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South Australian Global Research Attraction Program

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The Department of State Development (DSD) works closely with industry, universities, research organisations and governments to promote research collaboration and investment and grow South Australia's reputation for globally competitive research excellence.

The South Australian Global Researcher Attraction Program (the Program) will be funded from the Research and Innovation Fund (RIF) Stream 1 with the aim of attracting high-calibre researchers of any nationality, including Australians living overseas, to South Australia to expand the State's globally competitive and recognised STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) research talent and leadership. The Program will support individuals who can fill state capability gaps and add significant value to areas of state priority in partnership with South Australian research-intensive universities and institutes. Potential fellowship recipients will need to demonstrate impact on their field of research, or in the translation of discoveries into potential new products, processes or services that is aligned with South Australian priority areas.

Objectives

In alignment with the [RIF Investment Principles](#), the Program seeks to deliver the following objectives:

- **Enhanced Research Capacity and Capability:** Attracting leading researchers who will strengthen South Australia's research capacity, international collaboration and global standing;
- **Economic Growth:** Driving economic growth by fostering innovation and creating new opportunities for collaboration with industry;
- **Talent Development:** Contributing to the development of a skilled workforce and future research leaders in South Australia.

The Program will be open to South Australian Public Universities and Research Institutes to enable these institutions to secure and attract globally leading researchers to South Australia and establish a dedicated three-year research fellowship in South Australia.

Funding Details

Funding Amount

The South Australian Government, through DSD, will commit funding of up to \$6 million for the Program from 2025-26 to 2029-30 for up to four (4) Fellowships. Each Fellowship will be funded for a period of up to three (3) years. The funding amount provided by the Program for each Fellowship will be determined on a case-by-case basis and tailored to the specific needs of the Fellowship but will be no more than \$1.5 million over three years, matched by the university or research institute partner (the Administering Organisation). Approved research Fellows must commence their positions at the university or research institute within 12 months of final approval being granted.

The funding will contribute to the direct support of the Fellow's research program; the cost of recruitment will be the responsibility of the Administering Organisation.

University or Research Institute Contributions

The Administering Organisation must assemble a package of support for the Fellowship. The South Australian Government will match the cash contribution of the Administering Organisation on a 1:1 basis up to a maximum of \$500,000 per year for up to three years, for a total contribution of up to \$1.5 million.

Additional funding from the Commonwealth Government, a public or private research institution, industry, philanthropy, or any combination of these will be viewed favourably during the Application assessment.

The South Australian Government may consider customising the support for the Fellowship to meet the specific circumstances and needs of the preferred Fellow. Maximum funding amounts, and funding periods may vary at the discretion of the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science (Minister).

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Universities and Research Institutions

The Program is open to all South Australian Public Universities and Research Institutions. The organisation named in the Application will be the Administering Organisation and will be considered the Applicant to the Program.

Eligible Research Fellows

To be eligible to receive a Fellowship as part of the Program, the Fellow must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The Fellow must relocate to South Australia from overseas and reside in South Australia for the duration of the Fellowship. This includes but is not limited to Australian nationals currently residing overseas. Individuals residing in Australia are ineligible, regardless of citizenship or visa status.
- The Fellow must be employed by the Administering Organisation as a Level D or higher, with at least a 0.5 FTE appointment.

The Administering Organisation will be responsible for the recruitment of the Fellow and for supporting them to arrange an appropriate visa and other requirements to work in Australia for the duration of the Fellowship.

The South Australian Government may support Fellows who wish to apply through the [National Innovation Visa Program](#). Applications for state sponsored migration, including nominations for the National Innovation Visa Program, should be made through the Move to SA website. The awarding of a Fellowship does not automatically entitle the Fellow to work in Australia.

Eligible Research Programs

The Application for a Fellowship must provide a high-level summary of the proposed three-year research program outlining the area of research, research objectives, and expected outcomes, with the research to be predominantly undertaken in South Australia. The Applicant must be able to demonstrate the research program objectives align with the Program objectives (including the [RIF Investment Principles](#)) and state priorities (including the [South Australian Economic Statement](#)).

Eligible Expenses

South Australian Government funding towards the Fellowship must go towards eligible activities related to establishing and continuing the Fellow's research program. The funding cannot be used for providing the salary and employment costs of the Fellow.

- Eligible Expenditure may include:
 - Salary support and standard staff on-costs for other personnel i.e. technicians, research assistants and research associates, excluding any applied commercial overheads;
 - Stipends for Higher Degree by Research students;

- Specialist equipment and consumables (not including standard office equipment) related to the research program.
- Costs associated with the protection or patenting of intellectual property
- Ineligible Expenditure includes:
 - Staff recruitment and relocation costs
 - The Fellow's salary and standard staff on-costs
 - The cost of basic facilities, equipment, overheads and/or infrastructure costs of the Administering Organisation
 - for example office equipment (including costs associated with access to this equipment), computers, printers or photocopiers, nor access to any of these
 - Built infrastructure, vehicles, utilities and administration costs
 - Software or hardware purchase, licence or hire (unless agreed in writing in advance by the SA government)
 - Costs incurred before entering into the funding agreement
 - Costs that are supported by the in-kind or cash contribution from the Applicant or other participants in the research program
 - International travel or associated expenses for students
 - Costs associated with the purchase, assignment or licensing of background intellectual property (unless agreed in writing by DSD)
 - Hospitality/ catering costs
 - Costs for legal and accounting services; and
 - Costs for and associated with all insurances held by the Administrative Organisation, whether such costs are required by the Funding Deed or otherwise.

Merit Criteria

The Administering Organisation will apply for the Fellowship on behalf of the Fellow and submit a business case in the Application for assessment by the Assessment Panel. The eligible Application will be evaluated against the following merit criteria:

- The Fellow demonstrates high international research standing evidenced by high quality research outputs and effective research translation, including the track record of the Fellow in being able to:
 - be a recognised global expert in their field through peer reviewed publications, conference presentations, participation in boards and councils and relevant awards
 - be successful in nationally competitive research grants programs including industry funding.
 - Initiate industry related research projects, translate research and/or commercialisation of research outcomes.
 - Supervise Higher Degree Research students and mentor early career researchers.
 - Establish and maintain strong collaborations with industry and other researchers, nationally and internationally, particularly in areas of strategic importance to South Australia.
 - Relocate to and work in South Australia (including the pathway and timeline, to obtaining the right to work in South Australia).
- The Fellow's proposed research program will deliver impact and outcomes in a focus area that aligns with state priorities and complements the Administering Organisation's research priorities, including:
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - Biotechnology and Green Chemistry
 - Climate Adaptation,
 - Critical Minerals and resources
 - Critical Technologies (including AI, quantum and robotics technologies)

- Defence and Security (including cybersecurity and nuclear engineering)
- Green/Clean Energy and related industries; and
- Health and Digital Health Technologies.
- The level and quality of the support package from the Applicant, including the provision of research infrastructure and stipends for Higher Degree by Research Students.

Application Process

Eligible universities and research institutes will identify prospective Fellows and prepare a business case for submission to DSD with support from the prospective Fellow through an online application form that will be provided by DSD.

The Program will be open to receiving Applications from Eligible universities and research institutes on an ongoing basis and will accept Application submissions until DSD's committed funding has been awarded. Applications must be made through an online form published on DSD's website. Applications must be endorsed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor with responsibility for the research portfolio of the applicant University, or the Executive Director of a research institution, and by the proposed Fellow in writing.

Upon submission of the Application, Applicants will receive an acknowledgement of receipt of the application along with a copy of their submission. The timeframe involved in the assessment process will depend on several factors, including grant amount requested, the complexity of the evaluation and due diligence, and the availability of the Independent Assessment Panel.

Assessment Panel

DSD will coordinate an Independent Assessment Panel which will be chaired by the Chief Scientist for South Australia (or representative as nominated by DSD) and include industry and relevant subject matter expert representation. The final decision to award funding rests with the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science or a delegated representative.

In exceptional circumstances, the Minister may consider or accept (at their sole discretion) any application, including without limitation an application that is not in accordance with these Guidelines.

Notification

Outcome

All Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application. An Applicant will not be notified of the Independent Assessment Panel's decision until it has been reviewed, noted or approved by the Minister or delegated representative. Applicants and Fellows will be required to keep the outcome of the decision confidential unless approved otherwise by DSD and/or an announcement is made by the Minister and/or DSD.

The Applicant may seek feedback from DSD.

Funding Agreement

Successful Applicants will be required to execute a grant agreement or deed as determined by the South Australian Government. The agreement will include clauses relating to (but not limited to) the following:

- funding being conditional on matched funding as listed in the application
- funding being provided in tranches over the Fellowship period and subject to the achievement of any specified milestones and reporting requirements

- eligible and ineligible expenditure
- reporting which will include measures for performance and impact of the Program and how the funding has been spent, including provision of data in order for DSD to evaluate the success/impact of the Program
- a requirement for the recipient and related consortia to be interviewed/surveyed and to provide relevant information (including but not limited to data on research outcomes, other sources of funding awarded to the Fellowship, cost, employment); and
- appropriate acknowledgement of DSD (including the Minister).

If any information in an application form or report is found to be false or misleading the funding provided through the Program may be repayable on demand.

Program Monitoring and Evaluation

DSD will actively monitor the performance of this Program over its operational period, and may conduct one or more evaluations of the Program, at any time or interval it deems appropriate, to determine the Program's effectiveness in achieving the Program Objectives. For these purposes in lodging an application, an Applicant provides consent to the disclosure of information relating in any way to the Application, the Funding Agreement and all related performance and compliance reporting, to DSD employees, advisers, third parties or other government agencies as required to monitor and evaluate the Program.

Recipients will be required to provide financial statements and other data as stipulated in the Funding Agreement for the period of, and up to two years after, the Funding Period, or the funded Fellowship is completed.

Recipients agree to provide any other information and assistance reasonably requested by the Department for the purpose of monitoring, evaluating and promoting the Program, including the benefits for the Applicants, and the Applicant's implementation of the Fellowship.

Additional Information

Freedom of Information

Applicants should be aware that all documents in the possession of the South Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1991 \(SA\)](#) (FOI Act). Information submitted in applications and all related correspondence, attachments, and other documents may be made publicly available under the FOI Act.

The FOI Act gives members of the public a legally enforceable right to access documents – subject to certain exemptions – held by South Australian Government Agencies, local government authorities, statutory and regulatory bodies, and South Australian Universities.

Privacy and Information Policy

DSD complies with the South Australian Government's [Information Privacy Principles Instruction](#). DSD collects information (including personal information) as reasonably necessary for the purposes and functions of:

- administering our grants and funding programs
- keeping you informed about the Program, relevant upcoming events, grant funding initiatives and outcomes, our services, special events or client feedback surveys, as well as our activities in general; and
- improving our websites and other services.

The collection and use of information extends to use of such information by the Minister for the purposes as outlined above.

Any information contained in or relating to an application, including information identified by an applicant as confidential information for the purposes of applying for funding under the RIF, may be disclosed by DSD, or used by DSD:

- to its employees, advisers or third parties in order to manage the RIF (including but not limited to, for the purposes of evaluating and assessing the application)
- for the purpose of verifying other funding income for the Fellowship – DSD may provide information to other agencies nominated in your application
- for due diligence, monitoring, reporting, and audit purposes
- within the South Australian Government where this serves the legitimate interest of DSD
- in response to a request by a House or Committee of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia or South Australia
- for training, systems testing, and process improvement, including compiling statistics and reports
- if an application is successful, for promotion of Fellowship activities and outcomes
- where information is authorised or required by law to be disclosed; and
- where the information is already in the public domain.

It is the intent of the South Australian Government to be transparent with regards to financial assistance provided to industry and research institutions. The South Australian Government intends to publicly disclose details of all financial assistance provided through the RIF (which will include, but is not limited to, the name of the successful applicant, details of the Fellowship activity, and amount of grant funding).

Disclaimer

No responsibility for any loss or damage caused by reliance on any of the information or advice provided by or on behalf of the state of South Australia, or for any loss or damage arising from acts or omissions made, is accepted by the state of South Australia, their officers, servants, or agents.

Variation

DSD reserves the right to amend these Guidelines and Application terms as required.

Contact

For further information about this opportunity, please contact:

Email: dsd.researchinnovationprograms@sa.gov.au

Complaints and Feedback

DSD values your feedback and complaints and aim to provide the best possible service. Your contributions will help us to improve our services. Complaints can be raised with DSD via any of the following avenues:

- Online feedback form at <https://statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/department/contact-the-department/feedback>
- Email: DSD.Feedback@sa.gov.au
- Post: Customer Engagement Team, GPO Box 320, Adelaide, South Australia 5001