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The schemes are:

ARC Linkages <http://www.arc.gov.au/linkage-projects>

The Linkage Projects scheme provides funding to Eligible Organisations to support research and development (R&D) projects which: are collaborative between higher education researchers and other parts of the national innovation system are undertaken to acquire new knowledge, and involve risk or innovation.

Proposals for funding under the Linkage Projects scheme must include at least one Partner Organisation. The Partner Organisation must make a contribution in cash and/or in kind to the project. The combined Partner Organisation contributions for a Proposal (i.e. the total of the cash and in-kind contributions of the Partner Organisations) must at least match the total funding requested from the ARC.

The objectives of the Linkage Projects scheme are to:

support the initiation and/or development of long-term strategic research alliances between higher education organisations and other organisations, including industry and other research end-users, in order to apply advanced knowledge to problems and/or to provide opportunities to obtain national economic, commercial, social or cultural benefits; provide opportunities for internationally competitive research projects to be conducted in collaboration with organisations outside the higher education sector, targeting those who have demonstrated a clear commitment to high-quality research; encourage growth of a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of the broader Australian innovation system; build the scale and focus of research in the national Science and Research Priorities.

The Priority areas are listed

<http://www.science.gov.au/scienceGov/ScienceAndResearchPriorities/Pages/default.aspx>

& the Global Connections Fund for International SME connections

<http://globalconnectionsfund.org.au/>

Call one has been done but another call will come out soon

Our website has a lot of information for industry on collaborations

<http://sydney.edu.au/about-us/partnerships/industry-and-business-partners/working-with-us.html>



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Description

In its continuing drive to provide opportunities for research organisations and a range of industry sectors to jointly and productively engage, the Australian Government, through its funding agency, the Australian Research Council (ARC), offers the Linkage Programme. This programme encompasses a suite of funding schemes with separate funding allocations and rules that address this broad goal.

Specifically, these funding schemes seek to encourage and extend cooperative approaches to research and create direct pathways for research outcomes. The schemes that sit under the broad Linkage Programme promote national and international partnerships that build skills and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and ideas. Most Linkage Programme schemes fund research on a large scale and all schemes under the Linkage Programme require joint funding from the ARC and the proposed partners.

The range of funding schemes within the Linkage Programme includes the annual Industrial Transformation Research Programme of Research Training Centres and Research Hubs as well as Australia's flagship funding scheme, the cyclically funded ARC Centres of Excellence. A Centre of Excellence for instance, undertakes focused and sustained investigations into the most important and challenging problems we face. All such are led by Australian research institutions and are awarded up to seven years of funding through a competitive process run every three to five years. There are between ten and fifteen Centres of Excellence awarded in each round.

The Industrial Transformation Research Programme - Research Hubs can request from \$500,000 to \$1 million per annum in funding from the ARC with required matching funding from the Industry partners while the Research Training Centres can request a minimum of \$650,000 from the ARC for the first three years of a four to five year Centre. For Training Centres, partner organisations provide placements for the higher degree students and post-doctoral fellows and cover the stipend or salary gap. For both of the two years these schemes have been run, approximately five Research Training Centres and five Research Hubs have been funded.

While the Centres of Excellence and the Industrial Transformation Research Centres and Research Hubs address broad problems through a research effort on a large scale, the Linkage Programme also offers funding on a project by project basis through its Linkage Projects Scheme.

Linkage Projects are soon to be continuously assessed and are individual collaborative R&D projects bringing together researchers and other parts of the innovation system; they support the acquisition of new disciplinary knowledge while providing innovative solutions for their industry partners' problems. The Linkage Projects Scheme thus facilitates opportunities to initiate and develop long term cross-sectoral partnerships that foster lively and productive collaborative research with critical applied outcomes. The ARC funds about 250 such projects in a year across the full range of research disciplines. International Universities and companies can partner with Australian researchers on such projects with industry partners required to contribute cash and in-kind towards the costs of the research. The minimum cash contribution from the industrial partner is 25% of the amount requested from the ARC with the remaining 75% made up of in-kind contributions.