



Synapse ARC Proposal Guidelines (2008)

What is the Synapse ARC Linkage Grant program?

Synapse ARC Linkage Grants is a funding program that aims to:

- foster new collaborations and creative partnerships between artists and scientists
- develop partnerships with key players in the arts, science and technology sectors, nationally and internationally
- develop sustainable support for long-term collaboration between the arts and sciences.

The Australia Council for the Arts has allocated funds to provide partner organisation support for collaborative arts/science research applications submitted to the Australian Research Council's (ARC) Linkage program.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A SYNAPSE ARC GRANT

Proposals for Synapse funding are assessed in two stages: first, prior to the each of the ARC's closing dates, the Australia Council, through the Inter-Arts Office, assesses whether proposals meet the aims of the **Synapse** initiative and can be offered Australia Council partner organisation support. Then, proposals supported by the Council are submitted as applications to the ARC's Linkage-Projects grant category.

The 2008 closing dates for proposals to the Inter-Arts Office are:

- 3 March 2008
- 8 September 2008

Due to limited funds, the Inter-Arts Office will select only a small number of proposals to support. Funding offered through Synapse ARC Linkage Grants will only be released if the subsequent grant application to the ARC is successful. For more information about submitting a proposal see 'How to apply for Australia Council support' below.

What is the Australian Research Council Linkage Projects program?

The Linkage Projects scheme supports collaborative research and development projects between higher education organisations and other organisations, including within industry, to enable the application of advanced knowledge to problems. Typically, research projects funded under the scheme involve risk.

Proposals for funding under Linkage Projects must involve a collaborating organisation from outside the higher education sector. The collaborating organisation must make a significant contribution (equal to, or greater than, the ARC funding), in cash and/or in kind, to the project.

Linkage-Projects supports collaborative research projects between higher education researchers and industry and identifies an allocation to projects of benefit to regional and

rural communities. The interaction with actual or potential users of research outcomes is a critical element in Linkage-Projects.

Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry, Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships Industry, and Linkage Industry Fellowships are available under Linkage-Projects.

Applications made to the ARC through the Synapse initiative are eligible for the Linkage-Projects program. Linkage-Projects supports research and development projects that are undertaken to acquire new knowledge and that involve risk or innovation.

The objectives of Linkage-Projects are to:

- encourage and develop long-term strategic research alliances between higher education institutions and industry in order to apply advanced knowledge to problems, or to provide opportunities to obtain national economic or social benefits
- support collaborative research on issues of benefit to regional and rural communities
- foster opportunities for postdoctoral researchers to pursue internationally competitive research in collaboration with industry, targeting those who have demonstrated a clear commitment to high quality research
- provide industry-oriented research training to prepare high-calibre postgraduate research students
- produce a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of Australian industry.

Please note that to be eligible for ARC funding an application must be sponsored and administered by an eligible higher education institution (details of such institutions are available from the ARC website).

For further information please visit: [Linkage Projects](#) or www.arc.gov.au/

HOW TO APPLY FOR AUSTRALIA COUNCIL SUPPORT

What should you submit?

You must provide the Australia Council with a proposal that includes:

1. Project title
2. Name of participating eligible higher education institution to administer grant
3. Summary of key project personnel (project team) including name, job title and brief description of role and experience
4. Other proposed partner organisations on the project
5. Program name of Australian Research Council grant/s being sought
6. Start and end dates of project for which support will be sought
7. Amount of funding being sought from the Australia Council
8. Project summary including a description of the project (summarising aims, significance and expected outcomes)
9. Description of the potential benefits of the project to the partners in the collaboration, and more broadly to the fields of science and the arts
10. Budget outline for the project including total cost of project, proposed amount requested from ARC and the proposed requested partner organisation contribution from the Australia Council. The budget must also indicate to which items of expenditure the Australia Council funds are to be allocated
11. Name and details of contact for the proposal

12. URL addresses that link to examples and/or details of previous works of artists and scientists relevant to the proposal (no more than five URLs)

Proposals must be no longer than **four A4 pages** in length.

13. In addition to the information above, applicants must submit letter/s from the institution's research office and relevant departments, schools or research centres acknowledging their awareness of the proposal and support for its aims and objectives

What are the selection criteria?

The Inter-Arts Office will support proposals that best demonstrate:

- Innovation in creative art practice and artistic merit of the proposal, including the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed program
- Clearly identified research objectives, including the benefit of the project to the collaborating partners, and more broadly the fields of both the arts and sciences
- That the project is viable and adequately resourced, with potential to leverage broader industry support
- The skills and experience of the project team relevant to the proposal
- The extent to which the proposal meets the aims of the Synapse initiative.

The Australia Council reserves the right to refuse support to any received proposal.

When must I submit my proposal?

Your proposal must arrive at the Australia Council for the Arts no later than close of business on **Monday, 3 March 2008** (for the May ARC closing date) and **Monday, 8 September 2008** (for the November ARC closing date).
Late proposals will not be considered.

Proposals may be sent by post or courier, lodged in person at the Australia Council, or by email to synapse@australiacouncil.gov.au.

Postal address

Synapse
Inter-Arts Office
Australia Council for the Arts
PO Box 788
Strawberry Hills
NSW 2012

For further information visit
<http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/synapse>
and www.synapse.net.au

We encourage you to talk to staff of the Australia Council before submitting a Synapse ARC Linkage Grants proposal to the Inter-Arts Office.

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