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

Version 1 - Release date: 17 October 2016

- All Participants should read the Funding Rules for schemes under the Linkage 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.

  - Industrial Transformation Research Hubs: ITRH@arc.gov.au
  - Industrial Transformation Training Centres: ITTC@arc.gov.au
  - Linkage Projects: ARC-LinkageProjects@arc.gov.au
  - Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities: ARC-LIEF@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 Linkage 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>LP1234567</td>
<td>LP 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 A7.5.3 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, Projects or Proposals on which a researcher is a Partner Investigator or a non-named participant (such as 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 is not eligible as a PI on an existing Project. As per subsection A7.3.1 of the Funding Rules, a participant nominated as a PI on a Proposal must not meet the eligibility criteria for a CI, and eligibility criteria must be met throughout the term of the Project.

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

The Linkage Programme does not limit researchers who are receiving or applying for NHMRC funding from applying, 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 A4.3.3 of the Funding Rules, the Linkage Programme does not support Medical Research unless specified as per subsection A4.3.4 of the Funding Rules. 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 Linkage Programme

2.1 For eligibility purposes, how many Linkage Projects can a researcher hold concurrently?

As per subsection D10.1 of the Funding Rules, for Linkage Projects, a CI may submit and/or be funded concurrently for a maximum of four Linkage Projects as a CI. As per subsection A7.4.2 of the Funding Rules, the limit of 4 Linkage Projects includes ITRP Projects.

2.2 Does an ITRP Hub Director, Centre Director or CI role count towards the limits for Linkage Projects?

Yes, as per subsection A7.4.2 of the Funding Rules, for the purpose of eligibility, CIs on Industrial Transformation Research Hubs commencing in 2015 or later, or Industrial Transformation Training Centres commencing in 2016 or later will each count as one Linkage Project. An ITRP Director role counts as a CI role for the purpose of eligibility.

2.3 How many ITRP Projects can I apply for or be funded for?

As per subsections B11.1 and C11.1 of the Funding Rules, a CI may only submit and/or be funded concurrently for a maximum of two Projects and/or Proposals from the Industrial Transformation Research Hubs and Industrial Transformation Training Centres schemes either separately or combined. A CI may only hold the role of Hub Director, Training Centre Director or Director of an ARC Centre of Excellence for one Project or Proposal at a time.

However, as per subsection A7.4.3 of the Funding Rules, under the Industrial Transformation Training Centres and Industrial Transformation Research Hubs schemes a Proposal may be submitted in the final year of existing funding for a new Industrial Transformation Training Centre or Industrial Transformation Research Hub.

2.4 Can I apply for a Linkage Programme Project with more than the limit of Projects and Proposals, and relinquish a Project when I find out if I have been successful?

No. As per subsection D10.4, Researchers will not be permitted to relinquish a CI role, or existing Linkage Project held on the Funding Commencement Date to circumvent the limits. Researchers 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 FAQs regarding Cross-Programme Eligibility under the Linkage Programme

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

As per subsection A6.3.2 of the Funding Rules, 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 How many Discovery Programme Projects/Awards/Fellowships can I hold or apply for if I'm applying for a Linkage Programme scheme Project?

As per subsection A7.4.4 of the Funding Rules, 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 may only apply for or hold one Project/ARC Fellowship/ARC Award under the Discovery Programme.

3.4 Can I apply for a Linkage Programme Project while exceeding the Discovery Programme limit 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/Fellowships/Awards and Proposals counted towards the programme eligibility limits until all are awarded. As per subsection A7.4.5 of the Funding Rules, all Projects/ARC Fellowships/ARC Awards held or Proposals submitted to these schemes may be retained until the outcomes of the relevant Proposal(s) are announced. As per subsection A7.4.6 of the Funding Rules, the ARC reserves the right to determine 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.

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

Generally, as per subsection A7.1.1 of the Funding Rules, all Directors, CIs and PIs 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 (see FAQ 1.5).

However, if the newly awarded funding causes eligibility limits to be exceeded, as per subsection A7.4.6 of the Funding Rules, Directors on successful Industrial Transformation Research Hubs commencing in 2017 or later or Industrial Transformation Training Centres
commencing in 2017 or later will be required to relinquish Projects/ARC Fellowships/ARC Awards that would result in the researcher exceeding eligibility limits.

3.6 If I am a Director on a 2015 Industrial Transformation Research Hub or a 2016 Industrial Transformation Training Centre, can I still apply for a Discovery Programme Project?

Yes, however as per subsection A7.4.4 of the Funding Rules, you may only apply for or hold one Project/ARC Fellowship/ARC Award under the Discovery Programme.

You are not eligible to apply for a Project/ARC Fellowship/ARC Award under the Discovery Programme if you already hold a Project/ARC Fellowship/ARC Award under the Discovery Programme that will be an Active Project on the Funding Commencement Date of the scheme to which you are applying.
**Linkage Programme cross-scheme eligibility requirements for CIs**

Please consult the Funding Agreement and Funding Rules for your currently funded Projects 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 an</th>
<th>What makes me ineligible to apply?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **LP17 as a CI**      | Holding four Linkage Projects that will be active on 1 July 2017 **or** Applying for one or more Linkage Projects that, if approved, would mean you would hold four Linkage Projects that will be active on 1 July 2017.  
**Please note:** as per subsection A7.4.2 of the Funding Rules, the limit of 4 Linkage Projects includes ITRP Projects.  
**Example 1:** holding 3 LPs that will be active on 1 July 2017 and being a CI on an ITTC or ITRH that will also be active on 1 July 2017 makes you ineligible to apply for a LP17.  
**Example 2:** holding 2 LPs that will be active on 1 July 2017, already having submitted a Proposal for an LP17 that (if successful) would be active on 1 July 2017 and being a CI on an ITTC or ITRH that will also be active on 1 July 2017 makes you ineligible to apply for a LP17. |
| **LE18 as a CI**      | Holding two LIEF Projects that will be active on 1 January 2018 **or** Applying for one or more LIEF Projects that, if approved, would mean you would hold more than two LIEF Projects that will be active on 1 January 2018. |
| **ITRH17 as a CI**    | Holding two ITRP Projects that will be active on 1 January 2017.  
**Please note:** as per subsection A7.4.3 of the Funding Rules, a Proposal may be submitted in the final year of existing funding for a new ITTC or ITRH. |
| **ITRH17 as a Director** | Holding two ITRP Projects that will be active on 1 January 2017.  
Holding the role of Training Centre Director, Hub Director or Director of an ARC Centre of Excellence that will be active on 1 January 2017.  
**Please note:** as per subsection A7.4.3 of the Funding Rules, a Proposal may be submitted in the final year of existing funding for a new ITTC or ITRH. |
| **ITTC17 as a CI**    | Holding two ITRP Projects that will be active on 1 January 2017.  
**Please note:** as per subsection A7.4.3 of the Funding Rules, a Proposal may be submitted in the final year of existing funding for a new ITTC or ITRH. |
| **ITTC17 as a Director** | Holding two ITRP Projects that will be active on 1 January 2017.  
Holding the role of Training Centre Director, Hub Director or Director of an ARC Centre of Excellence that will be active on 1 January 2017.  
**Please note:** as per subsection A7.4.3 of the Funding Rules, a Proposal may be submitted in the final year of existing funding for a new ITTC or ITRH. |