



Thank you for your attendance at the Full Application Webinar for the National Intelligence Discovery Grants (NIDG) for funding commencing in 2026. Please find below answers to questions which were asked in the webinar chat that we were unable to answer at the webinar due to time constraints.

Question

“Regarding salary for the chief CI: let's say I want to fund my full salary (say \$120K/year) is that possible? Can I draw salary from outside the fellowship - i.e., from the grant budget - or can I only draw salary from the fellowship (\$80K over the three years) and therefore if I didn't have salary from another source I wouldn't have a full time-funded position?”

Answer: CI's cannot be funded from the grant funds, with the exception of the NIDG Fellowship. For Fellowship recipients only the \$80k Fellowship amount is available to be paid to a CI from the grant funds over the 3 years. The remainder of a CI's salary is expected to come from other sources.

Question

“I have a post-doc who should be working in this project. In order to pay his full salary, he cannot be named as CI. Rather plan him as postgraduate researcher and budget his salary there. Correct?”

“Can I budget in the entire salary for a junior postdoc, who will not be eligible for the Fellowship because at the time of grant submission they will not have submitted their thesis (currently a final year PhD student)”

Answer: As above, and as per the Grant Guidelines, CIs cannot draw salary from the grant funds, with the exception of the NIDG Fellowship. Support personnel, including postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers, and higher degree by research students may be funded using project funding. Salaries should align with the appropriate remuneration levels at the Eligible Organisation or the relevant industry sector.



Question

“My PI works at a UK university. She is an Australian citizen. What do I do? I include her but not her organization? How does it work?”

Answer – This may vary depending on specifics, however it is important to note the following: a UK/foreign University won’t be eligible to be named on the application due to the eligibility requirement to be an Australian Organisation. An Australian citizen residing overseas is eligible to be named as a PI, assuming they also meet all other eligibility criteria, and is not required to be affiliated with a Partner Organisation. However, it is also important to note that PIs are not eligible to be paid from grant funds and it would usually be expected that their salary comes from co-contributions from their affiliated Organisation.

Question

“Also can you comment on people in tenure track/research fellow positions, at the grant start date I will have around 2 years and 8 months left on my fellowship, but I hope/expect to be offered a permanent contract at the end of my fellowship. Does this exclude me from submitting a 3 year grant?”

Answer: CIs must meet eligibility requirements as at the grant commencement date and, if successful, for the grant activity period. Where a CI has some form of temporary engagement the relevant Eligible Organisation at the time of submission, it would be expected that the Administering Organisation has confirmed that, to the best of their knowledge, the terms of the agreement will be met.

Question

“So, we can employ people without PhDs, am I correct?”

Answer: There is no minimum qualification required to be employed on the grant, though anyone employed does have to be appropriate to fulfil the purpose for which they are engaged. Support personnel, including postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers, and higher degree by research students as well as some types of technical support (refer section 5 of the Grant Guidelines) may be funded using project funding.



Question

“The guidelines state that partnership with an Australian start-up is strongly recommended. How significant is this in light of assessment criteria?”

Answer: Engagement with start-up companies is encouraged, however it is not a requirement. Applications will be assessed on the merits of the research. Applicants should ensure that the inclusion of any start-up provides genuine benefit to the research. Inclusion of a start-up is not required to be competitive.

Question

“Can an Australian based service provider be used and budgeted. i.e. fee for a technical service that also represents value for money. This service might be acknowledged in a publication but might not be an author. Would citizenship of the service provider be required or would this be considered to be a partner organisation”

Answer: Refer to Grant Guidelines 5.5 which identified the purposes for which grant funds can be used as this may provide some clarity. This includes the use of a third party if the services are directly related to and essential for the project. Such third party services would generally not be considered a Partner Organisation for the purposes of the grant and would not be required to meet the eligibility criteria of a Partner Organisation. Named authors on publications would need to meet citizenship eligibility requirements. Applicants/grantees should always be cognizant of the same principles that would apply to any international collaborations in regards to IP and potential foreign interference (see FAQs 9.4, 9.5 and 9.6).