



Eligibility Fact Sheet - Investigator Grants 2020

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Overview

The Chief Investigator A (CIA) and Administering Institution must ensure applications meet all eligibility requirements, to be finalised with the Grant Guidelines, at the time of submission. Applications that do not meet these eligibility requirements may be ruled ineligible and may be excluded from further consideration.

NHMRC staff will not make eligibility rulings before an application is submitted.

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

Chief Investigator

The maximum number of Chief Investigators (CIs) allowed on an Investigator Grant 2020 application is one (the CIA).

Chief Investigator 'A' (CIA)

At the time of acceptance and for the duration of a grant the CIA must:

- Be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia.
- Be based in Australia for at least 80% of the Funding Period,
 - Except for NHMRC Emerging Leader Fellows, who must be based in Australia for at least 50% of the Funding Period.
- Only submit one application for an Investigator Grant in a given funding round
- Select only one Category and one Level of Investigator Grant.

The CIA should consider the *Statement of Expectations* ([Appendix B](#)) and submit an application at a level commensurate with their research experience and profile.

Qualifications

NHMRC expects (but, is not mandatory) that EL and L applicants will hold a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD), or a research qualification equivalent to the level 10 criteria of the *Australian Qualifications Framework Second Edition January 2013*, or equivalent research experience.

NHMRC reserves the right, at any time during the application or peer review process, to exclude applicants who, in its judgement, do not have appropriate qualifications or experience.

MRFF funded Investigator Grants

CIAs whose Investigator Grant is funded by MRFF will be considered equivalent to NHMRC Investigator.

Eligibility assessment for MRFF funded Investigator Grants is undertaken by NHMRC.

Details of all MRFF programs will be made available on the [Department of Health website](#) as soon as they become available.

Multiple applications/grants

Limits apply to the number of NHMRC grants that a CI may concurrently hold and/or apply for.

CIs may submit a total of two applications across the Investigator, Synergy and Ideas Grant schemes in any given funding round and may hold a maximum of two grants concurrently from the Investigator, Synergy and Ideas Grant schemes, with the following exceptions:

- CIs who hold two Ideas Grants may apply for and hold a Synergy Grant
- CIs who hold one or two Ideas Grants may apply for and hold an Investigator Grant, but their Research Support Package (RSP) will be reduced by 50% for one Ideas Grant and by 100% for two Ideas Grants adjusting accordingly as the Ideas Grant/s end.
- Investigator Grant holders cannot apply for an Ideas or Investigator Grant, unless they are in the final year of the Investigator Grant at the time of application.

If an Investigator Grant CIA submits an Investigator Grant and is a CI on any other Synergy or Ideas Grant application(s) in excess of the maximum for which they are eligible to apply or hold, all Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grant applications on which that CI is named may be ineligible and excluded from consideration, irrespective of:

- the scheme to which they have applied
- that CI's position or role on the application.

If an Investigator Grant application is successfully awarded then application and grant capping eligibility rules will be applicable concurrently to the round they applied in and across the current Synergy and Ideas schemes.

Detailed information on how eligibility for Investigator Grants is affected by a CI's grant applications and/or currently held grants is available at [Appendix C](#).

Ideas Grants affect Investigator Grant applications

If a CI (CIA-CIJ) concurrently (in the same funding round) applies for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be offered.

If CIs who hold one or two Ideas Grants are awarded an Investigator Grant, the RSP will be reduced.

Investigator Grant holders cannot apply for an Ideas Grant, unless they are in the final year of the Investigator Grant at the time of application.

Detail on RSP reductions is below and available at [Appendix C](#).

Reductions in the Investigator Grants Research Support Package (RSP) for concurrently held Project, Ideas or Program Grants

If an Investigator Grant application is successful, the value of the RSP will be reduced for concurrently held NHMRC Ideas and/or Project and/or Program Grants, in a compounding manner, as follows:

- 25% for each concurrent NHMRC Project Grant held, to a maximum of 50%
- 50% for each concurrent NHMRC Ideas Grant held, to a maximum of 100%
- 100% for a concurrent NHMRC Program Grant.

Each reduction to the RSP will cease as each grant(s) that led to the reduction expires, refer to [Appendix C](#).

Current and/or former NHMRC Fellowship recipients

Current NHMRC Fellows may apply for an Investigator Grant if, at the time of application, their NHMRC Fellowship will end before, or be in its final year on, 1 January of the year the Investigator Grant is to commence, refer to [Appendix C](#).

Current or previous NHMRC Fellowship recipients cannot apply for an Investigator Grant at a Level lower than the applicant's most recently held NHMRC Fellowship ([Appendix D](#)). Previously held NHMRC Fellowships will not count towards the number of terms an Investigator Grant can be held.

For the purposes of eligibility, an NHMRC Fellowship is considered held if the offer of funding was accepted and any grant funding expended.

Recipients of MRFF Clinical Researchers Program Fellowships and NHMRC Honorary Research Fellowships will be considered equivalent to NHMRC Fellowship recipients.

A summary of the Investigator Grant Category and Level for which NHMRC Fellowship recipients (previous and current) are eligible to apply is at [Appendix D](#).

Current NHMRC grantees (other than Fellows) seeking an Investigator Grant

Recipients of an Investigator Grant are not entitled to concurrently receive salary from other NHMRC grants.

Current NHMRC grantees (other than Fellows) who are drawing salary support via a Personal Support Package (PSP) may apply for an Investigator Grant. Successful applicants will be required to cease drawing this salary support from the existing NHMRC grant/s by 1 January of the year the Investigator Grant is to commence.

Australian Government Grants that are not funded by NHMRC

Recipients of an NHMRC or MRFF Investigator Grant salary are not entitled to concurrently receive salary from any other Australian Government funded grant.

Other Australian Government grantees seeking an Investigator Grant

A CIA who receives a salary from an Australian Government funded grant can hold or apply for an Investigator Grant if, on 1 January of the year the Investigator Grant is to commence, the other Australian Government grant salary will have ended or be in its final year.

If the first year of the Investigator Grant overlaps with the final year of the other Australian Government grant salary, the salary component of the Investigator Grant will not be paid during the period of the overlap (i.e. **only** the period where both grants are held concurrently).

Investigator grantees seeking other Australian Government grants

Such grant recipients must notify NHMRC, for a determination to be made of appropriate distribution of Commonwealth funds, if they are successful in obtaining an Australian Government grant that includes a salary.

CIAs may not suspend an Investigator Grant for the purposes of taking up another Australian Government grant.

Grants that are not funded by NHMRC or the Australian Government

Recipients of grants that are not funded by NHMRC or the Australian Government (“non-Australian Government grants”) may apply for a NHMRC Investigator Grant in any year during the term of this non-Australian Government grant

NHMRC expects that a CIA who receives a non-Australian Government grant salary which is greater than 20% of the total value of the salary component of the awarded Investigator Grant will not apply for a salary from NHMRC until the period of overlap has concluded.

Such grant recipients must notify NHMRC if they are successful in obtaining a non-Australian Government grant of this type for a determination to be made of appropriate distribution of Commonwealth funds.

CIAs may not suspend an Investigator Grant for the purpose of taking up another non-Australian Government grant.

Current and/or former NHMRC or MRFF Investigator Grant recipients

If an Investigator Grant CIA holds, or has previously held an Investigator Grant(s), they will be eligible to apply to a restricted number of Categories and Levels of Investigator Grants, determined by the number of times the highest Level has been held, as detailed in [Appendix B, Table 2](#).

An Investigator Grant CIA is eligible to apply for a new Investigator Grant, if at the time of application, their existing Investigator Grant will end before, or be in its final year on 1 January of the year the new Investigator Grant is to commence.

A summary of the Categories and Levels of Investigator Grants for which current or previous Investigator Grant recipients may apply is at [Appendices D and E](#).

Emerging Leadership applicants – PhD census date

As at 1 March, 2020, an EL applicant must have held their PhD, or equivalent, for no more than 10 years from the date that their PhD thesis was passed (not the date of conferral), unless they have had a career disruption.

For definitions of a career disruption see [Appendix A](#).

Note: Neither the submission date of the PhD thesis nor the date of degree conferral will be accepted.

Exclusion of applications

An application may be excluded from further consideration if:

- it contravenes an eligibility rule or other requirement as set out in the Guidelines
- it, or the CIA, contravenes an applicable law or code
- it is inconsistent with the objectives of the NHMRC Act and/or the purposes of the Medical Research Endowment Account (MREA)
- the CIA is the subject of a decision by NHMRC’s CEO or delegate that any application they make to NHMRC, for specified funding schemes, will be excluded from consideration for a period of time, whether or not they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements. Such decisions will generally reflect consequential action taken by NHMRC in response to a finding of research misconduct or a breach of the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* (the Code), or a Probity Event. See the Code for a definition of ‘research misconduct’ and the *NHMRC Policy on Misconduct related to NHMRC Funding* available from [NHMRC’s website](#).

Such exclusion may take place at any time following CIA and Administering Institution certification and NHMRC will provide its decision and the reason(s) for the decision to the Administering Institution’s Research Administration Officer (RAO) in writing.

Appendix A. Career Disruption

Career Disruption considerations during peer review and eligibility to apply for Emerging Leadership Investigator Grants

A Career Disruption is defined as a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work, due to:

- pregnancy
- major illness/injury
- carer responsibilities.

NHMRC does not require details of the nature of the Career Disruption. Applicants should only include details of the impact upon career, noting this information is provided to peer reviewers.

The period of career disruption may be used:

- to determine an applicant's eligibility for an Emerging Leadership Investigator Grant

To be considered for the purposes of eligibility and peer review, a period of Career Disruption is defined as:

- a continuous absence from work for 90 calendar days or more, and/or
- continuous, long-term, part-time employment (with defined %FTE) due to circumstances classified as Career Disruption, with the absence amounting to a total of 90 calendar days or more¹.

Consecutive changes to %FTE, resulting from a single career disruption event may be considered cumulatively (for example, a researcher returning from Maternity Leave at reduced %FTE due to Carer responsibilities).

Example of an acceptable career disruption entry;

CD Entry	Date From	Date to	FTE	Days Disrupted
1. Maternity Leave	01/01/2017	30/04/2017	0.0	120
2. Carer Responsibility	01/05/2017	31/08/2017	0.4	49.2
3. Carer Responsibility	01/09/2017	31/12/2017	0.6	73.2
Total Disruption				242.4

Career Disruption and eligibility to apply for Investigator Grants

A Career Disruption can affect an applicant's eligibility to apply for an Emerging Leadership Investigator Grant. For such grants, the 10-year time limit on the number of years post-PhD may be extended commensurate with the period of the Career Disruption.

¹ For example, an applicant who is employed at 0.8 FTE due to childcare responsibilities would need to continue this for at least 450 calendar days to achieve a Career Disruption of 90 calendar days.

Appendix B. Statement of Expectations

The *Statement of Expectations* outlines the baseline expectations of applicants within each level of Investigator Grant. Applicants who have never received an NHMRC Fellowship or Investigator Grant should refer to these expectations and apply at a level commensurate with their experience and profile.

The descriptors provide a broad benchmark and it is not essential that all elements be met.

Leadership Level 3 (L3)

L3 Investigator Grant recipients will be leading international authorities in their research area with demonstrated:

- significant original contributions of major importance that have had a positive impact on health and medical research, the health system economy and/or the health of the population
- experience in leading a major independent research program(s) involving national and international collaborative networks
- national and international contributions through leadership in their scientific discipline (e.g. in research policy and on advisory committees)
- extensive supervision, mentoring and promotion of early and mid-career researchers
- significant leadership roles within their department, centre, institution or organisation, that extend beyond their research.

Leadership Level 2 (L2)

L2 Investigator Grant recipients will be leading national and rising international authorities in their research area with demonstrated:

- substantial and original contributions that are of major benefit to health and medical research, the health system economy and/or the health of the population
- experience in leading an independent research program(s) involving national collaborative networks
- national and possibly international contributions to their scientific discipline (e.g. research advisory boards, peer review)
- supervision, mentoring and promotion of early and mid-career researchers
- leadership roles within their department, centre, institution or organisation that extend beyond their research.

Leadership Level 1 (L1)

L1 Investigator Grant recipients will be national authorities in their research area with demonstrated:

- original contributions that are of major benefit to health and medical research, the health system economy and/or the health of the population
- ability to independently conceive and direct research programs, coordinate a team of researchers and generate national collaborations
- national contributions to their scientific discipline (e.g. public advocacy, peer review, research advisory boards or professional societies)
- supervision, mentoring and promotion of early and mid-career researchers
- contribution(s) within their department, centre, institute or organisation that extend beyond their research e.g. membership of regulatory or management committees.

Emerging Leadership Level 2 (EL2)

EL2 Investigator Grant recipients will be ≤10 years post-PhD (or equivalent, see section 4.8) and recognised for their expertise in their research area with demonstrated:

- original contributions of influence in their field of expertise

- ability to contribute to the conception and direction of research projects, while developing independence
- experience in supervising a small research team
- national contributions to their scientific discipline (e.g. public advocacy, community leadership, peer review and professional societies)
- contributions within their department, centre, institution or organisation e.g. organising journal clubs, seminar series etc.

Emerging Leadership Level 1 (EL1)

EL1 Investigator Grant recipients will be ≤10 years post-PhD (or equivalent, see section 4.8) and will be beginning to gain recognition in their research area with demonstrated:

- original contribution(s) in their field of expertise
- ability to contribute to the conception of research projects
- scientific contributions within their region, state or territory (e.g. community leadership, state level contribution to a professional society)
- limited but developing supervision of research staff and students
- contributions within their department, centre, institution or organisation e.g. organising journal clubs, seminar series etc.

Guidance on relationships between NHMRC Fellowship schemes and the Investigator Grant Levels is outlined in **Table 1** below. Eligibility for Investigator Grants based on previous or currently held Fellowships is at [Appendix E](#).

Table 1. Guidance on relationships between NHMRC Fellowship schemes and Investigator Grant Levels

Current NHMRC Fellowship	Corresponding Investigator Grant Level
Senior Principal Research Fellowship Australia Fellowship	Leadership Level 3
Principal Research Fellowship Practitioner Fellowship Level 2	Leadership Level 2
Practitioner Fellowship Level 1 Senior Research Fellowship Levels A and B Career Development Fellowship Level 2	Leadership Level 1
Career Development Fellowships Levels 1 and 2 Translation of Research into Practice (TRIP) Fellowship	Emerging Leadership Level 2
Early Career Fellowship Translation of Research into Practice (TRIP) Fellowship	Emerging Leadership Level 1

Table 2. Number of terms each Investigator Grant Level can be held

Category	Levels	Number of terms	Maximum number of terms for each Category
Leadership	L3	5	5
	L2	2	
	L1	2	
Emerging Leadership	EL2	1	2
	EL1	1	

Appendix C. Eligibility for Investigator, Synergy and Ideas Grant schemes (2020 funding round)

No grants held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	<i>No grants held under the new grant program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant, OR • 1x Investigator Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Investigator Grant + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant (50% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant (50% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>2x Ideas Grants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant (100% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Investigator Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant, OR • 1x Investigator Grant + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants

	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

1 Project Grant held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	<i>No grants held under the new grant program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant (25% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant (25% reduction to RSP) + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Investigator Grant (25% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant (75% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant (75% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>2x Ideas Grants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant (100% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Investigator Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant (25% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant (25% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants

	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

2 or more Project Grants held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	No grants held under the new grant program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant (50% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant (50% reduction to RSP) + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Investigator Grant (50% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	1x Ideas Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant (100% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	2x Ideas Grants	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Investigator Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Synergy Grant
	1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Synergy Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant (50% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant (50% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant

	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

1 Program Grant held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	<i>No grants held under the new grant program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant (100% reduction to RSP)
	<i>1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

1 Program Grant and 1 Project Grant held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	No grants held under the new grant program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1x Investigator Grant (100% reduction to RSP)
	1x Ideas Grant	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	2x Ideas Grants	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Investigator Grant	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Synergy Grant	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant	Combination not allowed and/or possible

	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
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NHMRC Fellowship (not in penultimate or final year) held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	<i>No grants held under the new grant program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>2x Ideas Grants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Investigator Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

NHMRC Fellowship (in penultimate or final year) held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	<i>No grants held under the new grant program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant*, OR • 1x Investigator Grant* + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Investigator Grant* + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant* (50% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant* (50% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>2x Ideas Grants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant* (100% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Investigator Grant</i>	1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

	<i>1x Synergy Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant*, OR • 1x Investigator Grant* + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

NHMRC Fellowship (not in penultimate or final year) and 1x Project Grant held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	<i>No grants held under the new grant program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>2x Ideas Grants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Investigator Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

NHMRC Fellowship (in penultimate or final year) and 1x Project Grant held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	No grants held under the new grant program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant* (25% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant* (25% reduction to RSP) + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Investigator Grant* (25% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	1x Ideas Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant* (75% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant* (75% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	2x Ideas Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant* (100% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	1x Investigator Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Synergy
	1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Synergy Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant* (25% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant* (25% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 2x Ideas Grants

	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

NHMRC Fellowship (not in penultimate or final year) and 2x Project Grant held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	No grants held under the new grant program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	1x Ideas Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Synergy Grant
	2x Ideas Grants	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Investigator Grant	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Synergy Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Ideas Grant
	1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants	Combination not allowed and/or possible

NHMRC Fellowship (in penultimate or final year) and 2x Project Grant held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	<i>No grants held under the new grant program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant* (50% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant* (50% reduction to RSP) + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Investigator Grant* (50% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant, OR • 1x Ideas Grant + 1x Synergy Grant, OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Ideas Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant* (100% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Synergy Grant
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Investigator Grant* (50% reduction to RSP), OR • 1x Investigator Grant* (50% reduction to RSP) + 1x Ideas Grant (If you apply for an Investigator Grant and an Ideas Grant in the same round and both applications are successful, only the Investigator Grant will be awarded), OR • 1x Ideas Grant
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants

	<p><i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i></p>	<p>Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants</p>
	<p><i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i></p>	<p>Combination not allowed and/or possible</p>

NHMRC Fellowship (not in penultimate or final year) and 1x Program Grant held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	<i>No grants held under the new grant program</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

NHMRC Fellowship (in penultimate or final year) and 1x Program Grant held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	<i>No grants held under the new grant program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1x Investigator Grant (100% reduction to RSP)
	<i>1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

NHMRC Fellowship (not in penultimate or final year), 1x Project Grant and 1x Program Grant held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	<i>No grants held under the new grant program</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

NHMRC Fellowship (in penultimate or final year), 1x Project Grant and 1x Program Grant held under the old grant program

		Grants eligible to apply for in the 2020 funding round (for funding 2021)
Grants held on January 1, 2021	<i>No grants held under the new grant program</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1x Investigator Grant (100% reduction to RSP)
	<i>1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant</i>	Not eligible to apply for any Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grants
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Investigator Grant and 1x Synergy Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible
	<i>1x Synergy Grant and 1x Ideas Grant</i>	Combination not allowed and/or possible

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>1x Synergy Grant and 2x Ideas Grants</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Combination not allowed and/or possible</p>
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* If the first year of the Investigator Grant overlaps with the final year of a NHMRC fellowship, the salary component of the Investigator Grant will not be paid during the overlap (i.e. the period that both grants are held). During this overlap, the Investigator Grant will run concurrently with the NHMRC fellowship and the salary component of the Investigator Grant will be reduced accordingly.

Appendix D. Eligibility of current or previous NHMRC Fellows for Investigator Grants

Highest NHMRC Fellowship level previously or currently held ^d	Investigator Grant Salary Level				
	<i>Emerging Leadership Level 1 (EL1)</i>	<i>Emerging Leadership Level 2 (EL2)</i>	<i>Leadership Level 1 (L1)</i>	<i>Leadership Level 2 (L2)</i>	<i>Leadership Level 3 (L3)</i>
<i>No previous NHMRC Fellowship</i>	Eligible if ≤10 years post-PhD ^a	Eligible if ≤10 years post-PhD ^a	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Early Career Fellowship^b</i>	Not eligible	Eligible if ≤10 years post-PhD ^a	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Translation of Research into Practice (TRIP) Fellowship</i>	Not eligible	Eligible if ≤10 years post-PhD ^a	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Career Development Fellowship Level 1</i>	Not eligible	Eligible if ≤10 years post-PhD ^a	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Career Development Fellowship Level 2^c</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Practitioner Fellowship Level 1</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Senior Research Fellowship Level A</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Senior Research Fellowship Level B</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Practitioner Fellowship Level 2</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Principal Research Fellowship</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Senior Principal Research Fellowship</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible
<i>Australia Fellowship</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible

^a Or equivalent

^b Including NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development Fellowships

^c Including Boosting Dementia Research Leadership Fellowship Scheme

^d Including MRFF Next Generation Clinical Researchers program Fellowships funded via the NHMRC Practitioner, Career Development and Translating Research Into Practice Fellowship schemes.

Case studies

The following case studies provide illustrative examples of eligibility to apply for an Investigator Grant.

Dr A completed a PhD thirteen years ago and has never held a NHMRC fellowship. Under the new grant program s/he is eligible to apply for an Investigator Grant at Leadership Level 1, 2 or 3.

Dr B completed a PhD seven years ago and currently holds a NHMRC Early Career Fellowship. Under the new grant program s/he is eligible to apply for an Investigator Grant at Emerging Leadership Level 2 or at Leadership Level 1, 2 or 3.

Dr C has held a NHMRC Senior Research Fellowship Level A before taking a two-year career break. Under the new grant program s/he is eligible to apply for an Investigator Grant at Leadership Level 1, 2 or 3.

Appendix E. Future eligibility of Investigator Grant recipients

Investigator Grant Salary Level

Highest level of Investigator Grant held previously	<i>Emerging Leadership Level 1 (EL1)</i>	<i>Emerging Leadership Level 2 (EL2)</i>	<i>Leadership Level 1 (L1)</i>	<i>Leadership Level 2 (L2)</i>	<i>Leadership Level 3 (L3)</i>
No Investigator Grants held previously	Eligible if ≤10 years post-PhD ^c	Eligible if ≤10 years post-PhD ^c	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Emerging Leadership Level 1</i>	Not eligible	Eligible if ≤10 years post-PhD ^c	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Emerging Leadership Level 2</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<i>Leadership Level 1</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible ^a	Eligible ^a	Eligible ^b
<i>Leadership Level 2</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible ^a	Eligible ^b
<i>Leadership Level 3</i>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible ^b

^a Investigator Grants at Leadership Level 1 and Level 2 may be held a maximum of twice. A previous recipient is therefore eligible to apply for a second term.

^b Investigator Grants at Leadership Level 3 may be held a maximum of five times (as long as the limit of five Investigator Grants at all Leadership levels is not exceeded). Hence, a previous recipient may be eligible to apply for up to four additional terms.

^c Or equivalent.

Case studies

The following case studies provide illustrative examples of eligibility to apply for an Investigator Grant.

Dr G currently holds an Investigator Grant at Emerging Leadership Level 1. As long as s/he is still no more than 10 years post-PhD, s/he is eligible to apply for an Investigator Grant at Emerging Leadership Level 2. If s/he is more than 10 years post-PhD, s/he is eligible to apply for an Investigator Grant at Leadership Level 1, 2 or 3.

Dr H has held two Investigator Grants at Leadership Level 2. S/he may only apply for an Investigator Grant at Leadership Level 3