



ACNS ECR Project Grant

Aim

The aim of the ACNS ECR Project Grant is to support early career post-doctoral researchers (no more than four years post-PhD, excluding career disruptions) in collecting data that can be used to enhance competitiveness in future grant rounds.

Important Dates

- *Call opens:* 19th January 2026
- *Call closes:* 24th April 2026

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must:
 - Have a doctoral degree conferred no more than four years (not including career disruptions) prior to the application deadline.
 - Be a current member of the Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society.
 - Hold an appointment of at least 0.5 FTE at a university or research institution within Australasia for the duration of the 12-month grant.
- The proposed project must be in an area of cognitive neuroscience.

Equity and Career Disruption

The committee will consider issues surrounding equity and career disruption when determining an applicant's eligibility, and assessing achievements. A career disruption involves a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work. This can include (but is not limited to): pregnancy/parenthood/adoption; major illness or injury; carer responsibilities including parental leave and care for immediate family (e.g., spouse, children or parent); time spent out of the academic environment (e.g., employment in industry, periods of unemployment); natural disasters directly impacting research productivity (e.g., closure of research facilities due to flood, fire, earthquake, pandemic, etc.). Teaching, clinical and administrative loadings within academic positions are typically *not* considered career disruptions for the purposes of this award. For example, 40/40/20 (teaching/research/administration) or 80/20 (research/clinical) academic roles would not be considered disruptions.

Applicants should clearly outline any issues surrounding equity and career disruption as part of their application. It is up to the applicant to determine the level of detail provided. Applicants should provide an estimated impact of career disruption on productivity.

The award panel will first assess any issues of career disruption to determine eligibility of the application. If the application is assessed as *eligible*, the panel will then take into account the impacts of the disruption on track record in their assessment.

Please note that in the interests of fairness, the ACNS Executive cannot provide guidance on the eligibility of an application with career disruption prior to the meeting of the award panel.

Award

- Each award is for a maximum of \$5,000.

Assessment Criteria

- Project Quality and Innovation (50%)
- Applicant capability, relative to opportunity (30%)
- Project benefit and significance (10%)
- Feasibility, including Budget (10%).

Application

Your application should comprise the following documents:

1. **Project Proposal** (maximum four pages, not including references of maximum one page). The proposal should address the key criteria:

- i. *Project Quality and Innovation*. This should include:
 - Project Aims
 - Background
 - Method
- ii. *Capability*
- iii. *Benefit & Significance*
- iv. *Feasibility & Budget*

The proposal should be formatted in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with 0.5 cm margins.

2A. **Brief CV** (maximum two pages), including:

- Name, institution, email
- Academic qualifications
- List of current and previous positions
- List of any awards, fellowships and grants

2B. **Full publication list** (separate to page limit), including any preprints.

3. If applicable, please provide an **Equity and/or Career Disruption Statement** outlining the effects of equity or any career disruptions on your research (\leq 500 words).

Submit all components in a single pdf (ACNSProject_2026_Surname.pdf), and send to acns@acns.org.au.

Conditions of Award

The successful applicant will be required to provide a one-page report at the end of the 12-month period, and may be invited to present their research findings at an upcoming ACNS meeting.

Enquiries

If you have any questions about the application and selection process, please email acns@acns.org.au.

Version Control