



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

Regional Research Collabroration Program

Round Two Application Form 2022



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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 institutions listed in Section 3.2 of the RRC Program Guidelines can apply and must also include:

- i. a private sector partner (Organisation/Business/Industry/'Not for Profit' Organisation) 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 Round two of the RRC Program will open on 22 February 2022, with applications closing at 5.00pm AEST on 22 March 2022. The department expects the approved projects to commence from the second half of 2022.

Applications for the 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). The RRC Program applications must describe expected outcomes both within and beyond the lifetime of project proposed.

Applications will be assessed by a selection panel made up of external representatives and departmental officers. The department will make recommendations to the Minister for Regionalisation, Regional Communications and Regional Education 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 from a regional area

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 value of the project

Requested Grant Value:	Insert grant value
Co-investment Value:	Insert grant value
Total proposed project Value:	Insert grant value

4.6 Project Summary

Provide a short clear and concise summary of the proposed project (no more than a paragraph)



4.7 Project Description

Provide a detailed 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 and for the region.


(One page limit)



4.8 Program Objectives

- i. Describe in detail how the project will meet the RRC Program objectives (as set out in Section 2 of the Guidelines) and the selection criteria (as set out in Section 6.3). Please include information on how the project will contribute to Australia's national interest through its potential to have economic, commercial, environmental, social or cultural benefits to the Australian community.

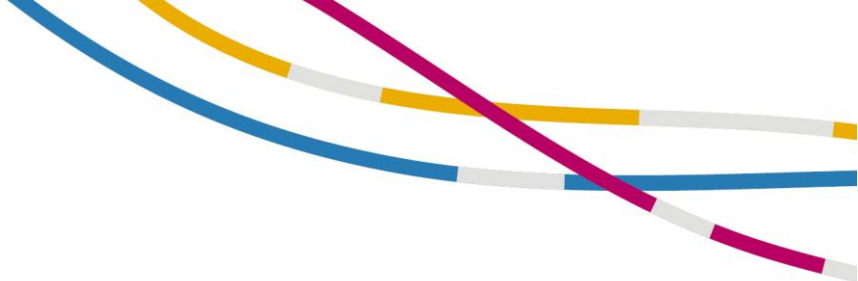
(One page limit)



ii. Describe how the project will support:

- the strategic direction of the participating institutions;
- local and regional priorities; and
- the National Manufacturing Priorities. For more information on these priorities, please visit: <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/make-it-happen-the-australian-governments-modern-manufacturing-strategy/our-modern-manufacturing-strategy>.

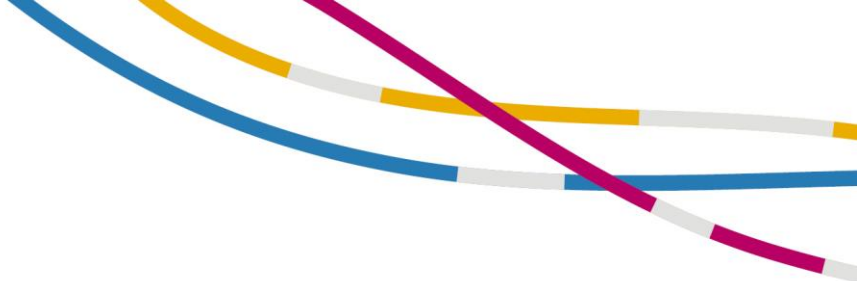
(Half page limit)



iii. 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)

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- iv. Describe the rationale for why the project should be supported through the RRC Program, rather than by funding from other sources and the long-term sustainability of the project.

(Half page limit)



4.9 Detailed Budget

Please provide a detailed budget for the proposed project and include (at a minimum) the following information showing the amount of funding sought, an approximate breakdown of main expenditure (project development; project salaries; project operational costs; project management; stakeholder engagement; project infrastructure), the resources (cash and in-kind) to be contributed by each participant and from other sources, and, where appropriate, any amount for payments to facilitate collaboration.

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.

(Half page limit)

4.10 Detailed Timeline

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

Four to five key activities	Measurable outcomes for each key activity	Timeline	Anticipated key milestones for proposed project over the project period
		MM 20XX	



4.11 Project evaluation

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

(Half page limit)



4.12 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)

4.13 Risk Management Plan

Please provide or attach the proposed Project’s Risk Management Plan. Please align with the Department’s risk matrix (please email RRC@dese.gov.au if you need a copy of the risk matrix).

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



4.14 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.