interventional research involving humans;
- b. using material collected from human subjects for the primary purpose of studying the underlying causes, prevalence, epidemiology or mode of inheritance of a disease or human condition; or
- c. using established animal models or established cell lines for the purpose of studying the underlying causes, prevalence, epidemiology or mode of inheritance of a human disease or human health condition.

New Selection Criteria (more details in the table above)

2012

Investigator(s) 40%

Project Quality 40%

Research Environment 20%

2013

Investigator(s) 40%

Project Quality and Innovation 25%

Feasibility and Benefit 20%

Research Environment 15%

Inclusion of Discovery Outstanding Researcher Award (DORA)

- Funding for 3 Years
 - Step 1 \$128,632 (salary, approx Level B)
 - Step 2 \$155,714 (salary, approx level C)
 - Step 3 \$182,792 (salary, approx level D)
- A CI must request project funding in addition to a DORA salary
- Only **ONE** DORA may be requested per proposal (was 2 in 2012). A CI can only request **one** DORA in this Discovery round. Part time DORA's cannot be requested.
- You can not apply for a DORA in 2013 and a Future Fellowship for funding in 2012 (i.e. if you just did a Future Fellowship application you can't apply for a DORA in this Discovery round under the Future Fellowship rules for 2012) OR apply for another ARC award or Fellowship commencing in 2013 (9.1.7). So you cannot apply for a DORA and a DECRA, or a DORA and a Future Fellowship or a Laureate Fellowship.
- Teaching relief cannot be awarded to a DORA recipient
- Not an option to be removed as a CI if DORA unsuccessful

Eligibility

Please read section 9 carefully, it is significantly expanded from 2012. We are seeking clarification on some points, but it would appear that:

- Maximum of 2 Projects under the Discovery schemes, only one as a sole CI (9.1.1, 9.1.2)
- Only 1 if you hold or get a DECRA (9.1.3)
- Only 1 if you hold (or get?) NHMRC funding (9.1.9)
- You cannot apply for a DORA and a DECRA, or a DORA and a Future Fellowship or a Laureate Fellowship in 2013(9.1.7)

- You cannot hold or apply for any overlapping Commonwealth Fellowship (9.1.6, 9.1.8)
- 9.1.5- these limits apply to both the **number of Projects receiving funding in 2013 and the number of Proposals submitted for funding commencing in 2013** calculated at the closing time of submission of Proposals (1/3/2012).