



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

Regional Research Collabroration Program

Round One Application Form 2021



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1. Outline

The Australian Government's Job-ready Graduates package announced on 19 June 2020 included a measure to 'enhance the research capacity of regional universities'. This measure will be delivered as the Regional Research Collaboration (RRC) Program. The RRC Program will fund research collaboration between regional universities, industry and other higher education providers to help regional universities to develop their research strengths. The RRC Program will be administered by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment ('the Department').

This Application Form should be read alongside the RRC Program Guidelines available at <http://www.dese.gov.au/regional-research-collaboration-program>.

2. Eligibility

The RRC Program is open to institutions listed in Table A of HESA which, in 2019 (Section 3.2):

- i had a higher than average proportion of Equivalent Full-time Student Load (EFTSL) (Commonwealth Supported Places) for students enrolled at their regional campuses, or
- ii had their main campus located in a regional or remote area as defined by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) classifications.

To be eligible, only applications listed in Section 3.2 of the RRC Program Guidelines can apply and must also include:

- i. a private sector partner from a regional area
- ii. a higher education provider listed in Table A or B of HESA whose inclusion will demonstrably lift skills in the eligible institution.



3. Application Process

Applications for the RRC Program will open on 7 April 2021, with applications closing at 5.00pm AEST on 18 May 2021. The department expects to notify applicants of outcomes in June 2021 with approved projects to commence from the second half of 2021.

Applications for RRC Program will be a one-step process. Successful projects will be selected via a competitive process through annual selection rounds.

There is no set duration for RRC Program projects. Funding from the RRC Program will initially be awarded for up to three years. High performing projects may receive funding for a further two years (i.e. five years in total from commencement). RRC Program applications must describe expected outcomes both within and beyond the lifetime of project proposed.

Applications will be assessed by a panel made up of departmental officers which may include external representatives. The department will make recommendations to the Minister for Education and Youth on which RRC Program projects should receive funding, with successful projects to be determined and announced by the Minister. The lead institution will be notified in writing prior to any announcement.

Late submission applications will be considered only in exceptional circumstances beyond the lead institution's control. The department will accept late applications only if there is sufficient time to adequately assess such applications. The department's decision with respect to the consideration of late applications will be final. The lead institution will be informed in writing of the department's decision. No other correspondence in relation to the decision will be entered into.

Your application must contain a letter of support signed by the University's (Lead Institution) Vice Chancellor.

This Application Form should be submitted to the department as a PDF or word document (along with your letter or letters of support and any additional supporting documents) and sent to the RRC mailbox: RRC@dese.gov.au.

Any questions about the application process should be sent to the RRC mailbox: RRC@dese.gov.au.



4. Selection Criteria

No weighting will be applied to the selection criteria and applications will be considered in their entirety.

4.1 Name of the Applicant Institution

Enter response here

4.2 Name/s and details of the private sector partner/s

Enter response here

4.3 Name/s and details of the Table A or B HESA higher education partner, including the beneficial skills transfer

Enter response here

4.4 Project Title

Enter response here

4.5 Project Grant Value

Please provide the proposed grant amount for the project

Requested Grant Value:



4.6 Project Description

Provide a description of the proposed project (which may have more than one element). Please include information about all the proposed partners and their roles, high level objectives and the expected outcomes, impacts and benefits arising from the project.

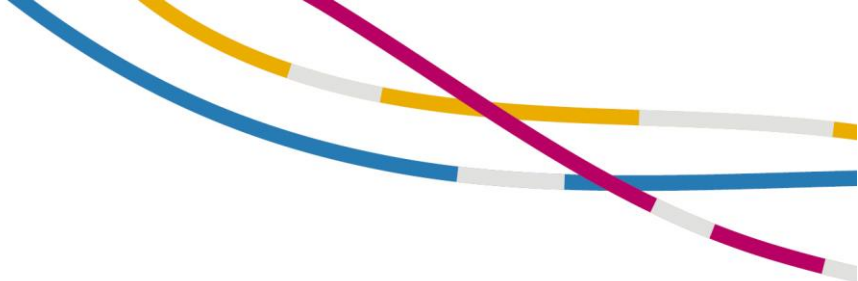
(One page limit)



4.7 Program Objectives

- i. Describe in detail how the project will meet the RRC Program objectives (as set out in Section 2 of the Guidelines). Please include information about the development of research skills at the lead university and describe the balance of activities between regional, remote and other areas.

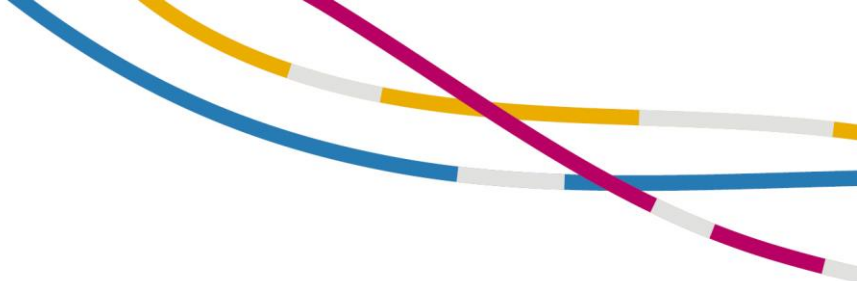
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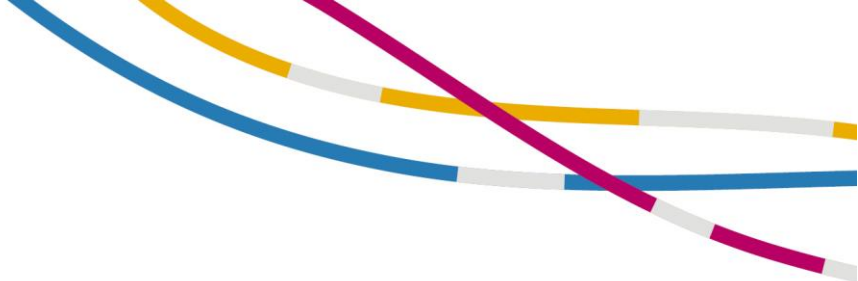
ii. Describe how the project will support:

- the strategic direction of the participating institutions;
- local and regional priorities; and
- the National Science and Research Priorities.

(Half page limit)

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- iii. Describe the capacity of the lead institution and partner organisations to deliver the Research and Development (R&D) elements of the project, including the ability of the staff employed or proposed to be employed.

(Half page limit)



iv. Describe the expected long-term outcomes and impact of the project, including how these outcomes will be sustained after the funding of the project ends. Outcomes may include (but not limited to):

- long-term partnerships, including formal partnership agreements for R&D and/or commercialisation;
- skills development, including the expected skills transfers and the subsequent application of these skills;
- educational outputs, including increased regional and remote enrolments, and increased higher degree by research completion rates;
- research outputs, including improved publication and citation rates;
- commercial outputs, including creation or improvement of products, employment, firms and businesses, business investments and sales; and
- other benefits, to be identified and justified by the applicant.

(One page limit)



4.8 Detailed Budget

Please provide a detailed budget for the proposed project and include (at a minimum) the following information: project development; project salaries; project operational costs; project management; stakeholder engagement; project infrastructure.

Please Note: The RRC Program will not duplicate funding for research, including infrastructure, already funded by the Commonwealth. The Department reserves the right to determine if a RRC Program project duplicates or is likely to duplicate research being funded by another Commonwealth source.

Please provide a rationale as to why the proposed project should be funded through the RRC Program, rather than from other sources.

(Half page limit)



4.9 Detailed Timeline

Please provide a detailed timeline of your proposed project, including key milestones and measurable outcomes.

Year by Year breakdown	Key activities	Measurable outcomes	Measure(s)	Anticipated key milestones
MM 202X				



4.10 Project evaluation

Please provide a description of how the proposed project will be evaluated, including types of data and other information to be collected on project outcomes.

(Half page limit)



4.11 Project Business Plan

Please provide a business plan that sets out governance arrangements (including partnership or other agreements) for the proposed project.

(One page limit)

4.12 Risk Management Plan

Risk Identified	Likelihood (Rare/ Unlikely/Possible/ Likely/ Almost Certain)	Consequence for the project (Minimal/ Minor/Moderate/ Major/Severe)	Risk level (Low/ Moderate/High/ Extreme)	Risk mitigation strategies



4.13 Supporting documents

Please attach a statement of support from each of the proposed partners, endorsed by each partner organisation's Vice-Chancellor or equivalent as well as any other documents which may support your application. These should be sent in PDF format separate to this application document.