ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards
for funding commencing in 2017 (DECRA17)

STRATEGIC STATEMENT GUIDELINES

Purpose

1. To demonstrate how well the proposed project research and the proposed DECRA candidate aligns with the existing or emerging research strengths of the Administering Organisation;
2. To show the arrangements under which the DECRA recipient will be supported in a collaborative research environment;
3. To outline the opportunities for the DECRA Candidate to demonstrate the level of independence required to be competitive for research-only and/or research-and-teaching pathways at the Administering Organisation during and after completion of the DECRA.

Content

1. Align with
   - Why ANU? – what can ANU offer you and what can you offer ANU
   - Evidence of alignment – link research to a specific theme as outlined in the ANU by 2020 Strategic Plan.
   - Focus on disciplinary and interdisciplinary strengths.
   - Staffing profile – alignment [leadership, management, collaboration, mentoring, supervision].
   - Internal applicants (continuing) – enhance opportunities at ANU e.g. relinquish teaching and administrative commitments and focus on research. If research only position allows capacity building – opportunity for others with the funds that are ‘freed up’ during the Award period.
   - Internal applicants (fixed term) or External applicants – uniqueness of skills to remain at/brought to ANU. Planned/proposed integration at end of the Award to support continuity of research. Note: this does not need to be via a continuing appointment. The Awardee should be building capacity in a research area strategically aligned to the ANU. How is your research project going to contribute more broadly in this way?

2. Environment
   - Uniqueness of facilities/environment/staff expertise at ANU as well as uniqueness of your skills/expertise/research area.
   - Highlight the suitability of the research environment for the project itself, not just for the candidate.
   - Highlight collaboration – building research strength across groups/areas/Colleges.

3. Pathways
   - Highlight how the DECRA, by freeing you up from teaching to pursue research, will increase your competitiveness by broadening your profile, as well as your prospects for further employment within the Administering Organisation.
   - Highlight how the DECRA will place you on solid ground to insert your new research into current – or subsequent – teaching programs, thereby building the capacity of undergraduate and graduate students at the Administering Organisation.
   - Expected continuity and/or expansion of research program/s with which your research aligns
   - Relate back to College Strategic Plans, demonstrating that pathways for either research-only and/or research-and-teaching are available to you within the College’s research programs, thereby providing you with a context for your academic career development.
   - Evidence of support structures from senior staff to nurture the candidate’s career directions – training, mentoring etc.
   - Identify training courses and/or programs available to you at the Administering Organisation that will support you to build your research and/or teaching capabilities and skills.
   - Staffing Profile [succession planning, integration, opportunity].
Tips

- Should be a strong statement particular to your research proposal and how it fits within the ANU. Make it stand out.
- Make it specific, relevant, concise, supportive.
- Highlight institutional support.
- Demonstrate opportunities that will arise as a result of the Award.
- Discuss/consult with your supervisor and Head of Department/Group Leader/Associate Director or equivalent.

Format

- No more than 2 A4 pages.
- Supply in Word format to College Research Office.

LINKS

- ANU by 2020
- Research Division DECRA website