

# Flagship Visiting Fellowships

## Guiding Principles

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C S I R O  
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# 1. Overview

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## 1.1 Introduction

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In 2003 CSIRO initiated the Flagship Visiting Fellowships to enable distinguished researchers to work in CSIRO in areas directly related to the work of a National Research Flagship.

The Flagships aim to deliver scientific solutions to advance some of Australia's most important national objectives:

- strong, sustained economic growth, new industries, competitive enterprises and quality jobs;
- healthier, more productive lives for Australians;
- clean, cost-efficient energy;
- more productive and sustainable use of water;
- to generate sustainable wealth from our oceans; and
- growth and prosperity for regional Australia.

Each Flagship addresses two or more of these overarching national objectives, and is closely aligned to the Commonwealth Government's National Research Priorities<sup>1</sup>.

## 1.2 National Research Flagships

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The six Flagship Programs<sup>2</sup> and their goals are:

### Preventative Health

To improve the health and well being of Australians and save \$2 billion in annual direct health costs by 2020 through the prevention and early detection of chronic diseases.

### Light Metals

To lead a global revolution in light metals, doubling export income and generating significant new industries for Australia by the 2020s while reducing environmental impact.

### Food Futures

To transform the international competitiveness and add \$3 billion annually to the Australian agrifood sector by the application of frontier technologies to high-potential industries.

### Energy Transformed

To halve greenhouse gas emissions and double the efficiency of the nation's new energy generation, supply and end use, and to position Australia for a future hydrogen economy.

### Water for a Healthy Country

To achieve a tenfold increase in the social, economic and environmental benefits from water by 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> Further information on the National Research Priorities can be found at [http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research\\_sector/policies\\_issues\\_reviews/key\\_issues/national\\_research\\_priorities/default.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/policies_issues_reviews/key_issues/national_research_priorities/default.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Further information on Flagships can be found at <http://www.csiro.au/FlagshipPrograms>

### Wealth from Oceans

To position Australia by 2020 as an international benchmark in the delivery of economic, social and environmental wealth based on leadership in understanding ocean systems and processes.

## 2. Categories of Fellowship

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### 2.1 Australian Based Researchers

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Flagship Visiting Fellowships are available for distinguished researchers currently employed by Australian universities to work for a period of time in CSIRO in areas directly relevant to a Flagship Program.

The Fellowships are designed to allow a researcher to be seconded from his or her home university to enable them to undertake an agreed project under Flagships. The successful Fellow will have an identified expertise or skill set which is not readily available in CSIRO. For example, applications from researchers with a humanities or social sciences background are particularly encouraged.

### 2.2 International Visitors

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Academics employed at overseas universities are also encouraged to apply and support can be given for a living allowance during the term of their Fellowship. Preference will be given to researchers who are Australian citizens and the proposed work must be of direct relevance to a Flagship Program.

Support may also be provided for international fellows to visit Australian universities and/or to conduct workshops/seminars as part of their fellowships.

## 3. Funding Rules

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### 3.1 Eligibility

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Applications for Flagship Visiting Fellowships will be accepted from individuals who are employed on a part-time (not less than 0.5 FTE) or full-time basis at an eligible Australian Higher Education Institution<sup>3</sup>.

Applications will also be accepted from individuals employed at an overseas university provided their complementary expertise and skill base is not readily available in Australia.

### 3.2 Level and Duration of Funding

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National Research Flagship Visiting Fellowships are valued at a maximum of \$100,000 each for up to six months. Up to ten Fellowships will be offered per semester.

For Australian based researchers this amount can be used to fund the replacement cost in their home university during the term of their secondment, as well as economy class

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<sup>3</sup> Eligible Australian Higher Education Institutions are listed in Section 4 of the Higher Education Funding ACT 1988 at <http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/html/pasteact/0/108/0/PA000090.htm>

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air travel within Australia for the Fellow (consistent with CSIRO's travel policy) and some minor operating costs. It is expected that all other costs will be borne by the host CSIRO Division or Flagship.

For international visitors the Fellowship can be used to fund a living allowance during their period in Australia working in CSIRO, as well as economy class international air travel and minor operating costs. The living allowance will be paid according to CSIRO policy, but may vary depending on the arrangements made with the host Division or Flagship.

### 3.3 Co-investment

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Fellows are encouraged to obtain additional financial support from other sources, including their home university and other funding bodies. Before accepting this additional funding, prospective fellows should inform CSIRO of any obligation imposed on the Fellow by all other funding agencies.

Co-investment by the home university is particularly encouraged because it ensures organisational alignment with the Flagship objectives. The level of co-investment will often be determined by the expected returns from the investment. Intellectual Property considerations play a significant part and these are detailed in Section 8.2 of these guidelines.

As a general rule, all co-investment by the other parties needs to be fully costed. While recognising that all organisations have different costing models, it is recommended that other parties use the AVCC published<sup>4</sup> multipliers of 1.25 and 0.92 against direct payroll costs (salary and salary on-costs (usually about 30% of base salary) of professional staff involved in the project) to estimate indirect costs of laboratory based research projects and non-laboratory based research projects, respectively. Other direct costs such as the use of specialised equipment and facilities should also be included. Other parties can use alternative costing models but these will need to be fully justified.

## 4. Application Process and Timelines

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### 4.1 Application Form

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Applicants must submit their proposal using the required Application Form. The Application Form should be completed on-line at <http://www.csiro.au/Flagships/ApplicationForms>

The application must contain all the information necessary to make an assessment of the Fellowship, and all details in the application must be current at the time of submission.

### 4.2 Certification and Submission

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Applications must be certified by the applicant and the Responsible Officer of the home university prior to submission.

A hard copy print-out of the completed on-line application form with the required signatures should be forwarded to Ms Sue Kingsland, Executive Officer Flagship Implementation, CSIRO, PO Box 225 Dickson ACT 2602 at the same time as the application is submitted on-line.

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<sup>4</sup> Report can be found at <http://www.avcc.edu.au/documents/publications/policy/statements/urissues.pdf>

### 4.3 Closing Date

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Applications for semester 2, 2005 will close on **10 June 2005**. Please note that universities will often require applications to be submitted for internal review at least 10 days ahead of the external closing date. Late applications will not be accepted.

## 5. Selection Criteria

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### 5.1 Quality and relevance

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The primary assessment criteria for a Flagship Visiting Fellowship are the quality and relevance of the activity being proposed. The research must be complementary to, and clearly aligned with, the portfolio of a Flagship Program and not simply to the broad scientific fields covered by the Flagship. The research activity must be of an excellent quality, with the conceptual framework well developed and appropriate to the outcomes of the project. Consideration of quality will include distinctiveness and novelty of the approach or work program proposed.

### 5.2 Track Record

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The quality and track record of the applicant are critical to the assessment of a Fellowship, and in particular the complementary skills and expertise which the applicant is expected to bring to further the objectives of a Flagship Program.

### 5.3 Prospects

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The potential of the proposed activity to support the directions of the Flagships and to deliver outcomes that are relevant to a particular Flagship Program is essential. Also important are the broader prospects of the nature and value of the benefits of the outcomes of the project, and in particular whether they will help the Flagships achieve their audacious national goals.

## 6. Assessment

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**Important:** Prospective applicants must contact the relevant Flagship to discuss their intention to submit an application for a Flagship Visiting Fellowship. This will allow prompt feedback on the likelihood of the proposal being selected. Contact details of all Flagships are available at

<http://www.csiro.au/Flagships/CollaborationFund#contacts>

The task of assessing Flagship Visiting Fellowships is the responsibility of the relevant Flagship Director who will take advice on the proposals. This advice may come from the relevant Flagship Advisory Committee (FAC) or other external party, and the Chief(s) of the Division(s) in which the Fellow will spend the majority of his or her time. The FAC is made up of senior representatives of CSIRO and external parties with scientific, industry and contract experience.

## 7. Reporting and Accountability

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### 7.1 Fellow Report

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Fellows will be required to provide a report to the relevant Flagship Director at the end of the Fellowship period on the outcomes of the project and their impact on the achievement of the Flagship Program objectives.

Fellows should be prepared to undertake a series of seminars about how their skills and expertise have added value to an area of a Flagship. The cost of such seminars will be met from the Collaboration funding provided to the Fellows.

### 7.2 Responsibilities

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The Flagship Visiting Fellow is ultimately accountable for the delivery of project outcomes. In most cases the Fellow will have developed the Project Plan and must therefore be responsible for the conduct of the project, including the management of resourcing and reporting.

The Flagship Director is the authorised approving officer of CSIRO for all Flagship Visiting Fellowships.

The Flagship Visiting Fellow will be required to report to the Flagship Director on project outcomes at intervals necessary to facilitate reporting to the Flagship Oversight Committee, which monitors the overall performance of the Flagship Visiting Fellowships in the context of the CSIRO Flagships' Annual Performance Goals.

## 8. Funding Contracts

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### 8.1 Simplified Approach - *FastTrack*

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CSIRO has developed an easy and simplified approach to developing consistent and plain English contracts called *FastTrack*.

CSIRO is in the process of developing a proforma *FastTrack* contract for use with Flagship Visiting Fellowships. When the development is completed, a copy of the contract will be made available on the Flagship website.

### 8.2 Intellectual Property

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Arrangements for the ownership and management of Project Intellectual Property<sup>5</sup> will be negotiated on a case by case basis, but consistent with the following principles:

- proportional ownership of Project IP based upon a party's contribution\*
- a non-exclusive, royalty-free research licence for parties contributing/co-investing (including in-kind contributions)

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<sup>5</sup> Intellectual Property (IP) developed during the project which is incorporated or identified in the deliverables.

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- share of the returns from future IP earnings proportional to the co-invested resources
- responsibility for managing technology transfer is conferred on one party. To ensure delivery on Flagship objectives, CSIRO will normally be the party with responsibility for technology transfer.

\* Where CSIRO seeks to retain exclusive ownership of all Project IP then the full costs will be paid. In the case of Flagship Fellowship projects, this may include funding the indirect costs estimated using the salary multipliers of 1.25 and 0.92 against direct payroll costs of laboratory based research projects and non-laboratory based research projects, respectively (see Section 3.3).

### 8.3 Financial and Reporting Obligations

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Each Flagship Visiting Fellowship will be managed as a separate project with its own budget, financial and project milestones, and end date.

It is the responsibility of the Fellow to ensure that financial reports and project reports are completed on time. Complete details of the reporting obligations and timelines will be given in the individual Funding Agreements.

## 9. Contacts

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For further information on the Flagship Visiting Fellowships contact:

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