

## CSIRO Industry PhD (iPhD) Program Rules

### Project Expression of Interest (EOI) Process

<b>Opening date:</b>	Primary round: 02 02 2026 Secondary round: 04 05 2026
<b>Closing date and time:</b>	Primary round: 23:59 AEST on 02 04 2026 Secondary round: 23.59 AEST on 07 08 2026
<b>Commonwealth policy entity:</b>	Department of Education
<b>Administering entity</b>	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
<b>Enquiries:</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:iPhD@csiro.au">iPhD@csiro.au</a>
<b>Date guidelines released:</b>	01 12 2025

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# 1 CSIRO Industry PhD (iPhD) Program: EOI process

**The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Industry PhD (iPhD) Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives** against Outcome 1: Innovative scientific and technology solutions to national challenges and opportunities to benefit industry, the environment and the community, through scientific research and capability development, services and advice. The CSIRO collaborates with stakeholders to plan and design the Program in accordance with the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRPs\)](#).



## The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on [www.csiro.au/iphd](http://www.csiro.au/iphd)



## You complete and submit an Expression of Interest via the [online submission portal](#)

You complete the EOI and any required attachments. Submissions must address all eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant.



## We assess all Expression of Interest applications

We assess the EOI against eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. We consider your eligible EOI against the assessment criteria and compare it to other applications.



## We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each EOI.



## Grant decisions are made

The decision-maker determines which EOIs are successful.



## We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your EOI.



## We enter into a Collaboration Agreement with the involved parties

We will enter into a Collaboration Agreement with you if you are successful. The Program uses a specifically developed three-way Collaboration Agreement between CSIRO, an Australian university and an industry partner.



## Student recruitment and onboarding

The university will advertise the iPhD project and enrol a suitable student into the position.



## Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in the Collaboration Agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



## Evaluation

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the CSIRO Industry PhD Program as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

## 2 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the CSIRO Industry PhD (iPhD) Program's project Expression of Interest (EOI) process. You must read these guidelines before filling out an EOI.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the Program
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how Expression of Interest are considered and selected
- how you are notified and receive grant payments
- how you will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

## 3 About the CSIRO Industry PhD (iPhD) program

CSIRO's Industry PhD (iPhD) Program brings together an industry partner, a university and CSIRO to co-develop a four-year industry-focused PhD project. The CSIRO Industry iPhD Program (the Program) will commence 450 projects from 2022-23 to 2032-33. The Program was announced in February 2022 as part of the University Research Commercialisation (URC) Action Plan.

The objectives of the Program are to:

- develop the next generation of researchers with the skills to work in and with industry
- increase collaboration between the research and industry sectors.

## 4 Grant amount and grant period

### 4.1 Grant amount

The Program can fund approximately 50 grants each year. In 2026, EOIs will be in two rounds:

- the primary round will open on Monday 2 February 2026 and close on Thursday 2 April 2026
- the secondary round will open on Monday 4 May 2026 and close on Friday 7 August 2026.

Approximately 30 grants will be approved in the primary round and 20 in the secondary round.

Funding each year consists of three components:

- student scholarship as per the rates listed below which comprises of:
  - CSIRO Industry PhD Scholarship provided by the Government
  - industry top-up provided by the industry partner
- project expense and development package provided by the Government for research operating costs and the student's research skill development
- student career and professional development training funded by the Government and delivered by iPhD program team alongside the student's PhD.

For student commencing in 2027	Total scholarship	CSIRO Industry PhD Scholarship	Industry top-up	Project Expense and Development package
First year of project	\$49,513	\$37,153	\$12,360	\$13,390
Second year of project	\$50,998	\$38,267	\$12,731	\$13,792
Third year of project	\$52,528	\$39,415	\$13,113	\$14,205
Fourth year of project	\$54,104	\$40,598	\$13,506	\$14,632

- The annual CSIRO Industry PhD Scholarship payment is indexed at 3% and is documented in the Collaboration Agreement. CSIRO will advise recipients of any additional indexation to be applied to the Grant.
- As part of the student career and professional development training program, students must attend Launch Camp, which may require the student to travel interstate. CSIRO will reimburse the student (through the university or CSIRO Research Unit) up to an additional \$1,500 to fund travel, accommodation and ancillary expenses for this event. This is separate and additional to the student's project expense and development package.

## 4.2 Grant period

The Collaboration Agreement allows a maximum grant period of five years to accommodate for a four-year PhD scholarship. Further extensions may be approved where the parties to the Collaboration Agreement agree in writing.

# 5 Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your EOI if all collaborating parties do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

## 5.1 Who is eligible?

An EOI for the CSIRO Industry PhD Program must include an Australian university, an industry partner and CSIRO. All parties must satisfy the following eligibility requirements.

### Industry Partners must:

- have a registered ABN or ACN
- have a substantial presence in Australia (e.g. research, development, primary production, or manufacturing facilities)
- fund an Industry PhD top-up at the annual rates listed in 4.1
- fund industry supervisor travel, accommodation and ancillary expenses if required for the project
- provide a suitable staff member to join the PhD student supervisory panel for up to four years
- be a [Research End User](#)
- if a Government entity, be a Body Corporate (e.g. Non-Corporate Commonwealth Entities are not eligible). For more information, please visit the [Department of Finance](#) website.
- guide the student to undertake a minimum 60-day Industry Engagement Component (see Appendix A. Industry Engagement Component)
- provide access to facilities, equipment and infrastructure required to undertake the project
- be a legal entity with the capacity to enter into a legally binding agreement or contract
- be registered for GST
- have an account with an Australian financial institution.

### Regarding the Industry top-up:

- The University will invoice the industry partner for the top-up scholarship on an annual basis for four years. Any proposed alternative funding arrangements must be approved by the University and the Industry PhD Program Manager before submitting the EOI. Such arrangements will only be approved in exceptional circumstances.
- Arrangements for projects with more than one eligible industry partner will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances. They must be approved by the University and Industry PhD Program Manager before submitting the EOI. If approved, all industry partners participating in the project must be parties to the Collaboration Agreement.
- CSIRO and/or the University cannot fund all or part of the Industry top-up.

**CSIRO Research Units must:**

- provide and fund a suitably experienced researcher to be part of the PhD student supervisory panel for up to four years
- fund CSIRO supervisor travel, accommodation and ancillary expenses if required for the project
- provide access to required facilities, equipment and infrastructure
- fund the Affiliate access charge after the first year of the PhD if ongoing access to CSIRO systems, facilities and infrastructure is required by the student after the first year

**Universities must:**

- allocate a suitably experienced researcher to supervise the PhD student for up to four years
- advertise, recruit, and enrol the PhD student with support from the iPhD program team
- provide access to required facilities, equipment and infrastructure
- provide a domestic fee offset for the PhD student
- monitor and assess the student in accordance with the university's Higher Degree by Research policies
- fund university supervisor travel, accommodation and ancillary expenses if required for the project.
- pay the student their scholarship from the commencement of their project as per the Collaboration Agreement.

The iPhD program cannot be used to fund an initiative that the organisation is already funded to deliver (for example, CRC scholarships previously funded or agreed).

## 5.2 What qualifications or skills are required from the supervisory team?

The supervisory team consists of university, industry and CSIRO supervisors. There must be a minimum of one supervisor from each party. All parties are required to jointly supervise the student. Supervisors should have complementary, relevant disciplinary knowledge, and availability discussed and agreed upon before EOI submission to ensure the student can be properly supported throughout their PhD.

- The primary supervisor, allocated from the university, is responsible for monitoring and assessing the PhD student progress in accordance with the university's PhD academic requirements. The university supervisor must be eligible to act as a Primary Supervisor under the relevant university's policy.
- Industry and CSIRO supervisors may need to meet supervisory requirements of the participating university. The time commitment for the industry and CSIRO supervisors will depend on the project, university policy and student location and can vary during the PhD, as the PhD students may need more (or less) time in different phases of their research.

## 6 What the grant money can be used for

### 6.1 Grant requirements

The grant opportunity facilitates co-supervision of an industry-focused PhD by an Australian University, industry partner and CSIRO. Industry PhD research projects must:

- align with Government and CSIRO priorities ([See Section 7: The assessment criteria](#))
- address an industry-relevant issue while complying with university PhD requirements

- be up to four years duration, if completed on a full-time basis. Project duration may be subject to university policy
- include at least three calendar months (60 workdays) of project related activities under the guidance of the industry partner. This part of the PhD is referred to as the Industry Engagement Component. See Appendix A. Industry Engagement Component for further information.

## 6.2 Eligible locations

The student must be primarily based in Australia as per the locations listed in the Collaboration Agreement. If the student is required to travel internationally, conduct remote fieldwork and/or access remote locations, further details, including how it will be funded, may be necessary before the finalisation of the Collaboration Agreement due to the additional cost and complexity.

## 6.3 Eligible expenditure

Eligible expenditure under the Program is in two categories:

- CSIRO Industry PhD Scholarship
- Project Expense and Development Package

The CSIRO Industry PhD Scholarship may only be used to fund the scholarship of a domestic PhD student undertaking a Project approved under the Program.

The Project Expense and Development package can fund the following expenses: laboratory consumables, fieldwork and travel costs associated with the project including the three-month Industry Engagement. Professional development activities for the student, such as conferences and research training workshops are also eligible expenses.

The Project Expense and Development package cannot be used to fund items unrelated to the project such as supervisory costs (including travel costs), professional association membership fees, wages or retrospective costs.

If your Expression of Interest is successful, we may ask you to provide further information on the costs outlined in your application.

# 7 The assessment criteria

You must address all the following assessment criteria in your Expression of Interest. Criteria have equal weighting.

The Expression of Interest form includes text limits. There is a maximum of 200 words for each section pertaining to the assessment criteria.

### Criterion 1 - Industry Experience Provided to the Student (20%)

The project must provide the student with an experience relevant to undertaking research in or with industry. This may be demonstrated by documenting how the project will:

- provide the student with experience in and exposure to the commercialisation and/or translation of research in industry
- facilitate education and training opportunities for the student, which focus on developing industry relevant research skills
- provide networking opportunities and potential employment prospects in industry for the student.



*NOTE: For projects with industry partners from Government, successful EOI will generally need to outline how opportunities for the student to engage commercial industry partners will be provided and ideally name some of these industry partners.*

### **Criterion 2 - Project Impact (20%)**

Demonstrate the key objectives and predicted impact of the project. This may be demonstrated by:

- a description of the large-scale problem or opportunity the project is seeking to address evidencing the “need” for the project
- identification of what project impact and success will look like, particularly in relation to improving the productivity, competitiveness, and sustainability of Australia’s economy.

### **Criterion 3 - Alignment to Government and CSIRO Strategic Priorities (20%)**

Demonstrate alignment of the project with Government and CSIRO Strategic priorities. This may be demonstrated by showing how the project aligns to:

- Government programs such as the [National Reconstruction Fund](#), or [Trailblazer Universities Program](#)
- Government priorities such as Small to Medium Enterprises and private industry support, regional development, First Nations Australians, [Critical Technologies](#), [Australia’s National Science and Research Priorities](#)
- CSIRO strategic priorities such as the research being conducted by our [Research Units](#).

### **Criterion 4 - Research Industry Collaboration (20%)**

Projects should increase collaboration by strengthening or creating new working relationships between industry and the research sector. This may be demonstrated by documenting how the project will:

- strengthen an existing relationship and support long-term collaboration between the applicants
- develop new significant relationships with strong potential for ongoing collaboration
- build capacity and capability in industry and research sectors.

### **Criterion 5 - Project Feasibility and Resources (20%)**

Applicants are to provide details on key project activities and the role of the supervisory team in delivering the project. Applicants should also note any additional resources being provided to ensure the successful conduct of the project. This may be demonstrated by documenting:

- the role of the supervisors in the project including student supervision and support
- available infrastructure and facilities to be used during the Industry Engagement component and how the student will be supported in this time, particularly if the location of the industry partner is different to the location of the rest of their project
- viability of project activities and outputs
- any additional resource commitment (cash or in-kind) towards the project
- any additional funding towards the student scholarship.

## **8 How to apply**

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines and the Expression of Interest form.

To apply you must:

- complete the online Expression of Interest form available on the [iPhD submission portal](#) collaboratively. All parties must register an account, agree on all sections of the form, provide all the information requested and address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria

- include all necessary attachments.
- submit the Expression of Interest by the close date of the relevant application round.

You are responsible for ensuring that your Expression of Interest is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995 \(Cth\)](#). We will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your Expression of Interest from further consideration.

If you find an error in your Expression of Interest after submitting, you can make any changes up to the closing time. After the closing time, we are not obligated to accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your Expression of Interest.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you. With your permission, we will make amendments to your original application that will not change the nature of your Expression of Interest.

## 8.1 Attachments to the Expression of Interest application

All Expression of Interests require approval from CSIRO, the university and the industry partner prior to submission. Specifically, we require the following documents as part of your submission:

- endorsement from the relevant CSIRO Research Unit Program Director
- endorsement from the relevant University's Graduate Research School (or equivalent)
- endorsement from the industry partner's board, CEO or equivalent.

We highly recommend that you use the sample letter templates provided on [www.csiro.au/iphd](http://www.csiro.au/iphd). Alternatively, email evidence of endorsement is also acceptable. You should only attach requested documents, and we may not consider information in attachments not requested.

## 8.2 Timing of grant opportunity processes

The EOI can only be submitted between the published opening and closing dates for each Expression of Interest application round. Late applicants must notify the iPhD program team via [iPhD@csiro.au](mailto:iPhD@csiro.au) prior to the EOI application round closing date and receive approval from the iPhD Program Manager. We may accept applications up to one week after the closing date. If approved, the applicant must submit their application by the approved extension date.

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your project from late 2026 to early 2027. This timeframe assumes efficient review and minimal changes to the Collaboration Agreement and timely student recruitment.

Activity	Approx. timeframe
EOI assessment and notification to successful and unsuccessful applicants	3 weeks
Collaboration Agreement negotiation, final execution and award of grant	12 weeks
Project advertising and student selection	Dependent on student interest
Student enrolment and CSIRO onboarding (Government background check and execution of Industry PhD Student Agreement)	8 weeks
Earliest start date of project after closing of EOI round	6 months

### 8.3 Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the Expression of Interest period, contact [iphd@csiro.au](mailto:iphd@csiro.au).

The iPhD program staff will respond to emailed questions within three working days.

## 9 The grant selection process

We will review your Expression of Interest against the eligibility criteria. If eligible, it is then assessed against the assessment criteria (see Section 7: [The assessment criteria](#)) and ranked against other applications. We will then provide recommendations to the relevant CSIRO delegate on preferred projects.

### 9.1 Who will assess Expression of Interest applications?

iPhD program staff will assess each eligible EOI. If required, iPhD program staff may consult with other relevant CSIRO staff to inform the assessment process.

iPhD program staff may seek additional information about you, your EOI, project partners, related entities, associated entities and related personnel from third party sources, including other Commonwealth entities. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. iPhD program staff may also consider information about you or your Expression of Interest that is available through the normal course of business.

iPhD program staff will make recommendations to the relevant CSIRO delegate on which Expression of Interest applications to approve for a grant.

### 9.2 Who will approve grants?

The relevant CSIRO delegate decides which grants to approve considering the recommendations from iPhD program staff and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the program.

The CSIRO Research delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions made by the CSIRO delegate.

### 9.3 Notification of Expression of Interest outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your Expression of Interest via email within three weeks following the closing date of the Expression of Interest round. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome.

You can submit a new Expression of Interest for the same grant in any future grant opportunities under the iPhD Program. You should include new or additional information to address any weaknesses that may have prevented your previous Expression of Interest from being successful.

### 9.4 Announcement of grants

All successful grant outcomes will be reported to the Government. The Government may publish successful recipients and project details. Only information taken from "project details" section on the Expression of Interest form will be published, which instructs the applicant to exclude confidential or commercially sensitive information.

## 10 Successful grant applications

### 10.1 The Collaboration Agreement

A Collaboration Agreement is established between CSIRO, the university and industry partner for each project. The PhD student is also required to sign an Industry PhD Student Agreement (with CSIRO and the university), which aligns to the terms and conditions of the Collaboration Agreement. The Collaboration Agreement highlights privacy, confidentiality, insurance, funding arrangements, project duration, intellectual property (IP) and other legal and operational aspects of the program.

Any specific IP considerations should be identified during the scoping of the project, and any new IP created during the project (other than copyright in the student's thesis, which the student retains) will be owned and licensed through the Collaboration Agreement in accordance with CSIRO's [IP Principles](#) and the Australian Government's [Higher Education Research Commercialisation \(HERC\) Intellectual Property Framework](#). For further detail around our IP options, please contact [iPhD@csiro.au](mailto:iPhD@csiro.au).

We must execute a Collaboration Agreement between the three collaborating parties and a Student Agreement between CSIRO, the University and the student before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any expenditure until a Collaboration Agreement and a Student Agreement are executed. You must not start any project activities until a Collaboration Agreement and a Student Agreement are executed. The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the Collaboration Agreement.

We undertake regular reviews of the Collaboration Agreement and Industry PhD Student Agreement to make improvements in accordance with the purpose, requirements and obligations of the iPhD program. We may consider feedback on standard terms if deemed appropriate. If you wish to provide general feedback on the Collaboration Agreement or Student Agreement, please email [iPhD@csiro.au](mailto:iPhD@csiro.au).

If your Expression of Interest is successful, we will send you an email advising that your Expression of Interest will progress to the Collaboration Agreement drafting stage.

The iPhD contract manager will work with relevant CSIRO staff to create a draft Collaboration Agreement specific to each project, based on the initial Expression of Interest paperwork. After the draft contract has been issued, you will be able to review and provide feedback.

### 10.2 How we pay the grant

The Collaboration Agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid
- any financial contributions contributing parties must make.

Indexation is a component of the grant payment, and the Collaboration Agreement will outline how and when indexation will be paid.

## 11 Student recruitment and ongoing eligibility

Student recruitment can only commence once a Collaboration Agreement is executed between the industry partner, the university and CSIRO.

### Project advertising

The university is responsible for advertising projects, however iPhD program staff will assist. All projects are advertised on the university website and [CSIRO scholarship website](#). Students must submit expressions of interest for iPhD projects through the university.

### Student eligibility

Students must be eligible under the universities PhD admission criteria in addition to meeting the eligibility requirements of the CSIRO Industry PhD Program. The university undertakes student eligibility checking against university PhD admission criteria.

To be eligible for a CSIRO Industry iPhD scholarship, students must:

- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or Australian permanent resident
- meet university PhD admission and English language requirements
- not have previously completed a PhD
- not be in receipt of another primary scholarship
- be able to commence the program in the year of the offer
- enrol as a full-time PhD student. The Program is not designed for part-time arrangements and are strongly discouraged. Part-time may be considered if approved by the supervisory team and in accordance with university policy. Part-time scholarships are taxable.
- be located at the agreed project location(s) and, if required, comply with the university's external enrolment procedures.

### Student selection

Eligible students are identified by the university and provided to the supervisory panel. The supervisor panel will shortlist, interview, and nominate the most suitable student to formally apply for the scholarship. iPhD program staff can assist in the interview process if desired by the supervisory panel. Selections are based on:

- experience relevant to the field of research
- research experience and academic excellence
- suitability for the project
- motivation for undertaking an industry-led PhD project.

### Student enrolment and signing of Student Agreement

The supervisory team must inform CSIRO and the university of the preferred applicant. In parallel, the university initiates student enrolment and admission processes while CSIRO issues the Industry PhD Student Agreement between CSIRO, the university, and the student.

Once identified as eligible, the university's offer must be provisional pending the Student Agreement being executed and the completion and approval of all relevant background checks. Alternatively, if the university is unable to issue a provisional offer, the offer letter should be issued after the Student Agreement has been executed. Background checks generally take up to 8 weeks, however they may take longer depending on other requirements such as overseas police checks and sanction checks. The student must not commence the project until the Student Agreement has been executed.

The Student Agreement aligns with the terms and conditions of the Collaboration Agreement which covers IP arrangements, publication rights and other legal aspects. To support a student's development, project publications are encouraged, but some conditions may be imposed to protect project IP and confidential information of the parties involved. For further details, please contact [iphd@csiro.au](mailto:iphd@csiro.au).

### Payment of scholarship stipend to the student

The university must pay the student their entire scholarship (CSIRO Industry PhD Scholarship and Industry top-up) stipend from the commencement of the student's candidature.

### Student onboarding

The successful student will undergo onboarding to CSIRO, which will include access to CSIRO infrastructure and appropriate sites required for their project and an orientation session conducted by the iPhD program team.

For an overview of the project development stages, refer to [Appendix B](#).

### 11.1 Maintaining student eligibility

To maintain eligibility to receive the CSIRO Industry PhD scholarship, students must:

- maintain satisfactory progress in all PhD academic requirements of the university (Confirmation of Candidature, Research Progress Reviews, etc.)
- participate in the career and professional development training delivered by the iPhD program team. The training program includes approximately 20 days full-time equivalent of training over four years (comprising both mandatory and recommended courses). Course delivery is mostly online.
- undertake an Industry Engagement component with the industry partner ([Appendix A. Industry Engagement Component](#))

To monitor eligibility status and support students, the iPhD program team will:

- deliver structured support and check-ins throughout candidature
- facilitate optional networking events with peers and relevant professional stakeholders.
- provide project support tools such as guides to assist with project management and supervisor communication and individual learning roadmaps to plan training and development opportunities tailored to mutually negotiated learning priorities.

## 12 How we monitor your grant activity

### 12.1 Keeping us informed

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 grant.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the Collaboration Agreement, you must contact us immediately.

### 12.2 Reporting

Specific planning and reporting requirements may be required in accordance with the participating university's policies. The university is responsible for ensuring that any additional agreements for the Industry Engagement component are consistent with the Collaboration Agreement.

### 12.3 Audited financial acquittal report

The Project Expense and Development Package funds are an auditable scholarship benefit and must be spent, and proper records kept, in accordance with the travel and purchasing policies of the administering institution.

The Project Expense and Development payment will be transferred to the organisation where the student will be primarily located.

### 12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your Collaboration Agreement by emailing [iphd@csiro.au](mailto:iphd@csiro.au). You should not

assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the Collaboration Agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

## 12.5 Evaluation

To assess the effectiveness of the iPhD Program in achieving its objectives and intended outcomes and to support its ongoing improvement, iPhD students and their supervisory team will be expected to participate in program evaluation activities, including interviews and surveys. These activities will be conducted at various stages throughout the four-year PhD allowing for ongoing reflection and learning. iPhD program staff will report results to internal and external stakeholders.

## 13 Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, is conducted according to the published grant opportunity guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud and corruption, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on [www.csiro.au/iPhD](http://www.csiro.au/iPhD).

### 13.1 Enquiries and feedback

Any questions about grant decisions should be sent to [iphd@csiro.au](mailto:iphd@csiro.au). If you do not agree with the way iPhD program staff have dealt with the grant decision, please contact [CSIRO Complaints](#).

If you do not agree with the way the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#). The Ombudsman will not usually consider a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072  
Email: [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)  
Website: [www.ombudsman.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au)

### 13.2 Conflict of interest

Any conflicts of interest, or perceived conflicts of interest can affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel, including sub-contractors:

- have a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who can influence the Expression of Interest application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- have 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
- have 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.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your Expression of Interest, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests. If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the iPhD program staff via email immediately.



Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). We publish our conflict of interest policy on the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) [Code of Conduct](#) webpage.

### 13.3 Privacy

Your personal information is protected by the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and CSIRO will handle your personal information in accordance with this Act. Your personal information including your name, contact details (e.g., work phone number, work email address), and employment details (e.g., university/organisation, role, disciplinary area, expertise, qualifications) is being collected for the purposes of:

- assessing the application for the CSIRO Industry PhD (iPhD) Program;
- administering and managing the iPhD program;
- conducting reporting and analysis (internally to CSIRO and externally to the Australian Government); and
- evaluating the iPhD Program.

CSIRO may disclose your personal information to the parties that you list on the EOI (CSIRO, University Industry), and the third-party platforms (Good Grants and Microsoft Office 365) for the purposes outlined above. Otherwise, CSIRO will only disclose your personal information where authorised or required by law.

The CSIRO iPhD Program uses the Creative Force Ltd/Award Force Pty Ltd's Good Grants platform to assist with the delivery of the program. While CSIRO has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that your personal information is stored in Good Grants servers based in Australia, it cannot completely remove the risk that your personal information may be transferred to servers located outside of Australia. This means your personal information may be transferred to servers located outside Australia, and your personal information may not be subject to the requirements and protections of the Australian Privacy Principles if this occurs. For information about how Good Grants handles personal information, please refer to the [Good Grants Privacy Policy](#).

CSIRO also uses the third-party platform Microsoft Office 365 to facilitate the iPhD Program. Microsoft Office 365 data servers are based in Australia. For further information about how Microsoft Office 365 handles personal information, please refer to [Microsoft's Privacy Policy](#).

For further information on how CSIRO handles your personal information and our access, correction and complaints process read our [Privacy Policy](#) or contact [privacy@csiro.au](mailto:privacy@csiro.au).

If you do not provide your personal information, your application may not be able to be assessed. If this occurs, it will not affect your ongoing relationship with CSIRO in any way.

By completing the CSIRO Industry PhD Program Expression of Interest application, you consent to:

- the collection, use and disclosure of your personal information in the ways described above; and
- the possible transfer of your personal information to servers based outside of Australia. You acknowledge that this information may not be subject to the requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).



### 13.4 Confidential Information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant Expression of Interest and/or Collaboration Agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation). We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the Collaboration Agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all the three conditions below:

1. you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
2. the information is commercially sensitive
3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- the iPhD program staff and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the Program effectively, including for an integrity purpose
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman, Privacy Commissioner or National Anti-Corruption Commissioner, or staff of their agencies
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, or
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The Collaboration Agreement may also include any specific confidentiality requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the Collaboration Agreement.

### 13.5 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail:           Freedom of Information Coordinator  
                           CSIRO  
                           PO Box 255  
                           Dickson ACT 2602

By email:         [FOI@csiro.au](mailto:FOI@csiro.au)

## Appendix A. Industry Engagement Component

### Eligible Activities

Activities should contribute to the development, research, and outcomes of the PhD project, and be related to the student's research. Potential activities may include undertaking research translation activities, understanding the research needs of the industry partner and/or the broader industry, and/or testing research assumptions and innovations in an industry setting with end-users.

### Duration

The minimum duration of the Industry Engagement is three calendar months (60 full-time equivalent workdays). Industry Engagement should ideally be completed part-time or in short blocks strategically placed throughout the PhD to encourage ongoing engagement between the industry partner and the student.

### Location and Supervision

The primary location of the Industry Engagement is expected to be the premises of the industry partner. At the discretion and with the agreement of the supervisory team, alternate locations (e.g., at a CSIRO site, remote attendance, or at the university) may be possible if there are travel limitations or if the project requires access to specific facilities and equipment. The industry partner must ensure suitable supervision of all activities at their sites. All industry supervisors must meet university specified requirements and may be required to register on the university's system.

### Costs

If the student is required to live away from the primary location of the project during Industry Engagement, the Project Expense and Development package may be used to fund travel and living expenses associated with the Industry Engagement within reason. If the Industry Engagement is likely to include international travel, field work and/or access to remote locations, further details, including how it will be funded, will be required prior to the finalisation of the Collaboration Agreement due to the additional cost and complexity.

### Publication

Research output from the Industry Engagement component may be included in the thesis subject to satisfying arrangements contained in the Collaboration Agreement.

### Planning and reporting

Specific planning and reporting requirements may be required in accordance with the university's policies. The university is responsible for ensuring that any additional agreements for the Industry Engagement are consistent with the Collaboration Agreement.

### Eligibility under Government Research Training Program Internship guidelines

It is intended that the Industry Engagement will support the student to undertake their Industry PhD project and will also meet the requirements for the additional weighting under RTP guidelines. Further information is available about what constitutes an eligible internship is available on the Australian's Government's [Department of Education website](#).

## Appendix B: Project Development Stages

