FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Cross-Scheme Eligibility for schemes under the
Discovery Programme (2016 edition)

Version 1 - Release date: 17 October 2016

- All Participants should read the Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Programme (2016 edition). The scheme specific ‘Instructions to Applicants’ documents also contain important information for Research Office staff and individual participants preparing Proposals.

- The Australian Research Council (ARC) does not respond to queries from individual participants. Individual participants should direct all queries regarding ARC funding schemes to their Administering Organisation’s Research Office (or equivalent). If further information regarding the scheme is required, the Research Office should contact the relevant scheme:
  - Australian Laureate Fellowships: ARC-AustralianLaureateFellowships@arc.gov.au
  - Future Fellowships: ARC-FutureFellowships@arc.gov.au
  - Discovery Early Career Researcher Award: ARC-DECRA@arc.gov.au
  - Discovery Indigenous: ARC-DiscoveryIndigenous@arc.gov.au
  - Discovery Projects: ARC-DiscoveryProjects@arc.gov.au

- Information regarding the Research Management System (RMS) is available at the ARC website, or by contacting rms@arc.gov.au for assistance.

- As soon as information regarding important scheme dates becomes available, the ARC website will be updated. The ARC will also notify the Research Administrators’ Network of any updates through tweets.

- Please note that this FAQ document only addresses the eligibility of proposals submitted under the Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Programme (2016 edition) (the Funding Rules) Rules regarding Project limits for funding held under earlier Funding Rules may differ from those mentioned in this document.

- Questions regarding limits for currently-held funding should be directed to ARC-Postaward@arc.gov.au.

This Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated as required. Details of any amendments will be appended to this document.
1. FAQs regarding Cross-Scheme Eligibility - General

1.1 How do I calculate how many Active Projects I have to determine if I can apply for a scheme? Are variations and carryovers taken into consideration?

The number of Active Projects that a researcher is considered to have is determined as at the scheme-specific Funding Commencement Date. This will determine a researcher’s eligibility to apply for new funding.

An Active Project means a Project that is receiving funding according to the terms of the original Funding Agreement, or has any carryover funds approved by the ARC, or an approved variation to the Project’s end date.

1.2 How do I find my Active Projects?

You can see the list of current ARC projects on which you are named in RMS.

In the Person Profile section of RMS, click the link to Current ARC Projects. The Projects will appear in a format like the below example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identifier</th>
<th>Scheme Name</th>
<th>Investigators</th>
<th>Admin Organisation</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DP1234567</td>
<td>DP 2012</td>
<td>Dr Joe Bloggs</td>
<td>The University of X</td>
<td>Example Project Title</td>
<td>$876,543</td>
<td>30/06/2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Active Projects (as defined in the Funding Rules) are listed in RMS under currently held Projects.

The list of current ARC projects includes all Projects on which you are named that have not been fully financially acquitted (via an End of Year Report), and/or Projects that have not had the Final Report submitted and approved by the ARC.

Active Projects are determined based on the Project’s End Date in RMS at the time of the submission of a Proposal. This will be used to determine whether it is an Active Project for eligibility purposes.

If you believe any of the information on this page is incorrect, contact your Research Office, who will contact ARC-postaward@arc.gov.au to make any relevant changes via the Variation to Funding Agreement process.

Please note: this list will be pre-populated into the Personnel section of your Proposal Form.

1.3 Subsection A6.4.3 of the Funding Rules states “The Funding Commencement Date will be used for the purposes of determining Director, CI and PI eligibility”.

What is the Funding Commencement Date?

The Funding Commencement Date refers to the date on which the funding under the scheme will commence, as defined under ‘Commencement Date’ in the relevant scheme-specific section of the Funding Rules.

The Project Initialisation Date refers to the date the relevant Project is executed in RMS. This date is not used for eligibility checks.
1.4 Can I defer the start date of the Project, ARC Fellowship or ARC Award to avoid cross scheme limits?

No, the researcher must meet the eligibility criteria on the Funding Commencement Date for each scheme.

1.5 Do Projects or Proposals on which I am a Partner Investigator count toward cross-scheme eligibility limits?

No, as per subsection A6.3.5 of the Funding Rules, Projects or Proposals on which a researcher is a Partner Investigator or other non-named participant (such as a Postdoctoral Research Associate, a higher degree by research student or a research assistant) do not count toward cross-scheme eligibility limits.

Please note that a researcher eligible to apply as a CI may no longer be eligible as a PI on an existing Project as eligibility criteria must be met throughout the term of the Project.

1.6 Do NHMRC Project Grants count toward Discovery Programme cross-scheme eligibility limits?

The Discovery Programme does not limit researchers who are receiving or applying for NHMRC funding, as long as other ARC eligibility criteria are satisfied. Please note, however, that restrictions on duplication of Commonwealth funding still apply, and researchers should consider their time and capacity to undertake additional Projects. In addition, as specified in subsection A4.3.2 of the Funding Rules, the Discovery Programme does not support Medical Research. The ARC Website contains information regarding the ARC Medical Research Policy.

1.7 Can the same research Proposal be submitted for different schemes?

Yes. However, please note in accordance with subsection A5.1.5 of the Funding Rules, the ARC will not duplicate funding for research, including infrastructure, funded by the Commonwealth. Assessors also take into account criteria such as value for money and originality.

If a Proposal is submitted to more than one ARC funding scheme, this must be included in the ‘Research Support for all Participants’ section of the Proposal form. If both Proposals are successful, you will be required to manage any potential financial duplication through either an ARC-approved variation to the relevant Funding Agreement or by relinquishing one of the successful Projects.
2. FAQs regarding Cross-Scheme Eligibility under the Discovery Programme

2.1 For eligibility purposes, how many Projects, ARC Fellowships or ARC Awards can a researcher hold concurrently?

As per subsection A6.3.1 of the Funding Rules, within the Discovery Programme a researcher can be funded for a maximum of:

a. two Projects as a CI, or

b. one ARC Fellowship or ARC Award, and one Project as a CI.

2.2 Can I apply for a Discovery Programme Project/ARC Fellowship/ARC Award with more than the limit of Projects and Proposals, and relinquish a Project when I find out if I have been successful?

Yes, but only for certain schemes. Proposals submitted under the Australian Laureate Fellowship (FL) and Future Fellowships (FT) schemes will not be ruled ineligible to hold as at the Funding Commencement Date of the Project/ARC Fellowship/ARC Award being applied for. A successful Australian Laureate Fellow or a successful Future Fellow will be required to relinquish any existing Projects in order to comply with subsections A6.3.1 and A6.3.2 after the award of the Fellowship. Candidates will be required to nominate the Project(s) to be relinquished in the Proposal.

Please note that for the Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DE), Discovery Indigenous (IN) and Discovery Projects (DP) schemes, as per subsection A6.3.9 of the Funding Rules, a Proposal may only be submitted for funding that the researcher would be eligible to hold under the Funding Rules as at the relevant scheme’s Funding Commencement Date.

2.3 I have just been awarded funding, what should I do if my eligibility for other ARC Projects and/or Proposals has been affected?

Generally, as per subsection A6.3.9 of the Funding Rules, a Proposal may only be submitted for funding that the researcher would be eligible to hold under these rules as at the Funding Commencement Date.

However, if the newly awarded funding causes the cross-scheme eligibility limits to be exceeded, as per subsection A6.3.9 of the Funding Rules, a successful Australian Laureate Fellow or Future Fellow will be required to relinquish any existing Projects in order to comply with subsections A6.3.1 and A6.3.2 of the Funding Rules after the award of Fellowship. Candidates will be required to nominate the Project(s) to be relinquished in the Proposal.

2.4 Can a researcher who holds another Commonwealth-funded fellowship apply for an ARC Fellowship/ARC Award?

Yes, however a researcher cannot concurrently hold more than one ARC Fellowship or ARC Award, and a holder of an ARC Fellowship or ARC Award cannot concurrently hold a fellowship from another Commonwealth funding agency. As per subsection A6.3.6 of the Funding Rules, successful ARC Fellows or ARC Awardees will be required to relinquish other Commonwealth fellowships prior to the commencement of the ARC Fellowship or ARC Award.
3. FAQs regarding Cross-Programme eligibility

3.1 Do Projects or Proposals on which I am a Chief Investigator/Fellow/Awardee under the Discovery Programme count toward Linkage Programme cross-scheme eligibility limits?

No, Discovery Projects do not count towards the cross-scheme eligibility limits for the Linkage Programme. However, Linkage Programme Projects may count towards the cross-scheme eligibility limits for the Discovery Programme.

3.2 How many DP Projects/Proposals/Awards/Fellowships can I hold or apply for if I’m applying for a Linkage Programme scheme?

As per subsection A6.3.2 of the Discovery Programme Funding Rules (2016 Edition), researchers who are Directors of Industrial Transformation Research Hubs commencing in 2015 or later, Directors of Industrial Transformation Training Centres commencing in 2016 or later, CIs on funded ARC Centres of Excellence commencing in 2017 or later, or Directors of Special Research Initiatives commencing in 2015 or later may only apply for or hold one Project/ARC Fellowship/ARC Award under the Discovery Programme.

3.3 Can I apply for a Linkage Programme Project with more than the limit (ie one) of Discovery Programme Projects/Proposals/Fellowship and Awards, and relinquish a Project when I find out if I have been successful?

Yes, but only for certain roles on the ITRP scheme. Researchers applying as Directors on Proposals submitted under Industrial Transformation Research Hubs 2017 and Industrial Transformation Training Centres 2017 schemes will not have their Discovery Projects/Proposals/Fellowship and Awards counted towards the cross-programme eligibility limits until all are awarded. As per subsection A6.3.3 of the Discovery Programme Funding Rules, Proposals/Projects/Fellowships/Awards may be retained until the outcome of the round is announced, at which point the cross-scheme eligibility limits must be met by relinquishing the relevant Project(s). The ARC reserves the right to nominate which Project(s), Fellowship(s), Award(s) are to be relinquished.

Researchers applying to the Linkage Projects and LIEF schemes, as well as researchers applying as a CI (not a Director) to Industrial Transformation Research Hubs and Industrial Transformation Training Centres may only submit a Proposal for funding that the researcher would be eligible to hold under the Funding Rules as at the relevant scheme’s Funding Commencement Date.

3.4 I have just been awarded Linkage Programme funding, what should I do if my eligibility for other ARC Projects and/or Proposals has been affected?

Generally, as per subsection A6.2.1 of the Discovery Programme Funding Rules (2016 Edition), all CIs, PIs and Candidates named in a Proposal must satisfy the eligibility criteria for the role they are to perform as at the scheme-specific Commencement Date and for the duration of the Project.

Scheme limits do not apply to Partner Investigators.

However, if the newly awarded funding causes the cross-programme eligibility limits to be exceeded, as per subsection A7.4.6 of the Funding Rules, a Director on a successful Industrial Transformation Research Hub 2017 or Industrial Transformation Training Centre 2017 will be required to relinquish any in excess of in order to comply with the cross-programme eligibility limits.
## Discovery Programme cross-scheme eligibility requirements for CIs

Please consult the Funding Agreement and Funding Rules for your currently funded Projects/ARC Fellowships/ARC Awards to determine whether funding may need to be relinquished if your Proposal is successful. Please note that the following table is not exhaustive and if you are unsure, you should consult your Research Office for clarification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I want to apply for</th>
<th>What makes me ineligible to apply?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **DP18** | Holding more than one Discovery Programme Project as a CI that will be active on 1 January 2018 **or**  
Holding a Discovery Programme Project as a CI and an ARC Fellowship or an ARC Award that will be active on 1 January 2018 **or**  
Holding a Discovery Programme Project as a CI or an ARC Fellowship or an ARC Award that will be active on 1 January 2018 and applying for more than one DP18 or more than 1 IN18.  
Applying for more than two DP18 as a CI.  
Applying for a DE18 and two DP18 as a CI. |
| **IN18** | Holding more than one Discovery Programme Project as a CI that will be active on 1 January 2018 **or**  
Holding a Discovery Programme Project as a CI and an ARC Fellowship or an ARC Award that will be active on 1 January 2018 **or**  
Holding a Discovery Programme Project as a CI or an ARC Fellowship or an ARC Award that will be active on 1 January 2018 and applying for more than one DP18 or more than 1 IN18. |
| **IN18 (as a DAATSIA)** | Holding more than one Discovery Programme Project as a CI that will be active on 1 January 2018 **or**  
Holding an ARC Fellowship or ARC Award (including a DAATSIA) that will be Active on 1 January 2018 **or**  
Applying for more than one Discovery Programme Proposal as a CI. |
| **DE18** | Holding more than one Discovery Programme Project as a CI that will be active on 1 January 2018 **or**  
Holding an ARC Fellowship or ARC Award that will be Active on 1 January 2018 **or**  
Applying for more than one Discovery Programme Proposal as a CI. |
| **FT17 or FL17** | FT17 or FL17 applicants will not be ruled ineligible if by applying for an FL or an FT they exceed the cross-scheme eligibility limits in A6.3.9 of the Funding Rules.  
However, in the following situations applicants will be required to relinquish in order to meet cross-scheme eligibility limits after announcement: |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I want to apply for a</th>
<th>What makes me ineligible to apply?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holding or applying for more than one Discovery Programme Project as a CI that will be active on 1 July 2017 or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holding or applying for an ARC Fellowship or ARC Award that will be Active on 1 July 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: as per C9.1.3 of the Funding Rules, a DECRA Recipient may apply for a *Future Fellowship* in the final year of *DECRA* funding.