

NHMRC Ideas Grants Funding Scheme

12 March 2020



Sapphire

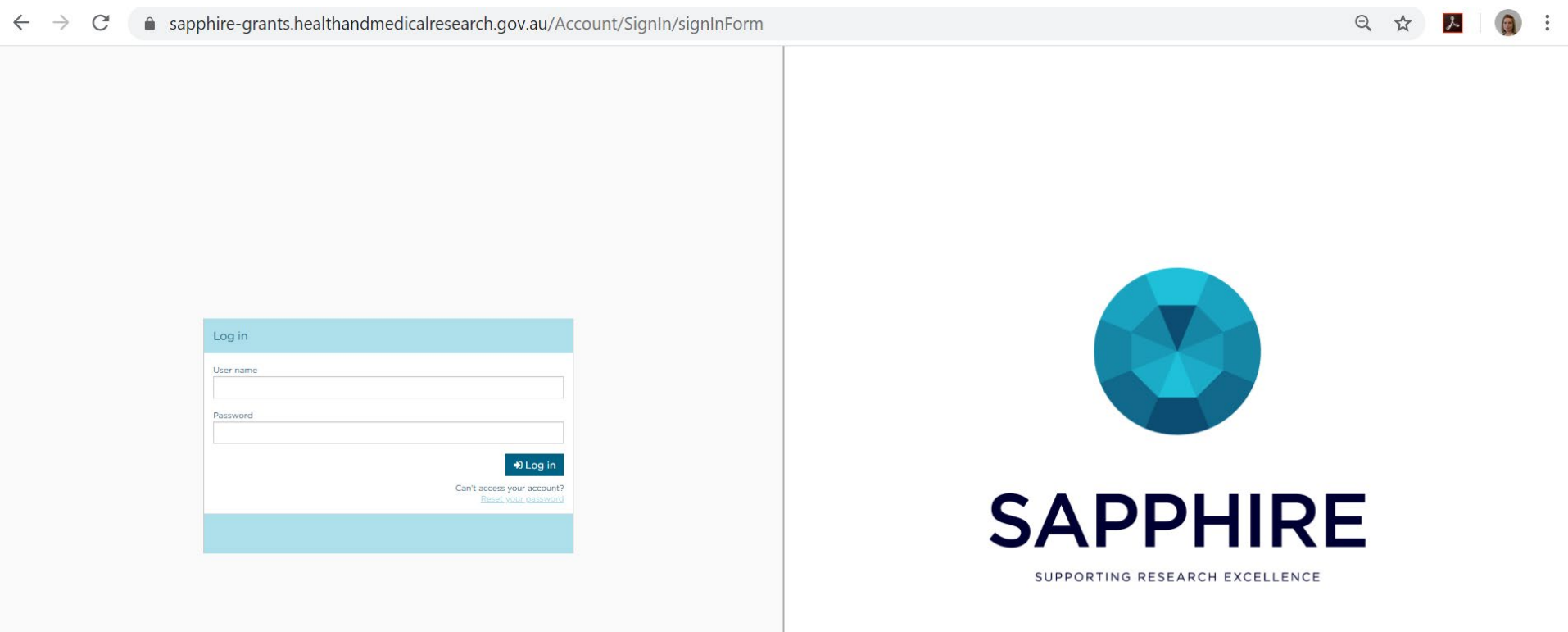
Please note this application will be submitted via the NHMRC's new Grant Management System [Sapphire](#). If you had an active RGMS account your CV and Profile email was migrated into Sapphire on 12 February 2020. To login to Sapphire:

1. If you have an existing RGMS account, a Sapphire account has been created for you. Click [here](#) to Activate your account.
2. If you did not have an RGMS account, you will need to register for a Sapphire account. Click [here](#) to Register for an account.

Tutorial and training modules for Sapphire can be found [here](#).

Sapphire

<https://sapphire-grants.healthandmedicalresearch.gov.au/Account/SignIn/signInForm>



← → ↻ 🔒 sapphire-grants.healthandmedicalresearch.gov.au/Account/SignIn/signInForm 🔍 ☆ 📄 👤 ⋮


Log in

User name

Password

Log in

Can't access your account?
[Reset your password](#)



SAPPHIRE

SUPPORTING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Changes in Sapphire

- No CI and AI certification emails/forms – inbuilt into Sapphire, as you invite CI and AI's to join the application
- Sapphire is a shared document
 - One person in the document at one time
 - You can assign other CI's to edit the application
- No hidden menus
- Clear markers for minimum data sections

NHMRC Ideas Grant Application

Changes in 2020
The Scheme

Changes in 2020

- Section 2 – clarification has been provided regarding applications with a clinical trial/cohort study element within Ideas Grants. A new eligibility rule has been introduced to outline that applicants must not submit the same application to both the Ideas Grant and Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grant schemes, otherwise both applications will be deemed ineligible.
- The Ideas Grants 2020 Category Descriptors have been updated to provide clarification including:
 - The former ‘Feasibility’ criterion has been renamed to ‘Capability’, and the focus of this criterion has been reframed.
 - Additional explanatory text has been added above the category descriptors, including guidance on how to assess the contribution of Associate Investigators.

From Feasibility to Capability

- **‘Feasibility’** is the appropriateness of the applicant team and their expertise, the resources and access to additional personnel necessary for the project.
- **‘Capability’** is the appropriateness of the applicant team and their expertise, the resources and access to additional personnel necessary to achieve the project aims. **Capability is not** an assessment of traditional track record elements, such as number of publications, grants held, or conference invitations. The CIA must demonstrate their ability to lead the project, including managing the project’s resources, personnel, budget and administrative requirements, in order to execute the project. Als can be included to strengthen the overall technical capability of the team (e.g. specialists such as statisticians), but they must not be essential for the leadership of the project.

About Ideas Grants

- The objective of the Ideas Grant scheme is to support innovative research projects addressing specific question(s).

The expected outcomes are:

- Innovative and creative research
- Funding of researchers at all career stages, and
- Funding any area of health and medical research from discovery to implementation

It is expected that the CIA will have the scientific leadership and skills to achieve the proposed project aims.

NHMRC Documents

Grant Opportunity Documents - GO3777


2020 Ideas Grants

GO ID: GO3777

The files below make up the document set for this grant opportunity.

To open the files, click on the file name. Some web browsers require you to click the right mouse button. You will then see a list of options; choose either 'Save Target As' or 'Save Link As...'


2020 Ideas Grant Guidelines

 [2020 Ideas Grant Guidelines.pdf](#) 848 KB

2020 Ideas_Grant_proposal_template

 [2020 Ideas_Grant_proposal_template.docx](#) 18 KB

Key characteristics of Ideas Grants applications

 [Key characteristics of Ideas Grants applications.pdf](#) 151 KB

www.grants.gov.au

2021 CTCS Grant Dates

Activity	Deadline
Applications Open (Sapphire)	Wednesday 11 March 2020
MQ Minimum Data Deadline <i>All Sapphire sections MUST be complete by 9am on this date</i>	9am Tuesday 7 April 2020.
MQ Submission Date <i>All complete applications must be submitted internally by this date (Grant Proposal and Sapphire snapshots attached and submitted through Pure)</i>	9am Wednesday 8 April 2020
MQ will submit applications to NHMRC	6 May 2020
Outcomes	November/December 2020
Commence Ideas Grant	1 January 2021

Eligibility

- At the time of acceptance and for the duration of the grant, the CIA must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia.
- Check your eligibility:
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/investigator-ideas-and-synergy-eligibility-tool>

Did you or another CI apply for an Investigator Grant?

4.3.2 Ideas Grants affect Investigator Grant applications

If a **CI (CIA-CIJ) concurrently (in the same funding round) applies for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be offered. As a consequence, the Ideas Grant will not be eligible for funding.**

If **CIs who hold one or two Ideas Grants are awarded an Investigator Grant, the RSP will be reduced by 50% for each Ideas Grant held.** Each reduction to the RSP will cease as each grant(s) that led to the reduction expires.

Investigator Grant holders cannot apply for an Ideas Grant, unless they are in the final year of the Investigator Grant at the time of application.

RSP reductions for Ideas Grants held under the new grant program will be in addition to any RSP reductions applied for Project and Program Grants held under the old grant program. Grants held under the old grant program and new grant program are considered together when determining RSP reductions for Investigator Grants.

NHMRC CTCS Grant Application

MQ Process
Application Structure

The Application Process

- Discuss your Ideas Grant research idea and team with MQ staff (E.g. supervisor, HoD, Faculty Research Office). To confirm it is a CT or CS.
- Begin working on full application
- Complete all of Sapphire by 9am on Tuesday 7 April
- Submit full application, via PURE, by the MQ internal deadline (8 April 2020)
- Submit application via Sapphire to the NHMRC (6 May 2020)

Change in MQ Process and Why

- All Sapphire sections **MUST** be complete by 9am on Tuesday 31 March 2020 and applicants **must remain logged out of Sapphire until they receive an email from the Proposals Team to confirm their minimum data** and each section is complete. NOTE: No extensions will be given on this process
- **The word version of your grant proposal (complete full draft) and all Sapphire snapshots (all sections completed) must be submitted via PURE (click 'Send to Internal Approval')** by the Macquarie University submission date of **Wednesday 1 April 2020 (9am)** for strategic, eligibility and compliance checks and submission to the NHRMC by Research Services. You will also need to follow this step again for your second compliance check, due date for this check will be given to you by the Proposals Team when your first compliance feedback is provided.

Note these two steps have been put in place to prevent researchers having to submit their grant to RAO via Sapphire, thus locking their application until checks are complete. Sapphire is set-up as a shared document, in which only one person can be logged into an application at a time (this was not the case in RGMS).

Sapphire

- Synopsis
- Plain English Summary
- Participating Institutions
- Research Classification
- Burden of Disease
- Research Team
- Ethics
- Career Disruption (if applicable)
- Associate Investigators
- Proposed Budget
- Research Proposal (100%)

Grant Proposal

Component	Page Limit
Research Proposal	7 Pages
References	2 Pages
Innovation and Creativity	1 Page
Significance Statement	1 Page
Capability Statement	1 Pages
Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria (if applicable)	2 Pages
Cancer Australia PdCCRS (if applicable)	1 Page

NHMRC Ideas Grant Assessment

NHMRC Process
Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria

- **Research Quality (35%)**
 - 7 page research proposal
- **Innovation and Creativity (25%)**
 - 1 page innovation and creativity statement
- **Significance (20%)**
 - Significance statement
- **Capability (20%)**
 - Capability statement

Assessment Criteria Scoring

Score	Performance Indicator
7	Exceptional
6	Outstanding
5	Excellent
4	Very Good
3	Good
2	Satisfactory
1	Weak or Limited

Assessment Criteria Scoring

CATEGORY	Research Quality (35%)	Innovation & Creativity (25%)	Significance (20%)	Capability (20%)
7 Exceptional	<p>The project aims and proposed research plan:</p> <p>are supported by an extremely well justified hypothesis/rationale</p> <p>are focused, well-defined, extremely coherent and have a flawless study design and approach</p> <p>would be extremely competitive with the best, similar research proposals internationally</p> <p>have extremely well identified and managed scientific and technical risks.</p>	<p>Relative to the research field, the planned research demonstrates extremely innovative project aims, which will result in an extremely substantial shift in the current paradigm, and/or lead to an extremely substantial breakthrough or impact in the research area.</p>	<p>The planned research, relative to the research field:</p> <p>will address an issue of critical importance to advance the research or health area (not prevalence or magnitude of the issue)</p> <p>will result in extremely significant outcomes in the science, knowledge, practice or policy underpinning human health issues</p> <p>will lead to extremely significant research outputs (intellectual property, publications, products, services, conferences, teaching aids, consulting, contract research, spin-offs, licensing etc.).</p>	<p>The CIA demonstrates a very strong capability to lead the team in achieving the project aims.</p> <p>The CI applicant team overall:</p> <p>has exceptional capability to execute the project and deliver outcomes.</p> <p>has access to exceptional technical resources, infrastructure, equipment and facilities and if required, has access to additional support personnel (Associate Investigators) necessary for the project.</p> <p>has an extremely appropriate balance of integrated expertise, experience and training that specifically targets all aspects of the proposed research, in terms of both depth and breadth.</p>

Ideas Grants

Total number of applications received	2739
Total number of applications applying for NHMRC funding	2651
Number of grants awarded	294
Percentage of applications awarded	11.1%
Mean budget for awarded grants	\$822,258.82
Average CI Team Size	3

Ideas Grants

Broad Research Area	Applications	Grants Awarded	Funded Rate	Proportion of Grants Awarded	Total Value
Basic Science	1821	221	12.1%	75.20%	\$173,947,106
Clinical Medicine and Science	566	45	8.0%	15.3%	\$40,231,653
Health Services	117	12	10.3%	4.1%	\$8,263,881
Public Health	147	16	10.9%	5.4%	\$19,301,455

Ideas Grants

Ideas Grant CIA previously a Project Grant CIA			
		Proportion of Grants Awarded	
Project Grant CIA in the last 6 years (2018-2013)		Grants Awarded	Grants Awarded
Yes		143	48.6%
No		151	51.4%
Size of Each of the Awarded CI Teams			
		Proportion of Grants Awarded	
Total Members of Each Team		Grants Awarded	Grants Awarded
1		53	18.0%
2		96	32.7%
3		56	19.0%
4		36	12.2%
5		17	5.8%
6		9	3.1%
7		8	2.7%
8		8	2.7%
9		6	2.0%
10		5	1.7%

Ideas Grants

- 3152 applications at minimum data
- 2739 submitted
- Total applications requested approx. \$2.2 billion
- \$213-\$250 million available funding
- Mean budget request of \$819,210
- Broad Research Areas
 - Basic Science (70%)
 - Clinical Medicine and Science (20%)
 - Public Health and Health Services Research (10%)

Research Support

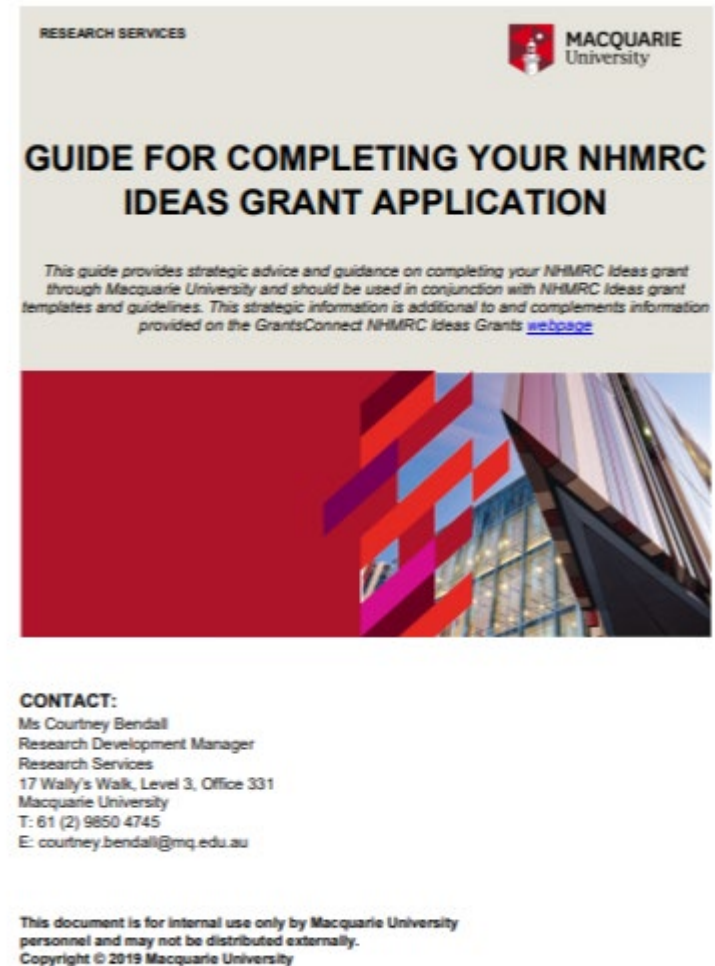
Advice Toolkit
Workshops
Faculty Contacts
Research Services Staff
Online Successful Grants Library

Advice Toolkit


Version 1 available from:

[https://truth.mq.edu.au/share/id/mqu4
hnaj](https://truth.mq.edu.au/share/id/mqu4hnaj)

Version 2 will be available on
Friday 13 March



RESEARCH SERVICES



MACQUARIE
University

GUIDE FOR COMPLETING YOUR NHMRC IDEAS GRANT APPLICATION

This guide provides strategic advice and guidance on completing your NHMRC Ideas grant through Macquarie University and should be used in conjunction with NHMRC Ideas grant templates and guidelines. This strategic information is additional to and complements information provided on the GrantsConnect NHMRC Ideas Grants [webpage](#).

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Upcoming Workshop

1. Building Your Budget: CTCS and Ideas Grants
Thurs 26 March 2020, 12:30 – 13:30
Room 801, Level 8, 12 Wally's Walk

Faculty Initiatives

- **Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences**
 - EOI disciplinary review
 - Writing Retreat
 - Strategic review by FRO and Courtney Bendall
- **Faculty of Science and Engineering**
 - Strategic review by FRO and Courtney Bendall
- **Macquarie Business School**
 - Strategic review by FRO and Courtney Bendall

Faculty Contacts

	Arts	Business School	Medicine, Health and Human Sciences	Science and Engineering
Associate Deans, Research	Robert Reynolds	Lorne Cummings	Roger Chung	David Coutts
Faculty Research Managers	Jan Zwar	Agnieszka Baginska	Kyle Ratinac	Irina Zakoshanski
Faculty Emails	ArtsRO@mq.edu.au	mqbs-ro@mq.edu.au	fmhs.researchsupport@mq.edu.au	sci.research@mq.edu.au

Research Services Support

- **Research Services (Level 3, 17 Wally's Walk, East Entrance)**
Courtney Bendall
Research Development Manager
Ph: x4745
E: courtney.Bendall@mq.edu.au
- **MQ Ideas Grants website**
<https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-funding-and-grant-opportunities/fellowship-and-grant-opportunities/nhmrc/nhmrc-ideas-grants>
- **Successful Grants Library**
<https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-funding-and-grant-opportunities/training-and-support/successful-grants-library>

Thank you

END

