# **Theo Murphy Initiative (Australia) 2022-2023 Guidelines**

## Guidelines and selection criteria for activity proposals

The [Theo Murphy Initiative (Australia)](https://www.science.org.au/opportunities/conference-and-lecture-funding/theo-murphy-initiative-australia) aims to provide benefits, opportunities, activities and events annually to support Australia’s early- and mid-career researchers (EMCRs) in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). 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.

The purpose of the Theo Murphy Initiative (Australia) is to further scientific discovery in Australia by delivering opportunities that empower the next generation of science leaders.

In its 2022–2023 round, the Theo Murphy Initiative (Australia) will fund interdisciplinary activities that provide research and career development opportunities for EMCRs in Australia. There are three streams of funding available:

* **Stream 1: Flagship activities**

Funding for a maximum of two activities to be delivered, including full support of the Academy Secretariat. These activities would be selected through an open application process and are similar to the 2021-2022 activities. Flagship activities would not be possible without the support and guidance of the Academy.

Support ranges from A$15,000 to $50,000 per activity for direct activity costs.

* **Stream 2: Amplify activities**

Direct funding for activities being delivered by other organisations, creating a partnership relation between the Academy and the organisation driving the activity. The Academy becomes a sponsor for these activities to amplify their reach, with funding to be directed to value-added event activities or scholarship/bursary opportunities that directly benefit EMCR participation.

Support ranges from A$5,000 to $15,000 per activity for direct activity costs.

* **Stream 3: Participation support**

Available funding for caring, accessibility and mobility grants for EMCRs form underrepresented groups to enable their attendance to an event or activity that will support their career development.

Support ranges up to $5,000 per activity for direct activity costs.

Applications are open for interdisciplinary activities in the following formats:

* Conferences
* Symposiums
* Add-on EMCR activities to existing events
* Training workshops
* Brand-new activities

## Eligibility

* Activities should be interdisciplinary. Single-discipline activities may be considered for funding if found to be of high relevance for the EMCRs in that discipline.
* Activities proposed must be designed to provide tangible benefits to EMCRs in Australia. They may also include benefits to international EMCRs or non-EMCRs if relevant for the activity.
* All proposals must include at least one [EMCR Forum member](https://www.science.org.au/supporting-science/early-and-mid-career-researchers-0/emcrs/emcr-membership-registration) on the organising committee. The EMCR Forum is made up of any person in Australia who self-identifies as an EMCR (typically up to 15 years post-PhD, excluding career interruptions).
* Face-to-face activities must take place within Australia.
* If relevant to the activity, applicants are encouraged to explore digital delivery of programs to maximise reach and provide more equitable access to EMCRs in regional areas.
* Activities must incorporate inclusivity, equity and diversity principles.
* Activities cannot benefit EMCRs in only one organisation.
* Activities should be offered to EMCRs at an affordable cost.

## Selection criteria

The proposed activities must further scientific discovery in STEM by empowering EMCRs. This is measured using the following selection criteria:

* Benefit to individual EMCRs and the EMCR community
* Potential reach within the EMCR community
* Ability to achieve inclusivity, equity and diversity
* Potential outcomes of the activity.

Applicants are encouraged to read [the FAQ and tips for proposals document](https://ausacademyofscience.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/DiversityAndInclusion/Eb0uySDpUQ5Knzu3l7uPLMwBdjXa1TKgU-dicrmB134Mhw?e=3X9XMT)and the [Flagship and Amplify template application form](https://ausacademyofscience.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/DiversityAndInclusion/EfJz-Z6QUNlBpbxOkt16FUkBcc0obJfjmgckPWv2xDdHhw?e=uzalEs) to help them prepare their application.

## Selection process

The [EMCR Committee of the Academy’s Council](https://www.science.org.au/about-us/governance/committees-council/governance-committees-council/emcr-committee) will assess all eligible applications using the selection criteria and make a recommendation for funding to the Executive Committee of the Academy and the Royal Society (Australia) Board.

Final decisions will be based on alignment with the selection criteria, and the Academy’s capacity to support the delivery of the activity within the timeframe. The EMCR Committee of the Academy’s Council will also consider how the activities align and contribute to the [strategic goals of the Academy](https://www.science.org.au/about-us/academy/strategic-plan) and the [EMCR Forum](https://www.science.org.au/supporting-science/early-and-mid-career-researchers-0/about-emcr-forum) as part of their decision.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome via email in **early** **September 2022**.

Where activities are highly ranked on selection criteria but are not able to be delivered within the timeframe of the current round, the Academy may choose to work with the committee to deliver the activity in a subsequent round.

The Theo Murphy Initiative (Australia) will not fund:

* activities that are commercial or for-profit
* research projects
* activities that don’t benefit early- and mid-career researchers
* activities that are highly likely to be held without support from the Theo Murphy Initiative (Australia).

Supporting documents

[Amplify and Flagship template application form](https://ausacademyofscience.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/DiversityAndInclusion/EfJz-Z6QUNlBpbxOkt16FUkBcc0obJfjmgckPWv2xDdHhw?e=uzalEs)

[Participation Support template application form](https://ausacademyofscience.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/DiversityAndInclusion/EcQSOlj7LjZGkxSIJq2iwOIBbJahWOZMfQipzv_GiTMjEQ?e=sMgeim)

[Budget template](https://ausacademyofscience.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/DiversityAndInclusion/Ef5J2cOd4ChKlB0Ly746KCMBPGO0grKg33WTuD_cmf2NqA?e=9E5NBi)

[FAQ and tips for proposals](https://ausacademyofscience.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/DiversityAndInclusion/Eb0uySDpUQ5Knzu3l7uPLMwBdjXa1TKgU-dicrmB134Mhw?e=3X9XMT)