

# AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

## Early & Mid-Career Researcher Citizen Science Research Grants

### Grant opportunity guidelines

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<b>Opening date:</b>	17 October 2022
<b>Closing date and time:</b>	25 November 2022, 5pm
<b>Granting Entity:</b>	Australian Academy of Science
<b>Administering entity:</b>	Australian Citizen Science Association
<b>Enquiries:</b>	<a href="mailto:grants@citizenscience.org.au">grants@citizenscience.org.au</a>
<b>Type of grant opportunity:</b>	Open Competitive

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### 1. About these grants

The Australian Citizen Science Association is proud to partner with the Australian Academy of Science's Theo Murphy Initiative (Australia) to offer a unique grant opportunity for early-and- mid-career researchers (EMCRs) working on citizen science research.

**The goal of the grants is to enable applied EMCR-led research, in partnership with citizen science practitioners, that strengthens the positive impacts of citizen science for science and society** by:

- Understanding the value of citizen science contributions and participation in citizen science
- Informing design of citizen science research projects to improve inclusion and/or accessibility
- Strengthening citizen science data applications for research, policy and decision making

Applicants should clearly outline in their application how their research delivers on one or more of these goals.

**In an effort to help connect research with broader community and practitioner outcomes, each successful project will be expected to contribute content so that a science communication product can be developed that makes key learnings accessible.**

The grants are funded by the Australian Academy of Science. The Australian Academy of Science aims to further scientific discovery in Australia by delivering opportunities that empower the next generation of science leaders.

The grants are managed by the Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA), Australia's national association for citizen science advocacy, membership and best practice.



## 2. Background

Citizen science is public participation and collaboration in scientific research with the aim to increase scientific knowledge. It provides a unique opportunity to massively upscale science, fill crucial in situ data gaps, deliver tailored outcomes, turn data into information and knowledge, and drive behavioural change.

Citizen science in Australia has experienced huge growth over the past 10 years, across communities, government, research and non-government-organisations. Yet, there are still many areas of citizen science practice that are poorly understood, which may be a barrier to the greater potential of citizen science contributions.

Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) represent the future of Australian research, and can both benefit from and contribute to the growing citizen science sector.

Growing genuine collaborations, partnerships, and inclusion across citizen science and EMCR work can empower research to enhance the positive impacts of citizen science for science and society.

With this in mind, ACSA was successful in securing support from the Australian Academy of Science's Theo Murphy Initiative. This support has enabled two EMCR-focused conference days (October [2020](#) and [2021](#)), the establishment of an [EMCR Working Group](#) and for a round of grants specifically for EMCR-led research with and for citizen science.

Greater collaborations and partnerships between citizen science practitioners and EMCRCs offer a range of benefits, including:

- Generating notable data sets that could greatly benefit research outcomes
- Breaking down barriers between the public and researchers, and across different disciplines and institutions
- Establishing collaborations and networks and fostering opportunities to build a greater sense of community
- Strengthening citizen science design and applications by supporting evidence-based decisions in citizen science design
- Enabling stronger connections between research institutions and the community
- Facilitating pathways for broader and more inclusive engagement in citizen science, including future STEM students and a more diverse range of participants



### 3. Who is eligible?

To be eligible for an EMCR grant, you must:

- Be an early to mid career researcher (EMCR). For the purpose of this program, an EMCR is defined as a researcher up to 15 years post-PhD excluding career breaks, irrespective of their type of appointment or type of employer.
- Be affiliated with an Australian university or research institution that can enter into a Grant Agreement and offer suitable insurance and research ethics frameworks (as appropriate).
- Be a current, financial member of ACSA. Not a member yet? Click [here](#) to join.

### 4. Funding available

A total of \$25,000 AUD (GST exclusive) is available for grants. Two grants streams are available:

- Maximum \$5,000 AUD (GST exclusive)
- Maximum \$10,000 AUD (GST exclusive)

Whilst not exhaustive, the list below provides examples of the categories of activities and expenditures that would be considered eligible or ineligible for funding under the grant program:

Eligible activities	Ineligible activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project management costs</li> <li>• Research costs</li> <li>• Project equipment or materials</li> <li>• Project relevant travel limited to economy class fares for each segment of travel</li> <li>• Administrative costs required to deliver the project (no more than 10%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects that have commenced prior to funding allocation under this grant</li> <li>• Projects with adverse impacts that do not align with ACSA or the AAS values</li> <li>• Administrative costs that are more than 10% of the project value</li> <li>• Capital expenditure for the purchase of assets and the construction, removal or extension of facilities</li> <li>• Costs involved in the purchase or upgrade/hire of software (including user licences) and ICT hardware (unless it directly relates to the project)</li> </ul>

In addition to the funding allocation for the project, ACSA will work with successful project leads to develop a science communication product that makes key learnings accessible. Project leads are expected to actively work with ACSA to design and contribute content. A separate budget is available through ASCA to support the production of a communications product, but applicants should factor the time to actively participate into their planning.



## 5. Timelines

Projects and the accompanying science communication product (developed by ACSA with successful project lead input on design and content) must be completed by 30 November 2023.

## 6. How to apply

**Applicants must complete the EMCR Citizen Science Grants Application Form and submit the application online via email at [grants@citizenscience.org.au](mailto:grants@citizenscience.org.au) with the Subject: ACSA EMCR GRANT APPLICATION.**

**Applications must be submitted by 25 November 2022 at 5pm AEST and late applications will not be accepted.**

A maximum character limit applies to each judging criteria.

Questions about the grant opportunity can be addressed to [grants@citizenscience.org.au](mailto:grants@citizenscience.org.au).

## 7. Application assessment and selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the Assessment Criteria, with defined funding limits.

Successful applicants may be offered funding that differs from the amount requested based on the assessment panel's recommendations.

Applications will be rated by an Assessment Panel against the criteria. All criteria are mandatory.

Applicants will be informed in writing whether their Application was successful or not. ACSA and AAS will be the final decision-makers on any Application.

The deliberations of the judging panel remain confidential. All recommendations and decisions taken are binding and final and no correspondence will be entered into on such matters. The judges reserve the right not to award the grants if, in their view, the quality of entries is insufficiently meritorious.

## 8. Selection criteria

Applications will be judged on the applicant's response to the following:

Selection Criteria	Weighting
Applicant's ability to deliver the project - including demonstrated experience, capacity, and capability. This should include a relevant background of working in and with citizen science.	30%
Project rationale and impact - including the rationale for the proposed research activity and how it will enhance the positive impacts of citizen science for science and society through delivering on one or more of the grant sub-goals. This should clearly describe the expected outcomes of the project.	30%
Project methodology and plan - including the extent to which the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• offers a robust methodology for delivery</li> <li>• demonstrates collaborations with relevant citizen science partners</li> <li>• reaches and welcomes diverse audiences and enables equitable participation</li> <li>• outlines a clear and realistic set of activities for project delivery.</li> </ul>	30%
Project value for money, including proposed costs and in-kind project support or leverage opportunities.	10%

## 9. Successful grant applications

### 9.1 Grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the ACSA, acting as the agent in grant management on behalf of the Australian Academy of Science. The agreement must be executed before any payments can be made. Execute means both your University or research institution and ACSA have signed the agreement. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement is executed. You will have 30 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the ACSA. During this time, we will work with you to finalise details. The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.



## 9.2 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount we will pay
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage)
- any financial contribution provided by you or a third party.

We will make payments to your University or research institution according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project. We set aside 5 percent of the total grant funding for the final payment. We will pay this when you submit a satisfactory end of project report demonstrating you have completed outstanding obligations for the project.

## 9.3 Reporting

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation. We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your project, carry on business and pay debts due. If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement you must contact us immediately.

When you complete the project, you must submit an end of project report. A template will be provided. End of project reports must:

- report on the project activities
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred for the project and any financial contributions (such as cash or in-kind support)
- include a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money
- be submitted by the report due date.

Funding recipients will also be required to provide content to develop a suitable communications product about their project for publication on the ACSA website.

Information provided by the recipients may be used by ACSA for promotional/publicity purposes. This may include, and is not restricted to, the information being used on websites, social media, printed material, press releases etc.



## 9.4 Project communications and funding acknowledgements

Successful projects must acknowledge funding support in digital, print and media communications as outlined:

'[Activity title] received grant funding from the Theo Murphy (Australia) Initiative administered by the Australian Academy of Science and Australian Citizen Science Association.'

## 10. Probity

We will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct.

## 11. Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if our staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/ grant opportunity.

As part of your application, we will ask you to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest

## 12. How we use your information

Unless the information you provide to us is:

- confidential information as per 12.1, or
- personal information as per 12.3, we may share the information with other government agencies for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:
- to improve the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of ACSA and Theo Murphy (Australia) Initiative programs
- for research
- to announce the awarding of grants.





## 12.1 How we handle your confidential information

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and therefore confidential if it meets all of the following conditions:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else
- you provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

## 12.2. When we may disclose confidential information

We may disclose confidential information if:

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- you agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

## 12.3. How we use your personal information

We must treat your personal information according to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- to whom we give your personal information.

We may give the personal information we collect from you to our employees and contractors, the committee, and other Australian Academy of Science employees and contractors, so we can:

- manage the program
- research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities.

We may:

- announce the names of successful applicants to the public
- publish personal information on the Academy website.

You may read the [Privacy Policy](#) on the Academy's website for more information on:

- what is personal information
- how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information
- how you can access and correct your personal information.