Funding Rules for schemes under the Linkage Program for 2014 – Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine

Australian Research Council Act 2001

I, Christopher Pyne, Minister for Education, having satisfied myself of the matters set out in section 59 of the Australian Research Council Act 2001, approve these Funding Rules under section 60 of that Act.

Dated 27 May 2014

Christopher Pyne
Minister for Education
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Key Dates

Please refer to the Important Dates page on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au/media/important_dates.htm for key dates and updates relevant to these Funding Rules.

Contacts

Researchers should direct requests for information to the Research Office within their organisation.

ARC Contacts can be located on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au.

Appeals must be addressed and sent:

by mail to:  
by courier to:

The Appeals Officer  
The Appeals Officer  
Australian Research Council  
Australian Research Council  
GPO Box 2702  
Level 2, 11 Lancaster Place,  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Majura Park  
Or by email to: appeals@arc.gov.au  
CANBERRA ACT 2609
Part A - General Rules for schemes under the Linkage Program

A1. Name of Funding Rules

These Funding Rules are the Australian Research Council Funding Rules for schemes under the Linkage Program for 2014 – Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine.

A2. Commencement

These Funding Rules shall take effect upon registration on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.

A3. Definitions

In these Funding Rules, unless the contrary intention appears:

Administering Organisation means an Eligible Organisation which submits a Proposal for funding and which will be responsible for the administration of the funding if the Project is approved for funding.

Applicant means the Administering Organisation. Funding under the Linkage Program is provided to Administering Organisations, not to individual researchers.

ARC means the Australian Research Council, as established under the ARC Act.


ARC College of Experts means a body of experts of international standing appointed to assist the ARC to identify research excellence, moderate external assessments and recommend fundable Proposals.

Chief Investigator (CI) means a researcher who satisfies the eligibility criteria for a CI under Part B of these Funding Rules.

Commencement Date means the scheme-specific date on which funding commences as defined in Part B of these Funding Rules.

Commonwealth means the Commonwealth of Australia.

Conflict of Interest means any conflict of interest, any risk of a conflict of interest and any apparent conflict of interest arising through a party engaging in any activity, participating in any association, holding any membership or obtaining any interest that is likely to conflict with or restrict that party participating in the Project. The ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy is available on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au.
Eligible Organisation means an organisation listed at B6.1 of these Funding Rules.

Funding Agreement means the agreement entered into by the ARC and an Administering Organisation when a Proposal from that organisation is approved for funding.

GST has the meaning as given in section 195-1 of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999.

Instructions to Applicants means a set of instructions prepared by the ARC to assist Applicants in completing the application form and associated documentation.

Linkage Program, for the purposes of eligibility, refers to the schemes funded under the Linkage Program of the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) which consists of: Linkage Projects, Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities, the Industrial Transformation Research Program, Special Research Initiatives, the ARC Centres of Excellence, Learned Academies Special Projects and other schemes as updated from time to time.

Medical and Dental Research means research and/or training primarily and substantially aimed at understanding or treating a human disease or health condition, as defined in the ARC Medical Research Policy available on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au.

Minister means the Minister from time to time responsible for the administration of the ARC Act.

NCGP means the National Competitive Grants Program.

Partner Investigator (PI) means a researcher who satisfies the eligibility criteria for a PI under these Funding Rules.

Project means a Proposal approved by the Minister to receive funding from the ARC.

Project Leader means the first-named CI on a Proposal.

Proposal means a request to the ARC for the provision of funding which is submitted in accordance with the Funding Rules.

Research impact is the demonstrable contribution that research makes to the economy, society, culture, national security, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life, beyond contributions to academia.

Research infrastructure means assets, facilities, services, and coordinated access to major national and/or international research facilities or consortia which directly support research in higher education organisations and more broadly and which maintain the capacity of researchers to undertake excellent research and deliver innovative outcomes.
**Research Office** means a business unit within an Eligible Organisation that is responsible for administrative contact with the ARC regarding Proposals and Projects.

**RMS** means the ARC’s online Research Management System.

**Selection Advisory Committee (SAC)** means a group of experts appointed to assist the ARC to evaluate Proposals and to provide a recommendation for funding to the ARC.

### A4. Introduction

#### A4.1 Overview

A4.1.1 These Funding Rules are a legislative instrument current as at the date of signing by the Minister and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the ARC Act in force then.

A4.1.2 These Funding Rules relate to the *Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine* for funding commencing in 2014 funded under the Linkage Program of the ARC’s *National Competitive Grants Program*. The Linkage Program supports research partnerships within Australia and internationally to encourage the exchange and transfer of knowledge, ideas and skills as a basis for building capacity to deliver high quality research outcomes and secure commercial and other benefits of research.

The Linkage Program aims to:

a. Support excellent collaborative research initiatives involving partnerships between higher education organisations and with other sectors, in Australia and internationally.

b. Foster research and training and career opportunities that enable excellent Australian and international researchers and research students to gain experience working in industry settings.

c. Support collaborative research in priority areas that will deliver national benefits.

d. Enhance capacity to deliver national benefits by investing in large-scale collaborative research programs.

A4.1.3 The Linkage Program schemes provide funding to Administering Organisations to support research Projects.

A4.1.4 The ARC undertakes periodic evaluations of the performance and administration of the schemes under the NCGP.

A4.1.5 The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Linkage Program are specified each year in the ARC Portfolio Budget Statements and the ARC Strategic Plan. The KPIs focus on long-term outcomes as well as medium-term outcomes relating to building Australia’s research capacity, for example, research careers and training, contributions in areas of national need and research collaboration. These are addressed each year in the ARC’s annual report.
A4.2 **Research/Activities Supported**

A4.2.1 For the purposes of these Funding Rules, research is defined as the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies, inventions and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative.

A4.2.2 This definition of research is consistent with a broad notion of research and experimental development comprising “creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man [humbankind], culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications”\(^1\).

A5. **Funding**

A5.1 **Level and Period of Funding**

A5.1.1 All amounts referred to in these Funding Rules are to be read as exclusive of GST (if any), unless expressly stated otherwise.

A5.1.2 The scheme-specific level and period of funding are provided at Part B of these Funding Rules.

A5.1.3 The ARC reserves the right to recommend funding levels which may be less than those requested in the Proposal, and a duration of ARC funding which may differ from that requested in the Proposal.

A5.1.4 The ARC will not duplicate funding for research or research infrastructure funded by the Commonwealth.

A5.1.5 The Administering Organisation is responsible for any and all financial and taxation implications associated with receiving funds.

A5.1.6 All budget items must be justified in the Proposal to the satisfaction of the ARC.

A5.2 **Budget Items Not Supported**

A5.2.1 Budget items which will not be supported by ARC funding and should not be requested in the budget include:

a. bench fees or similar laboratory access fees;

b. costs not directly related to research or the Project, including but not limited to professional membership fees, professional development courses, fees for patent application and maintenance, equipment for live music or drama performances, visas, relocation costs, costs of dependents, entertainment costs, hospitality costs, insurance, and other indirect costs;

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c. fees for international students or the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) and Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) liabilities for students; and

d. salaries and/or on-costs, in whole or in part, for CIs and PIs.

**A6. General Eligibility Requirements**

**A6.1 Eligible Organisations**

A6.1.1 A Proposal may only be submitted through the Research Office of an Eligible Organisation.

A6.1.2 For scheme-specific Eligible Organisation eligibility requirements refer to Part B of these Funding Rules.

A6.1.3 The Eligible Organisation that submits the Proposal will be the Administering Organisation and all other Eligible Organisations listed on the Proposal will be Other Eligible Organisations. A Proposal may only be submitted once in the same funding scheme round regardless of any variation in the proposed research, the listed researchers and/or Administering Organisation.

**A6.2 Eligibility process**

A6.2.1 The ARC will assess whether a Proposal meets the requirements in these Funding Rules and may recommend that a Proposal that does not meet the requirements be deemed ineligible.

A6.2.2 A decision under subsection A6.2.1 may be made by the ARC at any stage during assessment of the Proposal and may result in non-progression of the Proposal through the assessment process.

A6.2.3 For additional scheme-specific eligibility requirements refer to Part B of these Funding Rules.

**A7. Submission of Proposals**

**A7.1 Proposals**

A7.1.1 The Proposal must be submitted as a mature research plan presenting the proposed Project ready for implementation and must contain all the information necessary for its assessment without the need for further written or oral explanation, or reference to additional documentation, unless requested by the ARC.

A7.1.2 All details in the Proposal must be current at the time of submission.

**A7.2 Submission of Proposals**

A7.2.1 All Proposals must meet the relevant format, content and submission requirements, including certification.

A7.2.2 The Administering Organisation must submit the Proposal through RMS unless otherwise advised by the ARC.
A7.3 Closing Time for Proposals
A7.3.1 The completed form must be submitted by the relevant scheme closing date and time on the Important Dates page on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au.
A7.3.2 Additions, deletions and modifications will not be accepted after submission, unless invited by the ARC.
A7.3.3 Upon receipt of a written request with justification from the Administering Organisation the ARC may approve the withdrawal of a Proposal. The ARC will only approve such a request in exceptional circumstances.

A7.4 Certification
A7.4.1 The Administering Organisation must certify a Proposal online in RMS.
A7.4.2 The ARC reserves the right at any point in the process to seek evidence from the Administering Organisation to support the certification of Proposals.

A7.5 Conflict of Interest
A7.5.1 Each participant or organisation named in a Proposal must declare to the Administering Organisation at the date of submission any Conflict of Interest that exists or is likely to arise in relation to any aspect of the Proposal.
A7.5.2 If a Conflict of Interest exists or arises, the Administering Organisation must have documented processes in place for managing the Conflict of Interest for the duration of the Project. Such processes must comply with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* (2007), the *ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy* and any relevant successor documents.
A7.5.3 As part of the certification at A7.4.1, the Administering Organisation must certify that all Conflicts of Interest have been disclosed in accordance with A7.5.1, and that any Conflict of Interest will be managed in accordance with A7.5.2.

A8. Selection and Approval Process
A8.1 Assessment and Selection Process
A8.1.1 Assessment of Proposals is undertaken by the ARC, which has the right to make recommendations for funding to the Minister, based on any number of assessments or solely on the basis of its expertise.
A8.1.2 All Proposals will be considered against the eligibility criteria for the relevant scheme and compliance with these Funding Rules.
A8.1.3 All Proposals may be:
a. assigned to independent assessors, from a range of organisations, who will assess and report, which may include written comments, on the Proposal against the selection criteria; and

b. ranked and allocated a budget, relative to other Proposals, by the ARC College of Experts or SAC, on the basis of the Proposal, any assessors’ reports and any rejoinder.

A8.1.4 The ARC may cease the progression of Proposals at any time during the selection process. Grounds for cessation include, but are not limited to:

a. not meeting the eligibility criteria set out in these Funding Rules; or

b. providing incomplete, inaccurate or misleading information.

A8.1.5 Following assessment, the CEO will make recommendations to the Minister in relation to which Proposals should be approved for funding, which Proposals should not be approved for funding, and the level of funding and duration of Projects.

A8.1.6 The ARC has procedures in place for managing organisational and personal Conflicts of Interest for assessors, members of the ARC College of Experts or SAC, members of other ARC Committees and ARC staff. The ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy is available on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au.

A8.2 Rejoinder

A8.2.1 The Administering Organisation may be given the opportunity for a rejoinder to assessors’ written comments, and to provide any additional information requested by the ARC. Names of assessors will not be provided to the Administering Organisation or to Proposal participants.

A8.3 Request Not to Assess

A8.3.1 Administering Organisations may name any person or persons whom they do not wish to assess a Proposal by submitting a ‘Request Not to Assess’ form available on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au. This form must be received by the ARC by the relevant scheme closing date and time available on the Important Dates page on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au.

While the ARC may accommodate such requests, only one request may be submitted per Proposal and any request containing more than three (3) individual assessors to be excluded for a Proposal must be directly supported in writing by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) or equivalent of the Administering Organisation.

A8.4 Recommendations and Offer of Funding

A8.4.1 In accordance with the ARC Act, the ARC CEO will submit funding recommendations to the Minister for consideration. The Minister will determine which Proposals will be approved and the amount and timing of funding to be paid to Administering Organisations for approved Proposals.

A8.4.2 Under the ARC Act, the Minister must not approve for funding any Proposal that fails to meet the eligibility criteria set out in these Funding Rules.
A8.4.3 All Administering Organisations will be notified of the outcomes of their Proposals (including Proposals not recommended for funding). Outcomes, funding allocations and other relevant information about the successful Proposals will be published on the ARC website.

A8.4.4 Administering Organisations whose Proposals are approved will be notified in a letter of offer that will indicate the funding to be offered and provided with a copy of a Funding Agreement for signing.

A8.4.5 The ARC may vary the funding approval if, in the opinion of the ARC, the particular circumstances of the Project warrant variation. Any variation or change will accord with the relevant Funding Rules and Funding Agreement.

A9. Appeals Process

A9.1.1 Applicants for funding under the schemes of the NCGP are able to submit an appeal against administrative process issues. The appeals process is designed to ensure that the Proposal has been treated fairly and consistently in the context of selection procedures.

A9.1.2 Appeals will be considered only against administrative process issues and not against committee decisions, assessor ratings and comments or the assessment outcome.

A9.1.3 Appeals must be submitted by the Administering Organisation on the ARC Appeals Form on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au, authorised by a Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) or equivalent. Appeals must be received within 28 days of the date of the notification to the Administering Organisation of the outcome of Proposals. The ARC will not accept appeals later than 5.00 pm (AEDT/AEST) on the appeals submission due date.

A9.1.4 Appeals must be sent to the Appeals address advised at the beginning of these Funding Rules. The ARC will accept both electronic and hard copy Appeal submissions.

A9.1.5 Applicants for funding may at any time seek to appeal ARC decisions using available external appeal options. Regarding available options for external appeal, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal does not have general power to review ARC decisions.

A10. Reporting Requirements

Details of ARC reporting requirements can be found on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au.

A10.1 Progress Reports

A10.1.1 Progress Reports must be submitted by 31 March in the year following each calendar year for which the funding was awarded as directed by the ARC.

A10.1.2 If the ARC is not satisfied with the progress of any Project, further payment of funds will not be made until satisfactory progress has been made on the Project. If satisfactory progress is still not achieved within a reasonable period of time, the funding may be terminated and all outstanding monies will be recovered by the ARC.
A10.2 End of Year Reports
A10.2.1 The Administering Organisation must submit an End of Year Report by 31 March in the year following each calendar year for which the funding was awarded, in accordance with the instructions to be provided by the ARC each year.

A10.3 Final Report
A10.3.1 A Final Report must be submitted for the Project within twelve (12) months of the final payment or within twelve (12) months of the final approved carryover of funds.
A10.3.2 The Final Report must address compliance with the ARC Open Access Policy as detailed at A11.5.
A10.3.3 If any reports are not submitted or are not satisfactory to the ARC this will be noted against future Proposals submitted by all participants on the Project.
A10.3.4 The ARC may also seek additional information about subsequent publications after submission of the Final Report.

A11. Fundamental Principles of Conducting Research

A11.1 Ethics and Research Practices
A11.1.1 All Proposals and ARC-funded research projects must conform to the principles outlined in the following and their successor documents:
   a. Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007);
   b. as applicable, the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007);
   c. as applicable, NHMRC Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research (2003);
   d. as applicable, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies (2011); and
   e. as applicable, the Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (2013) endorsed by the NHMRC, the ARC, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and Universities Australia.
A11.1.2 If there is any conflict between a successor document and its predecessor, then the successor document prevails to the extent of any inconsistency.

A11.2 Applicable Law
A11.2.1 The ARC is required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act 1988 and the Freedom of Information Act 1982.
A11.3 Confidentiality

A11.3.1 The ARC will treat information contained in a Proposal as confidential. However, the ARC may disclose information contained in a Proposal, or otherwise provided to the ARC, to the extent that the information is:

   a. disclosed by the ARC to its advisors (including assessors), officers, employees or other third parties in order to assess, evaluate or verify the quality, accuracy or completeness of a Proposal;

   b. disclosed by ARC personnel to third parties to enable effective management or auditing of the Linkage Program schemes or any Funding Agreement;

   c. disclosed by the ARC to the Minister;

   d. shared by the ARC within the agency, or with another Commonwealth Department or agency, where this serves the Commonwealth’s legitimate interests;

   e. authorised or required by law to be disclosed;

   f. disclosed in accordance with any other provision of these Funding Rules or the Funding Agreement; or

   g. in the public domain.

A11.3.2 Where information contained in a Proposal is made available to third parties for evaluation, assessment or audit purposes the ARC will require the third parties to maintain the confidentiality of the material, including any intellectual property contained in the Proposal.

A11.3.3 In addition to the exemptions listed at A11.3.1, the ARC may publicise and report offers or awards of funding, including the following information about the proposed Project: the name of the Administering Organisation and any other parties involved in or associated with the Project; named Participants and their organisations; the proposed research program (the title and summary descriptions of the Project); classifications and international collaboration country names; and the level and nature of financial assistance from the ARC. Administering Organisations should ensure that information contained in the Proposal title and summary descriptions would not, if released, compromise their own requirements for confidentiality (such as protection of intellectual property).

A11.3.4 In making public information about a Proposal which has been approved for funding, the ARC may use a Project description, including title and summary, which may differ from that provided in the Proposal.

A11.4 Intellectual Property

A11.4.1 The ARC does not claim ownership of any intellectual property in a Proposal or in any research arising from a Project.
A11.4.2 The Administering Organisation must adhere to an intellectual property policy, approved by the Administering Organisation’s governing body, which has as one of its aims the maximisation of benefits to Australia arising from research. Unless otherwise approved by the Commonwealth, the Administering Organisation’s intellectual property policy must comply with the National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research and/or any successor document/s.

A11.5 Publication and Dissemination of Research Outputs

A11.5.1 All Proposals and ARC-funded research projects must comply with the ARC Open Access Policy on the dissemination of research findings, which is available at www.arc.gov.au. In accordance with this policy, any publications arising from a Project must be deposited into an open access institutional repository within a twelve (12) month period from the date of publication.

A11.5.2 Researchers and institutions have an obligation to care for and maintain research data in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007). The ARC considers data management planning an important part of the responsible conduct of research and strongly encourages the depositing of data arising from a Project in an appropriate publically accessible subject and/or institutional repository.

A11.6 Incomplete or Misleading Information

A11.6.1 It is a serious offence to provide false or misleading information to the Commonwealth.

A11.6.2 If the ARC considers that a Proposal is incomplete, inaccurate or contains false or misleading information, the ARC may in its absolute discretion decide to recommend that the Proposal not be approved for funding.

A11.6.3 A decision under subsection A11.6.2 may be made by the ARC at any stage during the assessment of the Proposal and may result in non-progression of the Proposal through the assessment process.

A11.6.4 Examples of misleading information and misconduct include:

a. providing fictitious research opportunity and performance evidence;
b. plagiarism;
c. making false claims in publications records (such as describing a paper as accepted for publication when it has only been submitted);
d. making false claims in relation to qualifications and/or appointments;
e. making false certifications; or
f. failing to disclose to the Administering Organisation the existence, and nature, of actual or potential Conflicts of Interest of any of the parties involved in the Proposal/Project (such as any affiliations or financial interest in any organisation that has a direct interest in the matter or outputs of the Project).
Part B – Scheme-specific rules for the Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine for funding commencing in 2014

B1. Interpretation

Part B contains the scheme-specific rules for the Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine for funding commencing in 2014.

The Commencement Date for the Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine for funding commencing in 2014 is 1 January 2014.

B2. Objectives

B2.1 The Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine represents the Government’s electoral commitment for “Boosting Front Line Healthcare and Research” by funding the Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine at James Cook University (JCU). The successful Initiative, led by the Administering Organisation and involving researchers with track records in quality research outcomes and coordinating team-based cross-disciplinary projects, will ensure that our citizens have the best possible treatments for tropical health matters.

B2.2 Proposals for the Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine may be submitted only when invited by the ARC and must be by the date specified on the ARC website.

B3. Selection Criteria

B3.1 All Proposals which meet the eligibility criteria set out in these Funding Rules will be assessed and merit ranked using the following criteria:

a. Investigator(s) 30%
   i. Research opportunity and performance evidence (ROPE); and
   ii. Time and capacity to undertake the proposed research.

b. Program Quality and Innovation 50%
   i. Does the research clearly address the scheme objective?
   ii. Does the project involve high quality innovative national and international partnership(s)?
   iii. Is the conceptual/theoretical framework genuinely integrated, broad, cross-disciplinary, innovative and original?
   iv. Will the aims, concepts, methods and results advance knowledge and provide outcomes?

c. Feasibility and Benefit 20%
   i. Do the Project’s design, participants and requested budget create confidence in the timely and successful completion of the Project?
ii. Will the completed Project produce innovative economic, environmental, social and/or cultural benefit to the Australian and international community?

iii. Is the design of the Project and the expertise of the participants sufficient to ensure the Project can be completed within the proposed budget and timeframe?

iv. Does the Project have a wide level of collaboration, including the development of national and international networks and linkages?

v. Does the Program have an effective governance arrangement with the capacity to transcend disciplinary, geographical and institutional boundaries to achieve the Program’s vision?

vi. Is there an existing, or developing, supportive and high quality research environment for this Program?

vii. Are the necessary facilities available to complete the Project?

viii. Are there adequate strategies to encourage dissemination, commercialisation, if appropriate, and promotion of research outcomes?

B4. Funding

B4.1 Level and Period of Funding

B4.1.1 The level of funding provided by the ARC under the Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine is $42,000,000 for four (4) years from 2013–2014 to 2016–2017 as follows: $15,000,000 in 2013–2014; $21,000,000 in 2014–2015; $3,000,000 in 2015–2016, and $3,000,000 in 2016–2017.

B4.1.2 A Project may be applied for and awarded funding for up to 4 consecutive years. A Proposal must request ARC funding in all years of the Project.

B4.1.3 Budget items which directly support the research Project may be funded under the Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine. All eligible requested funding costs must be justified in the Proposal to the satisfaction of the ARC.

B4.1.4 Funding for approved projects will commence effective 1 January 2014, unless other arrangements are approved by the ARC. Any funding awarded will be subject to sufficient funds being available for the Project, the provisions of the ARC Act and continued satisfactory progress of the Project.

B5. Roles and Eligibility for Researchers

B5.1 Additional eligibility criteria for the Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine

B5.1.1 Roles that may be undertaken by researchers under this scheme are:
a. Chief Investigator (CI); or
b. Partner Investigator (PI).

B5.1.2 A Proposal must nominate at least one CI; the first-named CI will be the Project Leader.

B5.1.3 A Proposal may nominate a maximum of five (5) CIs and a maximum of five (5) PIs.

B5.1.4 At the time of the submission of a Proposal, all obligations regarding previously funded ARC Projects involving the nominated CIs on the Proposal must have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the ARC. Such obligations include the provision of satisfactory Progress and Final Reports.

B5.2 Eligibility Criteria for Chief Investigators

B5.2.1 A researcher nominated on a Proposal as a CI must be an employee for at least half time (50 per cent of Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) at the Eligible Organisation as at 1 January 2014, and for the duration of the Project.

B5.2.2 Researchers undertaking a higher degree by research are not eligible to be CIs. Researchers must have their higher degree by research conferred by the Commencement Date of the Project in order to be eligible.

B5.2.3 All CIs must take significant intellectual responsibility for the conduct of the Project and for any strategic decisions called for in its pursuit and the communication of results. All CIs must have the capacity to make a serious commitment to carrying out the Project and cannot assume the role of a supplier of resources for work that will largely be placed in the hands of others.

B5.2.4 The CI must normally reside predominantly in Australia for the life of the Project. Any significant absences including fieldwork or study leave directly related to the Project must have approval from the Administering Organisation and must not total more than half of the Project funding period.

B5.2.5 If a Proposal has been approved for funding and a CI is, at any time, no longer able to work as proposed on the Project, the Project may be continued provided that the Project still includes at least one CI who was named on the Proposal and any replacement CI is approved by the ARC and meets the CI eligibility criteria.

B5.3 Eligibility Criteria for Partner Investigators

B5.3.1 A researcher nominated as a PI on a Proposal:

a. must not meet the eligibility criteria for CI; and
b. must take significant intellectual responsibility for the conduct of the Project and for any strategic decisions called for in its pursuit and the communication of results. The PI must have the capacity to make a serious commitment to carrying out the Project and cannot assume the role of a supplier of resources for work that will largely be placed in the hands of others.
B6. Scheme specific eligibility requirements

B6.1 Eligible Organisations

B6.1.1 The following organisation is eligible to submit Proposals for the *Special Research Initiative for Tropical Health and Medicine:*  
James Cook University