



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

ARC Fellowships

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Professor Phyllis Tharenou

Executive Director

Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences

Presentation available at

http://www.arc.gov.au/media/ARC_Presentations.htm

Major ARC Schemes

- *Discovery Projects (DP)*–

- Excellent fundamental research by individuals and teams

- *Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development (DIRD)*–

- Develop research expertise of Indigenous Australians

- *Australian Laureate Fellows (FL)*–

- For outstanding researchers to stay in or return to Australia

- *Future Fellows (FT)*–

- Rewards best mid-career Australian and outstanding international researchers

- *Superscience Fellows (SSF)*–

- Attract and retain outstanding early-career researchers in space and astronomy, marine and climate, and future industries
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- *Linkage Projects (LP)*–

- Collaborative research between universities and industry or government or community organisations

- *Centres of Excellence*– Large outstanding research teams conducting focussed, sustained investigations on important challenging problems

- *Linkage infrastructure, equipment and facilities (LIEF)*–

- Collaboration across universities & partner organisations to fund major infrastructure

Fellowship Type

Approx. Scheme Submit Dates

■ **EARLY CAREER** (APD/APDI is ≤ 3 years since PhD:

- Australian Postdoctoral Fellows (APD: DP, Superscience)
- Indigenous Research Fellows (DIRD)
- Aust. Postdoctoral Fellow Industry (APDI: LP)

■ **LATE EARLY OR MID-CAREER**

- Australian Research Fellow & Queen Elizabeth II Fellow (DP: ≤ 8 years since PhD, also ≤ 13 years if previously had ARF/QEII)
- Future Fellows (5–15 years since PhD)
- Australian Research Fellowships–Indigenous (ARF-I; ≤ 8 years since PhD)

■ **MID-CAREER OR LATER CAREER**

- Australian Professorial Fellow
- *Australian Laureate Fellows*

EARLY CAREER

- *Discovery Projects*: March 3, 2010
- *Discovery Indigenous Researchers' Development* (IRF): May 12, 2010
- *Superscience Fellows*: November 25, 2009 (application by institution)–space & astronomy, marine & climate, future industries
- *Linkage Projects*: eg Novem. 18, 2009

LATE EARLY OR MID-CAREER

- *Discovery Projects*: March 3, 2010
- *Future Fellows*: April, 2010
- *Discovery Indigenous Researchers' Development* (ARF-I): May 12, 2010

MID-CAREER OR LATER CAREER

- *Discovery Projects*: March 3, 2010
- *Australian Laureate Fellows*: December 2, 2009

Fellowships by Schemes and Success Rate

■ Career opportunities for researchers:

- *Superscience Fellows (new scheme for 2010)* – early career
 - Unknown success rate – each institution may apply for three
- *DIRD Fellows* – early and mid career
 - Good success rates
- *Discovery Project Fellows* – early, mid, and later career
 - Low success rates (better if 50% of \$ sought)
- *Linkage Project Fellows* – early and mid career
 - Good success rates
- *Future Fellows* – mid career
 - Low success rates
- *Australian Laureate Fellows* – mid and later career
 - Low success rates

Assessment

Selection Criteria	Discovery	Linkage	Futures	DIRD	Lauries
• Track Record	40%	20%	50%	40% <i>capacity</i>	40%
Project				40%	30%
• Significance & Innovation	30%	25%	-	-	-
• Quality	-	-	10%	-	-
• Approach	20%	20%	-	-	-
• National Benefit	10%	10%	-	above	-
• National Research Priority	-	-	10%	-	-
• Partner Commitment	-	25%	-	-	-
• Collaboration	-	-	15%	-	-
• Strategy	-	-	15%	-	-
Quality research env./mentor	-	-	-	20%	30%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Average Success Rate about~	22%	44%	20%	~40%	14% FF

Discovery Projects Fellowships

SUCCESS RATES						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of Fellowships awarded						
APD	112	110	110	120	109	N/A
ARF/QEII	32	33	58	58	57	N/A
APF	23	25	29	28	29	N/A
Total	167	168	197	206	195	N/A
Success rates (%)						
APD	19.6	16.2	15.2	17.8	16.8	N/A
ARF/QEII	12.1	11.3	17.1	15.6	15.1	N/A
APF	13.1	13.3	13.8	15.6	14.3	N/A
Total	16.5	14.5	15.4	16.8	15.9	N/A

- http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_fundingrules.htm

Early Career

Postdoctoral awards

- ≤ 3 years since PhD graduation - can apply for exemption eg child-rearing

Discovery Australian Postdoc Fellowships

- *College of Experts looks for good-excellent scores on both*
 1. *Project – Track Record (40%), Significance and Innovation (30%), Approach (20%), National Benefit (10%), and*
 2. *Fellow*
- **Australian Postdoc Fellowships (≤ 3 years since PhD):**
 - **2009 Success Rate = 17%**
 - **3 year (100% \$ from ARC) – 16% average success rate, or**
4 year (75% \$ from ARC) – 21% average success rate
- **Success Rates 2004-08:**
 - **BSB 16%, EE 18%, HCA 17%, MIC 18%, PE 18%, SBE 16%**
 - **Fellow as part of a team 17% vs Sole Fellow Proposal 17%**
 - **Women 12%, Men 14%**

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_fundingrules.htm

Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (APD)

	Proposals	Approved	Success rate
3 year @ 100% salary	535	84	15.7%
4 year @ 75% salary	114	25	21.9%
Total (DP09)	649	109	16.8%
PCG	144	24	16.7%

- http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_fundingrules.htm

(Linkage Scheme)

■ **Success Rate 2009 Round 1: 52%, Round 2: 40%**

Submit year 2004 to 2008 combined	
<u>Panel</u>	<u>Average success rate</u>
BSB	40.0%
EE	42.9%
HCA	52.6%
MIC	27.3%
PE	60.6%
SBE	52.8%
Total	46.0%

- **Women 46% Men 46%**

■ **Assessed on:**

(1) Track Record (20%), Significance and Innovation (25%), Approach (20%), National Benefit (10%), Partner Commitment (25%), & (2) Fellow

■ http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_fundingrules.htm

DIRD Indigenous Researcher Fellowship (IRF)

- **Indigenous Researcher Fellowships:**
 - To help develop indigenous researchers
 - For Researchers at postdoctoral level (≤ 3 years since PhD) to undertake significant research, who have no prior ARC Fellowship or Chief Investigator role (other than in DIRD)
 - Awards are for 1 or 2 years at 100% or 50% salary
 - **Average Success Rate 2006-2008: 42.1%** (most HCA 44%, SBE 43%)
- **Applicants for IRFs:**
 - Must be of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
 - Need not have a PhD
 - Must not have not been a CI on an ARC grant or had an ARC fellowship
- **Grants may be funded 1 to 3 years from \$10,000/year to \$200,000**

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dird/dird_fundingrules.htm

DIRD Success Rates

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Indigenous Researchers Fellowship/Research Cadetship Aboriginal and Islander						
No. of candidates	2	1	5	6	8	5
Awards	2	1	2	5	1	N/A
Success rate	55.6%	62.5%	71.4%	38.9%	34.6%	N/A
Average grant size (first year)						
	\$49,586	\$41,815	\$35,141	\$76,714	\$51,056	N/A

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dird/dird_fundingrules.htm

Superscience Fellowships

- **\$27.2 million over four years: \$72,500/annum for 3 years + 28% on costs**
- **100 three-year, early-career postdoctoral fellowships – One Call:**
 - **50 Round 1 (funding starting July 2010), 50 Round 2 (starting July 2011)**
- **Ensure most promising young researchers continue to have opportunities to work in areas of national significance during the global recession**
- **Offered in three areas:**
 1. **Space science and astronomy;**
 2. **Marine and climate science; and**
 3. **Future industries research – biotechnology and nanotechnology**
- **Submitted by an eligible organisation (can have host organisation):**
 - **Linked to existing Superscience funding &/or**
 - **Are involved in an ARC Centre of Excellence, strategic priority of a Publicly Funded Research Agency &/or CRC within 1 or more theme areas**

If successful, eligible organisation must run a competitive national and international recruitment process immediately for Rd 1 & by June 2011 for Rd 2
- **http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/ssf/ssf_default.htm**

Late Early or Mid-Career

2009 Discovery Project Fellowships

- *College of Experts looks for good-excellent scores on both*
 1. *Project – Track Record (40%), Significance and Innovation (30%), Approach (20%), National Benefit (10%), and*
 2. *Fellow*
- **Australian Research Fellows/Queen Elizabeth II Fellows - ≤ 8 years since PhD, also ≤ 13 years if previously had ARF/QEII:**
 - **2009 Success Rate = 15.1%**
 - **Can be 50% \$ sought – 22% average success rate or if 100% \$ sought – 13% average success rate**
- **Success Rates 2004-08:**
 - **BSB 15%, EE 13%, HCA 15%, MIC 16%, PE 13%, SBE 17%**
 - **Fellow as part of a team 16% vs Sole Fellow Proposal 14%**
 - **Women 13%, Men 15%**

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_fundingrules.htm

Australian Research Fellowships & QEII Fellowships

	Proposals	Approved	Success rate
100% salary, 5 years	300	42	14.0%
50% salary, 5 years	78	15	19.2%
Total (DP09)	378	57	15.1%
PCG	116	16	13.8%

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_fundingrules.htm

DIRD Australian Research Fellowships–Indigenous

- **Australian Research Fellowships–Indigenous (ARF-I):**
 - For established researchers or postdoctoral researchers who have ≤ 8 years professional experience since PhD
 - Awards are for 2 or 3 years at 100% salary
 - Not a developmental scheme
- **Applicants**
 - Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
 - Need not have a PhD
 - Can have been ARC CIs or ARC Fellowship holders but must not have held ARF/QEIs or APFs in *Discovery Projects* scheme
 - Could have held an Australian Indigenous Researcher Fellowship
- May be funded 1 to 3 years from \$10,000/year to \$200,000, or up to \$400,000 if includes an Australian Research Fellow-Indigenous

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dird/dird_fundingrules.htm

Future Fellowships

- Supports career paths for talented national and international researchers
 - Addresses lack of opportunities for mid-career researchers in Australia
 - Open to those 5 to 15 years since PhD graduation (can apply for exemption)
 - Encourages applications from outstanding Australian and international mid-career researchers- usually must reside predominantly in Australia
 - \$844m scheme – 2009-2013 – Can apply twice in the period
 - 200, 4-year fellowships over 5 years (had 1st round) = 1000
 - Salaries up to \$140K + \$50K pa for infrastructure, equipment, travel & relocation costs directly related to research (up to \$185 000/year)
 - Includes selection criteria 'Strategic Alignment' & 'Collaboration'.
 - List of Research Strengths submitted by Administering Org.
 - Candidates must demonstrate capacity to build collaboration across industry and/or research institutions and/or disciplines
- ❖ Research into Indigenous health and wellbeing is a priority area

Future Fellows 2009 for 2010

Discipline Success Rates

Discipline	Total Proposals	Total Successful	Success Rate
BSB	225	51	22.7%
EE	226	52	23.1%
HCA	234	41	17.5%
PCG	291	56	19.2%
Grand Total	976	200	20.5%

Residency Distribution and Success Rates

Residency Status	Applications	Successful	Success Rate
Foreign National	135	22 (11%)	16.3%
Resident Australian	761	159 (79.5%)	20.9%
Returning Australian	80	19 (9.5%)	23.8%
Grand Total	976	200	20.5%

❖ http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/ft_fundingrules.htm

Future Fellows 2009 for 2010

Funding Level Success Rates

	FT1	FT2	FT3	Grand Total
Applications received	392	374	210	976
Funded Proposals	107	65	28	200
Success Rate	27.3%	17.4%	13.3%	20.5%

Average Grant Size \$737,112

Current Selection Criteria

- ***Track Record (50%)***
- ***Quality Project (10%)***
- ***National Research Priority (10%)***
- ***Collaboration (15%),***
- ***Strategy (15%)***

❖ http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/futurefel/ft_fundingrules.htm

Mid-Career or Later Career

2009 Discovery Project Fellowships

■ *College of Experts looks for good-excellent scores on both*

1. *Project – Track Record (40%), Significance and Innovation (30%), Approach (20%), National Benefit (10%), and*
2. *Fellow*

■ **Australian Professorial Fellowships**

- **2009 Success Rate = 14.3%**
- **Can be 50% salary sought from the ARC (rest from the university).**
- **50% \$ sought from ARC – 20% average success rate, or 100% \$ sought from ARC – 8% average success rate**

■ **Success Rates 2004-08:**

- **BSB 14%, EE 15%, HCA 15%, MIC 14%, PE 12%, SBE 16%**
- **Fellow as part of a team 16% vs Sole Fellow Proposal 14%**
- **Women 12%, Men 14%**
- http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_fundingrules.htm

Australian Professorial Fellowships (APF)

	Proposals	Funded	Success rate
100% salary, 5 years	45	0	0.0%
50% salary, 5 years	158	29	18.4%
Total (DP09)	203	29	14.3%
PCG	52	8	15.4%

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_fundingrules.htm

Australian Laureate Fellows

- **Allocating \$239 million over 5 years**
- **Up to 15 to be awarded each year**
- **Each worth around \$3 million**
- **Are the most prestigious fellowships (Professor + \$100K)**
- **Seeking national and international applicants**
- **Emphasis is on research leadership & mentoring**
 - **Funds for 2 postdoctoral and 2 postgraduate researchers and project funding (up to \$300K). Will work with & mentor**

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/laureate/fl_fundingrules.htm

Australian Laureate Fellows Selection Criteria

- **Investigator (40%)**
 - Track record/outstanding research performance; research impact; potential to undertake ground-breaking research; outstanding leadership ability; potential to leave an enduring legacy
 - *Consideration given to stage of career and/or opportunity*
- **Project/Program of research activity (30%)**
 - **Innovation** eg aims original and innovative, integration
 - **Approach** eg new or relevant methods, technologies, theories; unflawed design
 - **Significance and national benefit** eg important problem, advance knowledge, project outcomes, benefits
- **Mentoring/Capacity Building (30%)**
 - build world-class research team, group or centre; exceptional ability to mentor postgraduates/postdoctoral candidates/early-mid career researchers;
 - exceptional leadership and organisational ability to ensure development of scale and focus; ability to attract financial resources to enhance research capacity
- http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/laureate/fl_fundingrules.htm

Federation Fellows 2003-2007 Success Rates

- **2003-2007 Success Rate = 14%**
- **BSB 15%, EE 13%, HCA 13%, MIC 13%, PE 14%, SBE 16%**
- **Women 12%, Men 14%**

Federation Fellows 2003-2007

<u>Career age band</u>	<u>Average success rate</u>
• No PhD	11.3%
• 0-5 yrs	5.0%
• 6-10 yrs	21.6%
• 11-15 yrs	11.6%
• 16-20 yrs	14.0%
• 21-25 yrs	18.6%
• 26-30 yrs	11.5%
• 30+ yrs	6.3%
• <u>Grand Total</u>	<u>13.8%</u>

**Career Age is Time between PhD graduation
and Proposal Submission Date**

Conclusion: Strategy

- **What career stage are you at?**
 - Think about your career stage in deciding fellowship to apply for
 - Consider carefully when applying for exemptions to timing issues
- **What are the success rates of the different schemes?**
 - Include that information as a consideration in your deliberations – give yourself the best chance
- **Write your application to each specific selection criterion for that scheme and according to how the application is assessed**
 - There will be a College of Experts Selection Panel (often not in your area) and more specialist assessors
- **Be very careful in choosing Field of Research codes**
 - They are influential in the match to College of Expert members and other assessors (consider influence of multi/interdisciplinary)
- **Consider carefully other issues where needed eg sole vs with a team proposal; international collaboration**