



UQ Research Office FAQs—NHMRC 2026 Investigator Grants for Funding in 2027

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Application Resources

What resources are available to help with my INV preparation?

Research Office resources are available to help you prepare your INV application:

- **Research Office NHMRC Investigator Grants Webpage:** The [Research Office Investigator Grants website](#) includes all dates, resources and document templates.
- **How-to Guide:** The Research Office has prepared a How-To Guide to assist applicants in the development of their INV application (available on the [Research Office Investigator Grants website](#)). The Guide provides advice on suggested approaches to key sections of the application and includes examples from past successful UQ applications.
- **Grant Proposal Template:** The Research Office has prepared a template that complies with NHMRC formatting requirements and provides helpful tips for inclusion. These templates are available on the [Research Office Investigator Grants website](#).
- **Benchmarking:** The Research Office analyses successful applications from previous rounds (UQ and nationally). See the “Key Findings” document on [our website](#).
- **Impact Guide:** The Research Office provides a Research Impact Case Study guide for your use in writing this section. Available on the [Research Office Investigator Grants website](#).
- **Career Disruption Calculator:** to assist you in determining your eligibility, we provide a career disruption calculator available on [Research Office Investigator Grants website](#).
- **Previous successful applications:** Previous applications are a valuable resource for drafting your proposal. You can request access to past NHMRC Investigator Grant applications through the [Research Office Grants Library](#).
- **UQ Library for metrics:** The UQ Library has an updated [Research Impact and Metrics page](#), with information on various aspects of bibliometrics to source information and data for inclusion into your application. We recommend using as many of the Library’s tools as possible to ensure you are able to include and reference metrics to the best of your ability.
- **Faculty and Institute Research Managers (FIRM):** You can also contact your [Faculty and Institute Research Manager](#) for pre-submission support.

Where can I go for pre-submission support?

- Research Office Investigator Grants Webpage: <https://research.uq.edu.au/research-support/research-management/funding-schemes/national-health-medical-research-council-nhmrc/nhmrc-investigator-grants>
- UQ’s Research Office Team: NHMRC@research.uq.edu.au.
- Faculty and Institute support: <https://research.uq.edu.au/research-support/research-management/faculty-and-institute-research-managers>.
- UQ Library (support for metrics): <https://web.library.uq.edu.au/research-and-publish/metrics>
- Feedback from peer review or mentors is critical to the success of your application.

Does the Research Office have access to past applications?

Yes. You can request access to past applications through the [Research Office Grants Library](#). The Grants Library contains successful applications for NHMRC, ARC and other schemes. You can specifically request permission to access successful Investigator Grant applications to help you draft/prepare your proposal.



Eligibility

How do I determine my eligibility for this round?

Qualifications (see section 4.2 of the Guidelines). Researchers applying for an InvG must have been awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), or a research qualification equivalent to the level 10 criteria of the Australian Qualifications Framework Second Edition January 2013 (confirmed by UQ as the Administering Institution), or have equivalent research experience (confirmed by UQ as the Administering Institution).

- **For Emerging Leaders** (see Section 4.4 of the Guidelines). Emerging leaders must have passed their PhD (or equivalent) on or after 30 July 2015, unless they have had a career disruption.
- The PhD date is that your PhD thesis was passed (not the date of conferral).

Citizenship and Visa status (see section 4.1 of the Guidelines). At the time of acceptance and for the duration of a grant, the CIA must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia.

Non-NHMRC grants (see section 4.3.4 of the Guidelines and Appendix A of this FAQ). Recipients of grants that are not funded by the NHMRC and that include a salary component may apply for an NHMRC Investigator Grant. If successful, and the total value of the salary from the non-NHMRC grant is greater than 20% of the total value of the salary component of the Investigator Grant, the applicant will not be eligible to draw a salary from the Investigator Grant for the period of overlap. Once the non-NHMRC grant salary support has ended, the CIA will be eligible to draw a salary from their Investigator Grant. The RSP component of the Investigator Grant will not be affected.

NHMRC Grants held and applied for. See two sections below.

How many NHMRC grants can I apply for?

NB: A submitted Investigator Grant application that is withdrawn after round close will continue to impact eligibility for Ideas grants in the same round.

Limits apply to the number of NHMRC grants that you may concurrently apply for each round.

- You can submit two applications across the Investigator and Ideas Grant schemes in any given round.
- You can submit one application for an Investigator Grant in any given funding round.
- An Investigator Grant CIA is eligible to apply for a new Investigator Grant if, at the time of application, their existing Investigator Grant will end before, or be in its final year, on 1 January 2027.
- You may apply for an Investigator Grant concurrently with an Ideas Grant; however, if both are successful only the Investigator Grant will be awarded.
- If you hold an Ideas Grant, you can apply for and hold an Investigator Grant, but RSP will be reduced by 50% until the Ideas Grant has ended.

How many NHMRC grants can I hold?

NHMRC Grants held. Limits apply to the number of NHMRC grants that you may concurrently hold.

- The NHMRC provides an eligibility tool (indicative only), available here:
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/investigator-and-ideas-grants-eligibility-tool>



- A maximum of two grants from the NHMRC Ideas and Investigator Grants schemes may be held concurrently.
- An Investigator Grant CIA is eligible to apply for a new Investigator Grant if, at the time of application, their existing Investigator Grant will end before, or be in its final year on, 1 January 2027.
- The RSP will be reduced by 50% for the period of overlap with concurrent held Ideas Grants.

Can I apply for an Investigator grant and an Ideas grant in the same round?

You can apply for both an Investigator Grant and Ideas Grant. However, if your Investigator Grant is successful your Ideas Grant will be ruled ineligible.

This will impact the team on the Ideas Grant, so we advise you to be transparent with your co-CIs on the Ideas Grant.

I applied for two Ideas Grants in the 2025 round. Can I apply for an Investigator Grant in the 2026 round?

Since the 2025 round, CIs are no longer eligible to hold two Ideas grants and an Investigator grant (section 4.3.1). The maximum that may be held across both schemes is one Ideas Grant and one Investigator Grant. The Investigators 2026 round considers the number of grants that an investigator holds/will hold as a CI on 1 January 2027 (Guidelines Appendix E). If both Ideas Grants submitted in the 2025 round are successful, then you would hold two active Ideas as a CI on 1 January 2027 and therefore be ineligible to apply for an Investigator Grant in the 2026 round. If one Ideas Grant is funded, then you'll be eligible to hold an Investigator 2026, but with a 50% reduction to RSP.

Note that if both Ideas Grants are funded, your Investigator application would be ruled ineligible regardless of whether you accepted the Ideas grants.

Can I apply for an Investigator Grant if I have already held one?

An Investigator Grant CIA is eligible to apply for a new Investigator Grant *if*, at the time of application, their existing Investigator Grant will end before, or be in its final year on, 1 January 2027.

If an Investigator Grant CIA holds or has previously held an Investigator Grant(s), there will be restrictions on what level they can re-apply at (see section 2.0, Table 2 of the Guidelines for further detail).

- Each level of the EL Category (EL1 and EL2) can only be held once.
- Leadership Level 1 (L1) and Leadership Level 2 (L2) can be held twice.
- Leadership Level 3 (L3) can be held five times.

Can I apply for an Investigator Grant if I have already held an NHMRC Fellowship?

- If the first year of the Investigator Grant overlaps with the final year of an NHMRC Fellowship or Investigator Grant, the salary component of the Investigator Grant will not be paid during the overlap.
- Current or previous NHMRC Fellowship recipients cannot apply for an Investigator Grant at a Level lower than the applicant's most recently held NHMRC Fellowship (See Appendix F of Grant Guidelines for details).



I hold an Other Australian Government Grant, how does this impact my Investigator Grant?

If the non-NHMRC grant does not contain a salary component, then there is no impact. If the non-NHMRC grant does have a salary component, see below (and section 4.3.4 of the Guidelines).

I hold a non-NHMRC grant with a salary component, how does this impact my Investigator Grant?

See Appendix A of these FAQs for a decision tree.

If the value of the salary component from the other grant is greater than 20% of the value of your Investigator Grant salary, the salary component of the Investigator Grant will not be paid (i.e., will be forfeited) for the period of overlap.

If the value of the salary component from the other grant is less than 20% of the value of your Investigator Grant salary for the period of overlap, you may retain both salaries.

What is the process for qualification evaluation?

If you hold a higher research degree that is not a PhD, the DVC(RI) must certify that your qualification meets the level 10 criteria of the *Australian Qualifications Framework Second Edition*. If this is applicable to you, please email the appropriate evidence to NHMRC@research.uq.edu.au so that the Research Office can organise review and certification of your qualification.

What is the difference between Relative to Opportunity and Career disruption?

Career disruption (See Appendix C of the Guidelines) is a prolonged period of interruption to your ability to work due to pregnancy, illness/injury, and/or carer responsibilities. These are considered when determining an applicant's eligibility to hold an Emerging Leadership Grant. The absence from work must be for 90 calendar days or more and/or continuous, long-term, part-time employment (with defined % FTE) due to circumstances defined as career disruption above (pregnancy, illness, carer responsibilities).

Relative to Opportunity includes any other personal or professional considerations affecting research productivity. These are taken into account in track record assessment. See Appendix C of the Guidelines for a full list of relative to opportunity considerations.

About Investigator Grants

What is a Part-time (Professional) Investigator Grant? What is a Part-time (Personal) Investigator Grant? What is the difference?

- A Part-time (Professional) Investigator Grant (see 3.3.2 of Guidelines) is awarded part-time to allow researchers to maintain other professional activities.
- A Part-time (Personal) Investigator Grant (see 3.3.3 of Guidelines) is awarded part-time to support researchers experiencing career disruptions to divide their time between their personal situation and conducting research.

What do I need to know about Part-time (Professional) Investigator Grants?

- These grants are available from 0.2 to 0.8 FTE over five years.



- The salary component of the grant will be adjusted pro rata.
- Applicants must hold, or have been offered, another funded position (e.g. in policy, industry, clinical, public health or equivalent practice, teaching)
- Other employer must guarantee to release them for the time specified in their grant application to conduct research. The Research Office supplies a template for this on [our website](#).
- Continuation of the Investigator Grant will depend on continued financial support by the employer for the balance of the applicant's work time for the duration of the grant.
- May retain 100% of their RSP. The Research Office recommends requesting 100% as this cannot be increased later.
- The combined time spent on research and on other professional activities must equate to 1.0 FTE, except where there is a career disruption.
- Professional Part-time Investigator Grants are to be held at the indicated FTE for the duration of the grant. The indicated FTE of the grant cannot be increased at any stage.

What do I need to know about Part-time (Personal) Investigator Grants?

- These grants are available for 0.2 to 0.8 FTE over five years.
- The UQ Research Office must retain evidence to confirm that the requested FTE is for circumstances defined as career disruption.
- The non-research time is intended to be dedicated to serving the needs of a researcher's personal circumstances due to a career disruption and cannot be spent on other paid employment, research, teaching or administrative roles, or clinical or practitioner responsibilities.
- **Applicants seeking a Part-Time (Personal) Investigator Grant should apply for a full-time grant.** If successful, they can then request a grant variation to reduce their FTE commitment in-line with their career disruption, as required (from any time following the acceptance of their grant).
- Recipients of a Part-Time (Personal) Investigator grant may choose **one** of the following options:
 - request NHMRC to reduce their salary payment in-line with the reduction in FTE commitment to the grant (no change in the grant term, salary funding reduced)
 - redirect the unused salary to the grant's RSP (no change to the grant term or total funding amount—the redirected salary funds will be treated the same as RSP funds)
 - extend the term of the Investigator Grant pro-rata (with the reduction in FTE commitment) for up to an additional 2 years (salary will be reallocated to reflect the increased grant duration resulting from the change in FTE commitment with no change to the grant funding—unused salary will be redirected to the grant's RSP)
 - fully suspend the grant (salary and RSP) for 1 FTE career disruptions (extends the grant term in line with the period of suspension, no change to total funding).

For more details on these options, please see section 12.2. of the Guidelines.

- Recipients of a Part-time (Personal) Investigator Grant may request to increase their time commitment and convert to full-time salary for personal reasons, such as changes in carer responsibility or recovery from an illness or major injury.
- Where a request to convert or return to full-time is approved, the salary component of the Investigator Grant will be increased to the full-time amount for the remaining duration of the original grant term; however, the value of the RSP will be unchanged. The Research Office recommends requesting 100% at the time of application.



Can I apply for an Investigator Grant if I hold an academic institutional leadership/administrative salaried appointment related to research?

Yes, applicants may apply for an Investigator Grant, but are not entitled to salary support if, on 1 January 2027, they hold:

- roles where the overarching responsibility is leadership of an independent Medical Research Institute (e.g. Director or Chief Executive Officer (CEO))
- roles where the overarching responsibility is leadership of an institute or centre under university or hospital governance (e.g. Director or CEO)
- academic administrative roles such as Dean, Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor or Pro Vice-Chancellor.

Completing your Application

How does my track record compare with past successful Investigator Grant applications? What impact can I highlight aside from publications?

The Research Office provides a “Key Findings” document with publication-benchmarking information from previous successful applications. The document also describes other key indications of leadership, aside from publications. The Key Findings document, is available on the [Research Office website](#).

How do I select which level to apply for?

Review “Appendix D. Statements of Expectations” in the NHMRC Guidelines. These statements describe the typical research experience and academic level at each Investigator Grant Level. The descriptors provided a broad benchmark; it is not essential that all elements be met.

If you currently hold or have previously held an NHMRC Fellowship, there will be additional constraints around which level of Investigator Grant you may apply for. Please review Appendix F of the Guidelines.

What should I do if I do not exactly meet the Academic Level and years post-PhD for the level I want to apply for?

The descriptors provided in the Statements of Expectations are a broad benchmark - it is not essential that all elements be met. You can justify your selection of level within the application; use that section wisely and consult with your faculty leaders. Consider the textual descriptors in the Statements of Expectations, not just the Academic Level and years post-PhD.

What are the Investigator Grant success rates at UQ?

The key findings for UQ, including past success rates, can be found in the “Key Findings” document, available on the [Research Office website](#).

What research infrastructure is available at UQ?

[UQ Research Infrastructure](#) offers access to high-tech research equipment and instrumentation, laboratories and wide-ranging scientific services and training at subsidised rates. When preparing your research budget, you can find up-to-date research infrastructure access costs at <https://research.uq.edu.au/research-infrastructure/guide-to-grants>.



UQ Processes

How do I declare a conflict of interest to UQ?

UQ upholds a strong position to steward public money and public trust and undertake research in the national interest. UQ requires its staff to register interests via [four registers](#):

- Conflict of Interest (Disclosure and Management of Interests Register)
- Secondary Employment Register
- Sensitive Research Register
- Foreign Influence

All staff are required to complete the registers even if they have nothing to disclose.

To complete your disclosures:

1. Go to your [UQ dashboard](#)
2. Click on My Requests
3. Click on New Request
4. Select the register you need from the list and complete the form.

This should be done annually and whenever there is a change to circumstances.

What is UQ Amplify and will I be eligible to apply after completing a successful Investigator Grant?

[UQ Amplify](#) is a scheme to attract, retain and develop externally funded Fellows at UQ. Successful Emerging Leadership recipients will have the option to apply for a two-year (EL1) or three-year (EL2) fixed-term position at UQ through the UQ Amplify scheme at the completion of their fellowship. Leadership recipients will have the option to apply for a five-year fixed-term position at UQ through the UQ Amplify scheme at the completion of their fellowship.

Amplify is available for those who are not on a continuing appointment and do not have another commitment to post-Fellowship transition.

To be eligible to apply for UQ Amplify funding, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be employed at UQ or hold a conjoint or secondment appointment;
- Not have an offer for or an underlying continuing appointment at UQ; and
- Be endorsed by the host Head of School or Institute Director as part of the UQ Amplify application process.
- Fulfil the requirements of a Teaching Plan **during** the external Fellowship

If you wish to be considered for a UQ Amplify appointment upon the conclusion of your fellowship, please familiarise yourself with the Guidelines and Conditions of Funding available from the [UQ Amplify webpage](#).

The Application Process

What are Minimum Data?

Minimum Data are Sapphire application inputs that must be completed by the minimum data deadline at 5pm ACT local time on 2 July 2025, well ahead of the full application deadline.

Minimum data fields this round (see section 7.3.1. and Appendix G of the Guidelines) are:



- Application Title
- Administering Institution
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Research Focus (yes/no)
- Project synopsis
- Privacy agreement
- Research classification
 - Broad research area
 - Field(s) of research
 - Peer Review Areas
 - Research Keywords
- Chief Investigator A (complete CIA role and name)
- Category and level

Placeholder text e.g. “text”, “synopsis”, “xxx” does not count as minimum data.

Failure to meet the minimum data requirements by the deadline will result in the application not proceeding.

Applicants are discouraged from making any changes to minimum data fields following the minimum data deadline, since the NHMRC uses minimum data to identify appropriate peer reviewers to assess the application.

How do I submit internally for UQ R&I review?

When your full application and all attachments are ready (and valid) in Sapphire, you will need to submit internally to the UQ Research Office.

Email NHMRC@research.uq.edu.au to advise that the application is ready for review. Please attach to this e-mail:

- your completed and signed Application Certification Form.
- a word document of your Grant Proposal
- For emerging leaders - evidence of your PhD pass date (if not already provided).
- If applicable - evidence of any career disruptions (if not already provided).

How does the internal Research Office review process work?

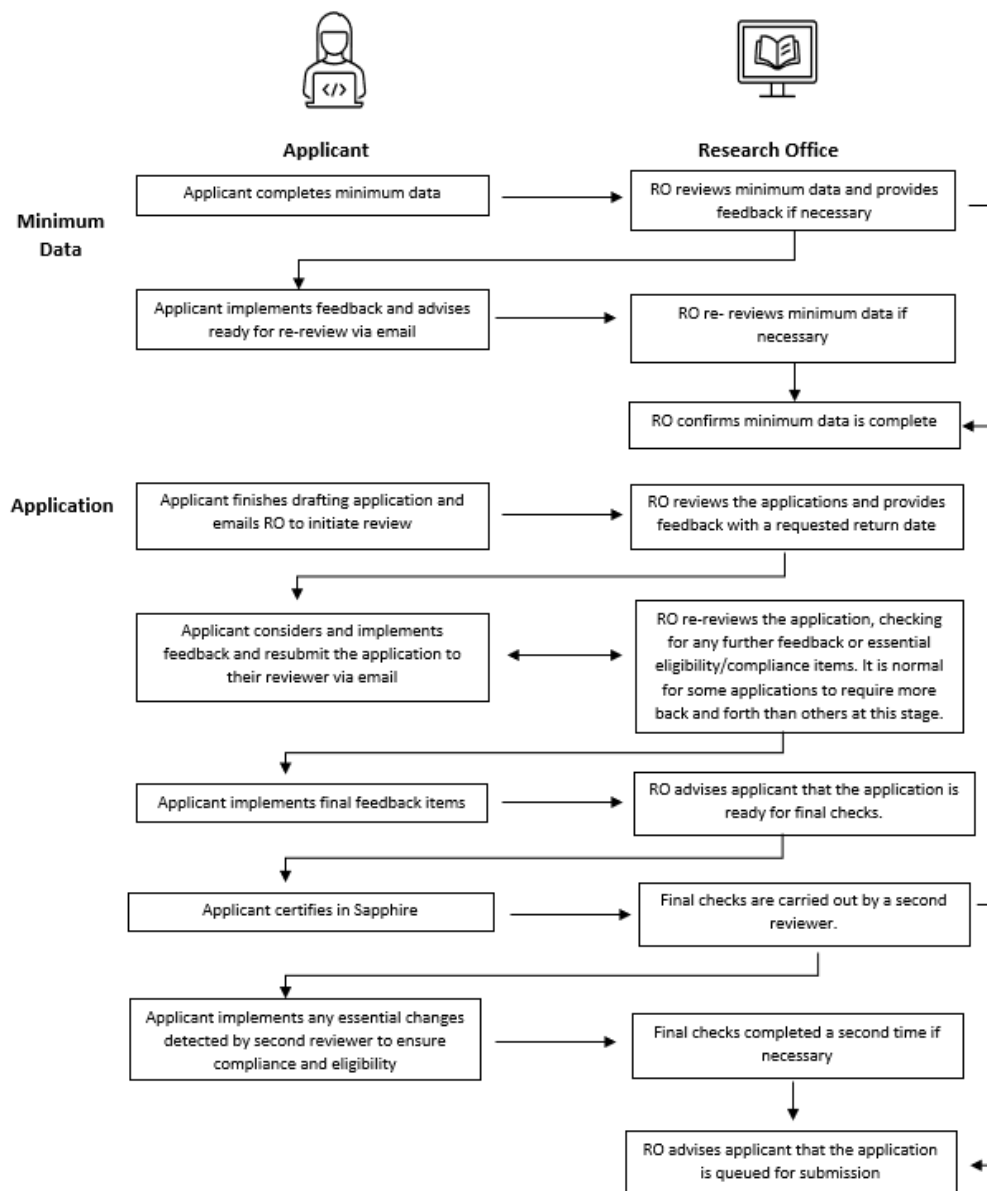
Please note that while the Research Office will provide review of all parts of your application, it should *complement* the peer/mentor review you should have already received to have the best chance of success.

Peer and mentor review should begin very early in the development of your application so that the Research Office can help refine your application.

After you have completed your Investigator Grant application in Sapphire, you will need to email the Research Office at NHMRC@research.uq.edu.au to initiate the internal review process.

A typical internal review process may require several rounds of review and correspondence with you to finalise the application, followed by a final review by a second internal reviewer.

Finally, the Research Office will submit the application to the NHMRC. The typical internal review process might look like the following:



How does the NHMRC Investigator Grant assessment process work?

After you submit your application to the NHMRC, it will be sent to peer reviewers based on “best fit” determined using the minimum data provided on 2 July 2025. Those peer reviewers will complete their assessments individually. Provisional ranked lists will be provided to the NHMRC and funding recommendations generated.

Appendix A: Decision Tree for non-NHMRC Funding

