EOI Application Form

* indicates a required field

Applicants: please note

Before completing this application form you should read the guidelines and FAQ.

Please also review the draft grant agreement that you will need to sign if you are eligible for the grant.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

This section of the application form will help you, and us, understand if you are eligible for this grant.

You are required to confirm your eligibility to proceed with an application.

If you have any questions in regard to these eligibility criteria, please contact NICRP@oni.gov.au

If you do contact us throughout the application process, please quote the application number below.

Application Number

This field is read only.

About this grant

The National Intelligence Community (NIC) Research Program enables the Australian academic community to undertake competitive, unclassified research into NIC research priorities. The program supports peer-reviewed research that deepens understanding of emerging science, social science, engineering and technology. NIC innovation is facilitated through the creation of sovereign expertise, discovery of new insights and development of an R&D ecosystem to underpin emerging technological capability.

A National Intelligence Explore Award (NIEA) (up to 12 available) provides up to $750k over three years to enable research into NIC research priorities and challenges. The NIEA will be awarded to early-mid career researchers partnering with experienced researchers and emerging PhD candidates. The NIEA will also enable the possibility for extension research.

Research proposals are invited to address an Intelligence Science and Technology Challenge or a NIC-defined Research Topic.

Two-stage Application Process

Expression of Interest (EOIs) applications;

- open: 2 November 2026
- close: 10 December 2026

Full applications **by invitation only**

- open: 21 December 2026
- close: 3 March 2027

It is strongly recommended that you read the Grant Guidelines carefully to ensure your eligibility before applying.

EOI applications are to be submitted by the Lead Chief Investigator certified by the Research Office of an Eligible Sponsoring Organisation listed in the grant guidelines.

Individuals named in an EOI application must satisfy the eligibility criteria for the role they are to perform as at the Commencement Date and for the duration of the Project.

EOI applications under this grant opportunity must have:

- one Lead Chief Investigator (CI) who is an Early-Mid Career Researcher (EMCR); and
- one Eligible Organisation (that is the Sponsoring Organisation).

To be eligible, the Lead Chief Investigator must:

- Be an early-mid career researcher with a PhD in a relevant field within ten years of the EOI application closing date (career interruptions considered).
- Be an Australian citizen or New Zealand Special Category Visa Holder.
- Be sponsored by an accredited Australian University.

Eligibility

Is the Lead Chief Investigator an Australian citizen or New Zeleand Special Category Visa Holder based at an Australian University? *

○ Yes
○ No

Is the Lead Chief Investigator an early-mid career researcher with a PhD in a relevant field within ten years of the EOI application closing date? *

○ Yes
○ No

Career Interruptions will be considered within the first 10 years after the PhD was conferred, as long as the interruption period is less than the research working period after the PhD was conferred.

Is the EOI sponsored by an eligible organisation listed in Table 2 of the guidelines? *

○ Yes
○ No

Ineligible

Because of your answer to 'No' to one or more of the above questions, you are not eligible to submit an application for the National Intelligence Explore Award grant.

If you have any questions please contact:

National Intelligence Community Research Program Email: NICRP@oni.gov.au

Application Contact Details

* indicates a required field

Lead Chief Investigator

Lead Chief Investigator *
Title First Name Last Name

Make sure you provide the same name that is listed in official documentation.

Phone number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email address *

Must be an email address.

Date of PhD Conferral *

If PhD is not yet conferred, please include expected date.

Career Interruption Details (If applicable)

Word count:
Must be no more than 50 words.
Career interruptions will be considered within the first 10 years after the PhD was conferred, as long as the interruption period is less than the research working period after the PhD was conferred.

Sponsoring University *

Select Sponsoring University

Sponsoring University Research Office Details

University *

Select Sponsoring University

Research Office Contact *
Title First Name Last Name

Research Office Contact Email *

Must be an email address.

Research Office Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Research Office Email *

Must be an email address.

Research Project Proposal

* indicates a required field

Instructions

Your research proposal must address one of the NIPG Research Topics 2026 or Intelligence Challenge.

You must demonstrate the scientific and technical merits in your research proposal by providing:

- clarity of the hypothesis, theories and questions, and how this will address the proposed research topic or intelligence challenge;
- novelty/originality and innovation of the proposed research or intelligence challenge;
- new or advanced knowledge resulting from outcomes of the research;
- extent to which the project would build research capacity; and
- potential to enhance Australian intelligence and national security capabilitiesYou are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately by emailing NICRP@oni.gov.au (please include your name and reference/application number). We do not have to accept any additional information, nor requests from you to correct your application after the closing time. ***You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.***

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents. Once you submit your application, you will receive acknowledgement of submission from SmartyGrants.

Proposals that involve the use of animals or humans **must comply with all University human and/or animal ethics policies and processes.** Ethics requirements must be noted in this application form and formal ethics approvals must be provided to NICRP@oni.gov.au before commencement of the project. The Delegate reserves the right to withdraw the Grant if ethics approvals are not provided.

All funded research projects **must comply with the requirements for responsible and ethical research practice** specified in the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* and the codes, guidelines, practices and policies on the ARC website including the *ARC Conflict of Interest Policy* and any actions that have been applied under the *ARC Research Integrity Policy*.

All funded research and participants are **required to be compliant with all relevant laws and regulations and have regard to any relevant guidelines.** This includes,

but is not limited to, Australia's obligations under the Defence Export Controls Legislative Framework.

When preparing proposals please be duly respectful of:

- Australia's international obligations regarding the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention)*; and
- Legislative sanctions frameworks under the *Charter of the United Nations Act 1945*, regulation instruments made under the *Charter of the United Nations Act 1945*; the *Autonomous Sanctions Act 2011* and the *Autonomous Sanctions Regulations 2011*.

Consideration must be given to ensure proposals are not open to misinterpretation, and do not put at risk Australia's long-standing commitment and reputation.

All funded research and participants are **required to be compliant with the *Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector*** published on the Department of Education website.

If you need further guidance around the application, contact us at NICRP@oni.gov.au.

Please indicate if you are addressing a research topic or intelligence challenge *
- ○ Research Topic
- ○ Intelligence Challenge

Project Title *

Word count:
Must be no more than 250 characters no more than 12 words.
Provide a name for your project. Your title should be short but descriptive

Project Proposal Key Words *

Provide up to 5 key words relevant to the proposal

Research Topic *

Please select one Research Topic

Intelligence Science and Technology Challenge: *
- ○ Covert Collection
- ○ Identity Management
- ○ Emerging Biological Science
- ○ Emerging Material Science
- ○ Extreme Environment
- ○ Emerging Data Science
- ○ Cyber Security, Protective Security and Physical Security
- ○ Situational Awareness and Multi-Source Assessment
- ○ Social Behavioural

○ Socio-Technical System

Research Proposal Summary *

Word count:
Must be no more than 100 words.
Simple and clear in plain language. Avoid the use of acronyms.

Research Proposal *

Word count:
Must be no more than 700 words.
Provide the scientific and technical merits in your research proposal by: - providing: clarity of the hypothesis, theories and questions, and how this will address the proposed research topic; - novelty/ originality and innovation of the proposed research; - new or advanced knowledge resulting from outcomes of the research; - extent to which the project would build research capacity; and - potential to enhance Australian intelligence capability. If your proposal addresses more than one Intelligence Challenge please include details in the propsal.

Optional Upload Image
Attach a file:

A maximum of 1 file may be attached.
Supporting images or figures to support your research proposal.

Technology Readiness Level

Select the appropriate Technology Readiness Level (TRL) for the EOI application and provide a justification for the level selected. If the application falls between two Technology Readiness Levels this should be noted in the explanation.

- **TRL 1 Basic Research:** Initial scientific research has been conducted.
  - Principles are qualitatively postulated and observed. Focus is on new discovery rather than applications.
- **TRL 2 Applied Research:** Initial practical applications are identified.
  - Potential of material or process to solve a problem, satisfy a need, or find application is confirmed.
- **TRL 3 Critical Function or Proof** of **Concept Established:** Applied research advances and early stage development begins.
  - Studies and laboratory measurements validate analytical predictions of separate elements of the technology.

Select the appropriate Technology Readiness Level (TRL) for the application *

○ Level 1
○ Level 2
○ Level 3

Please provide a justification for the level selected. *

Must be no more than 250 characters.

Certifications

* indicates a required field

Acknowledgement and Confirmation of Commitment

Sponsoring University

An authorising institutional official who is legally authorised to act for and on behalf of the institution is required to:

- Certify that the University supports the application submitted.
- Confirm University commitment to serve as the host facility if the application is successful.

1. Download the Acknowledgement, Confirmation and Certification form.

2. Lead Chief Investigator and Sponsoring University to complete and sign relevant sections.

3. Upload the signed form below.

Upload the completed and signed Acknowledgement, Confirmation and Certification form here: *
Attach a file:

Lead Chief Investigator Certification

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the statements made within this application are true and correct.

I agree * ☐ Yes

Lead Chief Investigator * Title First Name Last Name