

Summary of changes to the ARC 2012 Discovery Projects Funding Rules

- Fellowships (including APD, APF, ARF, QEII) are no longer available through Discovery Projects. A new 'salary support' ("DORA") award has been introduced (see below for more information)
- The Eligibility Exemption Request process been removed
- Minimum funding has increased to \$30k (from \$20k in 2011)
- Projects are awarded for a maximum of 3 years (down from a maximum of 5 years)
- Two new budget items allowed:
 1. Access to national and international research and infrastructure facilities
 2. Publication and dissemination of Project outputs and outreach activity costs may be supported at up to 2% of total ARC funding awarded to the Project
- Teaching relief provisions have been modified so that it is available to a maximum of two CIs per application; no change to duration (6 months) or amount (\$34,879 in 2011)
- Funding for International Collaboration Awards (ICA) have reduced significantly to \$20k per 6 months (down from \$40k per 6 months in DP11)
- No change to CI eligibility
- No changes to the limitations on the number of proposals a researcher may hold or submit:
 - Generally, a CI may be involved in up to two DPs (one as a sole CI)
 - If a CI currently holds two DPs but one expires at the end of 2011, the CI may apply for another DP in 2012
 - Australian Laureate Fellows (current or 2011 applicants) may only hold one DP along with their Fellowship. If you are an existing Fellow or are applying in the 2011 round and hold a DP that will still be active in 2012, you cannot apply for a DP12
 - Centre Personnel receiving funding under the ARC Research Centres Program may only hold one DP
- **NOTE:** researchers will not be permitted to relinquish a CI, Fellow or Centre Personnel role on existing ARC grants held on **1 January 2011**, to circumvent the above limits.

- Changes to weighting of selection criteria/assessment:

2011 Selection Criteria (OLD)	2012 Selection Criteria (NEW)	Summary of changes
Investigator(s) (40%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research opportunity and performance evidence • capacity to undertake the proposed research 	Investigator(s) 40% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research opportunity and performance evidence (ROPE); • capacity to undertake the proposed research. 	None
Proposed Project Content Significance and Innovation (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does the research address a significant academic problem? • do the Proposal's aims and concepts advance the knowledge base? How will the anticipated outcomes advance the knowledge base of the discipline? • does the research have a conceptual framework? • will new methods or technologies be developed? • will the proposed project contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge in one or more areas of national research priority and/or the advancement of knowledge into Indigenous Australian societies? Approach & Methodology (20%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are the design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated and appropriate to the aims and conceptual framework of the Proposal? • how appropriate is the proposed budget? 	Project Quality 40% <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>The weighting of this section has reduced to allow for the new criteria below and has been simplified to only 4 key areas of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significance, • innovation, • approach and • advancing knowledge. <p>The additional component of Project Quality includes the previous National Benefit criteria (focussing on the benefit to Australia and whether the project addresses the National Research Priorities).</p>
National Benefit (10%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what is the potential of the research project to result in economic, environmental and/or social benefits for Australia from the expected results and outcomes of the project? • what is the potential for the research to contribute to the National Research Priorities? 	Research Environment 20% <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>The National Benefit criterion has been moved into the Project Quality criteria for 2012.</p> <p>Research Environment is a new criterion for 2012 and carries a significant weighting of 20%.</p>

Discovery Outstanding Researcher Awards (DORA)

With the removal of the APD, APF, ARF and QEII Fellowships from the DP12 Scheme, a new Award has been introduced to allow CIs to request funding for a salary at three different levels:

DORA Funding	Salary	On-costs 28%	Total
Step 1	\$100,493	\$28,139	\$128,632
Step 2	\$121,651	\$34,063	\$155,714
Step 3	\$142,806	\$39,986	\$182,792

NOTE: The Step chosen must be equivalent to or higher than the salary level of the CI as at the closing date for submission.

DORA eligibility:

- DORA applicants must satisfy the eligibility criteria for a CI
- Up to two DORAs may be requested per Proposal
- A CI cannot apply for DORA funding only
- A DORA can only be awarded for the same duration as the Discovery Project
- A CI awarded a DORA will not be awarded Teaching Relief
- A DORA recipient cannot commence another ARC Fellowship until after the final year of funding for the *Discovery Project* and DORA

DORA versus Future Fellowship

CIs considering applying for a DORA and who may also be considering submitting a Future Fellowship application later in the year should note that **'during the 2011 calendar year a request for a DORA within a *Discovery Projects Proposal* and a *Future Fellowships Proposal* cannot be submitted for the same CI'**. This means you must decide before finalising your submission if you wish to apply for a DORA or a Future Fellowship this year as you will not be able to apply for both in 2011. You may still apply for a Discovery Project without requesting a DORA.