

ORD Update (Research Update) 10-2007

Dear Colleagues

You may be interested in the following:

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1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING (DEST)

International Science Linkages (ISL) Australia-China Special Fund

Applications are now being sought by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) for the next round of International Science Linkages (ISL) Australia-China Special Fund for Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

The round will close 5pm (AEST) on 20 March 2007
(<https://sciencegrants.dest.gov.au/ISL/Pages/Home.aspx>).

The Australia-China Special Fund provides support for excellent, researcher-initiated, international S&T cooperation activities between Australian and Chinese researchers, which meet the objectives of the ISL programme. Grants are made on a competitive basis against specific criteria.

Anyone intending to apply for this scheme should email the Research Grants, Contracts and Consultancy Unit (D.Jeffery@curtin.edu.au; S.Clarke@curtin.edu.au or R.Pokonski@curtin.edu.au) as soon as possible.

International Science Linkages (ISI) Competitive Grants

The International Science Linkages (ISL) programme offers assistance through Competitive Grants for international science and technology cooperation and related activities. Competitive Grants provides support for Australian researchers who are undertaking strategically focussed, leading-edge, collaborative research projects with international partners including participation in European Union Framework projects. Support may also be provided to participate in international strategic planning activities for major international collaborative scientific projects and for showcasing Australia's scientific research and technology capabilities. The Competitive Grants component also offers support of up to \$50,000 per application for major international conferences to be held in Australia.

Applications will be accepted from Australian tertiary education institutions, Cooperative Research Centres, Australian registered business or industry groups, Australian public sector research agencies, or Australian private, not for profit, research organisations.

Funding under ISL Competitive Grants is made on a competitive basis against specific criteria. Access to the online application form is available on the ISL website www.dest.gov.au/science/isl/.

ORD internal closing date is Monday, 26 March 2007. (External closing date is Friday, 30 March 2007).

Information and guidelines are available on the ISL website or by contacting the Programme Management and Global Projects Section, Science Group, at DEST by email: isl@dest.gov.au or by phone: (02) 6240 5465.

Anyone intending to apply for this scheme should email the Research Grants, Contracts and Consultancy Unit (D.Jeffery@curtin.edu.au; S.Clarke@curtin.edu.au or R.Pokonski@curtin.edu.au) as soon as possible.

2. TELSTRA FOUNDATION - NEW \$75,000 SOCIAL INNOVATION GRANTS ANNOUNCED

The Telstra Foundation's Community Development Fund has been operating since 2002, focused on making a positive and lasting difference to the lives of Australian children and young people.

The Telstra Foundation's Community Development Fund is now moving in a new direction. Their ambition is to have a greater impact on Australians in need by helping to connect children and young people with their communities, particularly those who are experiencing social or geographic isolation.

The Fund will have three key program areas:

- Social Innovation Grants – investing in big ideas that aim to connect children and young people to their communities, especially those experiencing social and geographic isolation.
- Indigenous Community Development – improving the education and health outcomes of Indigenous children and young people, and strengthening Indigenous culture.
- Spotlight Issue – focusing on a specific issue and making a significant impact. The prevention of child abuse and neglect will be the first spotlight issue.

Up to seven projects that clearly demonstrate their alignment with the above criteria will be awarded a Social Innovation Grant. The value of the grants awarded will be from a minimum of \$75,000 per year for up to three years.

ORD internal closing date is Monday, 16 April 2007. (External closing date for grant applications is 20 April 2007).

Selection of the grant recipients will be made by the Telstra Foundation Board during July 2007 and announced shortly thereafter.

For further information and online application forms, please visit www.telstrafoundation.com or call 1800 208 378.

Anyone intending to apply for this scheme should email the Research Grants, Contracts and Consultancy Unit (D.Jeffery@curtin.edu.au; S.Clarke@curtin.edu.au or R.Pokonski@curtin.edu.au) as soon as possible.

While this is an on-line application process all applications should be submitted via the Office of Research and Development and accompanied by a completed and signed RPAT.

3. AUSTRALIAN SYNCHROTRON

As you may be aware, the Australian Synchrotron is nearing completion and will be available to researchers for general use later this year.

Anyone preparing grant applications who plans to use the Australian Synchrotron is encouraged to include an estimate of travel and accommodation costs.

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development has completed an assessment of the possible costs (note ARC has not been involved in putting these together) and have come up with the following figures in 2007 dollars (rounded to the nearest \$10) and including:

- return air fares (where appropriate) from major airport (Qantas Flexisaver)
- return airport transfers from Melbourne airport to the Facility
- four nights accommodation close to the Facility.

This does not include return transfers from the host institution to the airport of departure nor experimental station consumable costs. Applicants might like to consider adding in costs for consumables specific to your particular experiments. Beamline consumables are covered by the facility as a part of laboratory operating costs.

State of Origin	Budget per person
ACT	\$990
NSW	\$990
NT	\$2070
QLD	\$1260
SA	\$1030
TAS	\$990
Vic	\$400
WA	\$1980

Budget per person for a 4 day experimental time allocation

Additionally; use the following figures under the in-kind contributions section of the application form.

- Operating costs are approx \$400 per hour
- Machine time is allocated in blocks of 3 days with 3x8 hour shifts per day
- This gives an in-kind contribution for a 3 day experiment of \$28800

4. ARC UPDATES

ARC Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development

The Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2008 is now available on the ARC Web Site - <http://www.arc.gov.au/>. Also available is the sample application form and the Eligibility Exemption/Ruling Request form.

- **ORD internal closing date is Monday, 23 April 2007.** (External closing date for submission of IRD Proposals is Friday 4 May 2007).
- Closing date for eligibility Exemption/Ruling requests is Friday 6 April 2007.

As yet the application form is not available on the ARC's GAMS system; as soon as it is available we will let you know. In the interim those who wish to apply should read carefully the Funding Rules and familiarise themselves with the sample application form.

Linkage International - Funding Rules Update

The 'Linkage International Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2008' have been revised and are now available from the ARC Web Site at: http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lx/lx_fundingrules.htm.

Please note that the updated Funding Rules (current as at February 2007) include one amendment on page 47 of the Funding Rules regarding the ARC International Fellowships selection criteria. A typographical error has been amended to reflect a weighting of 30% for selection criterion c. (Collaboration strengths and benefits) rather than the previously indicated a weighting of 20%.

The 2008 ARC International Fellowships Selection Criteria and weightings are as follows: a. ARCIF candidate 30% b. Significance, innovation and approach 30% c. Collaboration strengths and benefits 30% d. National benefit 10%

GAMS +PLUS

A number of Research Administrators have recently contacted the ARC to seek clarification on the ARC's association with a software development company named SuperChoiceNow. SuperChoiceNow have developed a tool to assist researchers to enter budget related data into GAMS proposal forms.

The ARC has had no involvement with the development or testing of this software tool and therefore can not provide any level of endorsement. Also, ORD has not had the opportunity do any testing of the tool for the recent Discovery Round and it is likely that SuperChoiceNow may release a tool for the forthcoming Linkage

Round; we caution applicants to use the tool at their own risk as it may not reflect Curtin specific costs (i.e. salary-on-costs or EBA wage increases).

The ARC is currently developing a system to replace GAMS in the near future.

2008 Linkage Projects Round 1 - For Funding Commencing in January 2008

Applications for Linkage Projects Round 1 for funding commencing in January 2008 will be open shortly in the GAMS system. The following documentation is now available on the ARC's website at

http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_default.htm :

1. Funding Rules
2. Eligibility Exemption and Ruling
3. Sample Application Form

The Funding Agreement, Instructions to Applicants document, Certification Proforma and Request not to Assess form will be available in the near future. Please review all documentation prior to the submission of Linkage Projects proposals.

Curtin's internal closing date for LP applications is 23 April 2007.

Request for help with Research Proposal Assessments - University of Kuwait

The ARC has received a request from the University of Kuwait seeking Australian help with international peer-review assessment for research proposals. The University of Kuwait receives around 200 new proposals per year which are assessed through a standard review process. The University of Kuwait would welcome assessment help across all disciplines. The University of Kuwait has indicated that Australian assessors would be asked to review/referee no more than two or three project proposals per year. A system of honorarium for assessors is in place and, on request; the University of Kuwait will provide further details along with information on their application rounds.

Any Expressions of Interest should be forwarded directly to:

Office of the Vice President for Research University of Kuwait

Fax: (+965) 4838336

e-mail: helpdesk@kuresearch.kuniv.edu.kw

Mail: P.O. Box 5969, Safat 13060, KUWAIT

5. A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY AWAITS YOU!

WA's annual Conference Development Awards and Scholarships Program provides \$30,000 in travel and scholarships to people each year to attend international conferences. An additional \$20,000 is allocated to develop inaugural conferences and bring the world to WA.

For further information please call the Perth Convention Bureau on 9324 3355.
Applications close Friday, 20 April 2007.

6. THE PRATT FOUNDATION / ISS (INTERNATIONAL SPECIALISED SKILLS) INSTITUTE OVERSEAS FELLOWSHIPS

The ISS Institute fellowships are an exciting and unique opportunity for Australians to enhance their capabilities.

The fellowship program is the means by which skill and knowledge gaps are identified and verified, and then matched to overseas organizations where the skills can be acquired. Australians travel overseas or experts travel to Australia. Importantly, fellows must pass on what they have learnt through a Report and a wide range of the ISS Institute education and training activities and events such as workshops, lectures, seminars, forums, exhibitions and conferences. The activities place these capabilities, plus insights (attitudinal change), into the minds and hands of those that use them - trades and professional people alike - the multiplier effect. Individuals gain; industry and businesses gain; the Australian community gains economically, educationally and culturally.

For further information please visit: <http://www.issinstitute.org.au/os/index.html>

7. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS - DIVISIONAL RESPONSIBILITY CHANGES

Subsequent to the appointment of Mr Richard Pokonski to the Research Grants, Contracts and Consultancy Unit team as the third Research and Development Officer we have reviewed our Divisional portfolio allocation. Richard will now assume the responsibility for research matters for Curtin Business School and also Humanities. The revised Divisional portfolio responsibilities are:

Ms Dianne Jeffery – Health Sciences

Mr Stuart Clarke – Science and Engineering, Vice Chancellory and Centre for Aboriginal Studies

Mr Richard Pokonski – Curtin Business School and Humanities

This change is effective immediately.

Regards

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