Australasian Leadership Computing Grants: COVID-19 Special Call

Information for researchers applying for NCI resources

Roger Edberg

Manager, User Services

Goal: The COVID-19 Special Call is intended to identify and provide resources to research projects directly responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

This information session is about applying for resources at NCI. Please refer to the Pawsey website for information about applying for their Cloud capabilities.

Resources available - NCI

System	Max allocation per project
Gadi	20 Million Service Units, for use during remainder of 2020 and Q1-2 of 2021
Project data storage	Up to 0.5PB, for use during the duration of the project only

Applications may also propose additional resources that will be considered on a case by case basis, including:
• The use of NCI's cloud environment
• The use of NCI's high-performance data repository storage

Resources available – Pawsey

Cloud	Cloud storage
Allocations up to 500 cores will be considered, with up to 100 TB storage available for use during 2020 – 2021	Up to 0.5 PB will be considered for use during the project

All researchers requiring Pawsey resources should visit the Cloud application portal, marking their application with "COVID-19": https://apply.pawsey.org.au/

Important Dates

27 Mar 2020   – Application opens

08 Apr 2020   – Application deadline*

16 Apr 2020   – Allocation committee meeting

17 Apr 2020   – Allocations announced

*If resources are still available, late applications may be considered. You must notify us via help@nci.org.au by 8 April 2020 that you're intending to submit an application.

Eligibility

Eligibility criteria are as for NCMAS:

1. Lead CI must hold position of at least 0.2 FTE at an Australian higher-education institution, research institute or publicly funded research agency.

2. Independent research funding is a requirement, e.g. current ARC or NHMRC grant support.

3. Persons with postdoctoral appointments are not eligible to lead proposals.

ALCG: COVID-19 Special Call is a standalone scheme.

No investigator cross-linkage: a person may be a CI or Lead CI on only one application.

Priority will be given to research with the potential to contribute to the national and international response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Application Process

An application shall be a single PDF document submitted by email (attachment) to help@nci.org.au.

Include the text "ALCG2020 COVID-19" and the surname of the Lead CI in the subject line of the email. An application for the ALCG COVID-19 Special Call will comprise two parts:

Part 1 shall be no more than five A4 pages in total.

1. Cover Page
2. Project description and impact:
    a) Executive summary of the project
    b) Project outline
    c) Justification of the significance, originality and innovative nature of the project
    d) Impact relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Technical record and references

Part 2: should be no more than six A4 pages in total.

1. CV of the Lead CI up to two additional CIs, including:
   a) Link to Google Scholar profile and ORCID ID
   b) Evidence of peer-reviewed funding
   c) Evidence that the approach is world-leading, such as publications in high-impact journals.

Applicants must
- Update LeadCI+CI track records: https://my.nci.org.au ORCID preferred.

- Submit application by 8 April to help@nci.org.au

Assessment

Applications will be scored on the criteria:

Project
- Quality and innovation
- Significance of the research
- Potential for the research to contribute to the national and international response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Investigators
- Research record

Feasibility

- Adequacy of the time commitment of investigators to undertake the research

- Capacity to realise the goals of the project within the resources requested

- Appropriate track record demonstrating a capacity to use the requested resources effectively (high-performance computing / data / cloud systems)

- Suitability of the resources sought to support the research, and an appropriate and efficient use of the system

Benefit and impact

• Ability of the project to generate impactful outcomes and produce innovative economic, environmental and social benefits to Australia and the international community with reference to the COVID-19 pandemic

Allocations

Successful applications will be set up in NEW projects.

Allocations will be applied in equal quarterly installments for Q2, Q3, Q4 2020 and Q1 2021 (as long as required)

Allocations cannot be mixed into existing projects.

Advice to Applicants

Confirm your eligibility.

Respect the rules and guidelines.

Update your career track profile in https://my.nci.org.au (ORCID is recommended).

A track record of effective use of partner or merit allocations will be viewed favourably in your assessment.

Advice to Applicants

Workflow scalability is essential.

Outcomes are final.

Selection Committee

- Prof Amanda Barnard, Chair (ANU)
- Prof John Mattick (UNSW)
- A/Prof Andrew Lonie (Melbourne)
- Prof Thomas Huber (ANU)
- A/Prof David Powell (Monash)

Further Information

https://nci.org.au/covid-19-accelerated-access-initiatives

Information for Applicants (download)

Roger Edberg

Manager, User Services – NCI

~~02 6125 2911~~

roger.edberg@anu.edu.au

NCI staff are working remotely as of 24 March.

Email is the best way to contact NCI – help@nci.org.au