

OFFICIAL



Queensland
Government

Regional University Industry Collaboration Program

Program & Eligibility Guidelines

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1 Introduction

The Regional University Industry Collaboration (RUIC) program is designed to strengthen collaboration between Queensland's SMEs and regional universities, fostering partnerships that drive economic growth, innovation, and community development. These guidelines provide important information about the RUIC program. Please review them before submitting your application form.

2 About the RUIC Program

2.1 Context

The RUIC program is an initiative of the Queensland government to support regional universities and help accelerate the commercialisation of the state's research and development (R&D). The program is funded by the Queensland Government and delivered by CSIRO and connects four regional universities with Queensland SMEs to drive innovation and economic growth through research collaboration.

The RUIC program aims to:

- Upskill regional researchers and create research capabilities to foster innovation
- Accelerate growth through facilitated SME-research collaboration

The four regional partner universities are:

- James Cook University
- University of Southern Queensland
- Central Queensland University
- University of the Sunshine Coast

2.2 RUIC Facilitation and Project co-funding

To support SMEs to engage with the partner universities, the RUIC program offers:

2.2.1 Dedicated Regional Research Facilitators

The RUIC program has a team of regional research facilitators to engage and support regional universities and SMEs across Queensland. The facilitators provide a single, responsive point of contact and end-to-end support in all aspects of the RUIC program. The facilitators assist with:

- ✓ Building close relationships with the partner universities and providing a single point of contact for accessing and understanding the program and its benefits
- ✓ Providing end-to-end support with project scoping, application preparation, and regular check-ins.

2.2.2 Dollar-matched Funding Vouchers

Dollar-matched funding is available to support approved collaborative RUIC research projects between SMEs and partner universities. Key points:

- ✓ Eligibility-based (see section 3)
- ✓ Apply any time
- ✓ Dollar-matched in cash between \$10,000-\$50,000
- ✓ Businesses can apply for up to two RUIC vouchers to engage with the same or alternate partner universities consecutively
- ✓ End-to-end support with project scoping, application preparation, and regular project check-ins

3 Eligibility

3.1 Business Eligibility

Businesses that meet the following eligibility criteria can apply to the RUIC program to support a collaborative project with one of the four regional universities:

- Have an active ABN (Australian Business Number) plus either an ACN (Australian Company Number) OR an ICN (Indigenous Corporation Number) OR are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
- Are registered for GST
- Have been operating for at least 6 months*
- Have operations in Queensland
- Have less than \$20 million in turnover/expenditure in the last full financial year OR have less than \$100 million turnover/expenditure if business is identified as regional
- Be able to dollar-match the voucher funding on a 1:1 basis
- Indigenous Corporations can apply on behalf of First Nations businesses that are not yet incorporated
- Not-for-profits/ Social Enterprise businesses are eligible to apply, however the proposed project outcomes must be commercial in nature

**Businesses aged between 6-12 months may be asked to pay their cash contributions up front*

3.2 Project Eligibility

Eligible research projects must be delivered by one of the regional partner universities and should be within the following industry sectors:

- Agriculture & Food
- Digital Tech and Artificial Intelligence
- Environmental Sciences

- Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Indigenous Science
- Manufacturing
- Mining and METS
- Renewables & Low Emissions Technologies
- Space and Defence
- Transport

Projects should be less than 12 months in duration and involve at least one of:

- Exploration of a new R&D idea with commercial potential
- Development of a novel or improved product or process
- Customisation or prototyping of a university technology for collaborative commercialisation
- Testing of a novel product developed by the company, to inform R&D activities
- Researcher placement in SMEs for the direct application of academic expertise to real-industry challenges, fostering innovation and driving business growth
- New research activity which complements or extends the scope of an existing research project (as long as the new activity is not otherwise funded under the existing project)

3.3 Eligible Project Costs

The RUIC vouchers can be used to cover the following expenses costed by the partner universities:

- Salary and on-costs of researcher(s)
- Facilities and equipment hire
- Operating costs
- Travel and accommodation (if required)
- Consumables*
- Project-critical external facilities access/services/contractors*

**No more than 10% of the total project budget can be applied to these items combined*

The project budget, payment schedule, Intellectual Property arrangements and scope of work will be negotiated between the company and the partner university, with the support of a RUIC facilitator.

4 Application Process

The RUIC program has an on-going application process for RUIC-supported projects.

Please read the [RUIC FAQs](#) before applying.

If you are not sure if ready to apply, please contact the RUIC facilitators through the RUIC inbox.

Businesses can submit an application all year round via the [RUIC website](#). (Appendix 2 contains instructions on how to submit an application). RUIC facilitators can support the business through all parts:

Part 1 (SME to complete): Application

Online application to gather business details, confirm eligibility, outline of proposed R&D project, and general information.

Part 2 (Facilitator to complete): Research Brief

After meeting with the business to clarify project aims, scope, and eligibility, the Facilitator will provide the company with a short Research Brief. This will be used by the Facilitator to identify possible the researcher(s) at partner universities.

Businesses already connected with the partner universities can skip this section (facilitation will still be available).

Part 3 (Researcher to complete): Project Proposal

The Project Proposal briefly summarises the proposed research project, key personnel and budget. The Proposal and budget will be reviewed by the Facilitator and approved by the company.

A RUIC facilitator will review all completed forms and documents prior to presenting the full application to the Voucher Review Team for consideration.

The detailed RUIC Voucher application process is at Appendix 1.

5 Application Assessment

Final applications will be assessed by the RUIC Voucher Review Team against the eligibility guidelines. Approval of any application is at the discretion of CSIRO and is subject to the application falling within the intent of the program and the availability of RUIC program funds.

RUIC vouchers and projects are conditional upon the business and the partner university entering into a binding agreement. Agreements must be signed within 60 days of funding approval, or the funding offer may be withdrawn. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the assessment process.

6 Reporting Requirements

All RUIC projects require mid- and end-of-project reporting from the business and researcher.

Through involvement in the RUIC program, successful applicant companies agree that their name and logo, as well as the project title, an approved project public statement, and voucher amount awarded, may be used publicly, with information on voucher recipients and projects published on the RUIC website and/or by the Queensland Government.

7 Acknowledgement and Publicity

SMEs and partner universities must acknowledge Queensland Government funding when promoting the project and allow for the proponents to be contacted for case studies and media stories by the RUIC team and Queensland Government. SMEs and partner might also be contacted by third parties (engaged by Queensland Government) for the purposes of program review/evaluation.

8 Other things you should know

8.1 Guideline Updates

These guidelines may be changed from time to time. The updated version will be available on the [RUIC website](#).

8.2 Enquiries and Feedback

All feedback, any complaints, or questions about the RUIC program must be provided in writing to RUIC@csiro.au

Appendix 1

RUIC Voucher Application Process

Application

Businesses submit an application online through the Good Grants platform (see Appendix 2).



Eligibility Assessment

Applications assessed against the eligibility criteria and a facilitator will endeavour to contact you within 10 business days on the next steps.



Facilitation

Your allocated facilitator contacts you to set up a time to discuss your application. Facilitator will locate suitable researcher(s) from the Partner Universities to help with your proposed project.



Researcher Meetings

Facilitator sets up meeting/s with the researcher(s) to further discuss, refine, and cost your research project, including IP discussions.



Research Proposal

Once a project is scoped and budget approved, the researcher and facilitator will complete the application for a RUIC voucher. Facilitator will send business the final RUIC voucher application for approval.



Review

Facilitator presents the final application to RUIC's Voucher Review Team for consideration. The decision is based on RUIC eligibility criteria and alignment with the RUIC objectives and industry sectors.



Outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your voucher application shortly after the decision.



Contracting

If approved, business signs contract with the partner university and the project starts.

Appendix 2

Instructions to submit an Application in the RUIC platform

1. Access the RUIC platform using the link: <https://ruicprogram.grantplatform.com/>
2. Type your email into the Log in or register box and click on 'Continue'

CSIRO Queensland Government

Regional University Industry Collaboration Program

RUIC Program Information

The Regional University Industry Collaboration (RUIC) Program offers facilitation and dollar-matched funding for collaborative research projects between regional universities and small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Queensland, driving innovation and economic growth.

Important information
Please read our [Privacy Statement](#) before registering and applying.

Eligibility criteria
You can check the RUIC Voucher Eligibility Criteria [HERE](#)

Applying
Register an account (left bar) to submit your application for the RUIC Program.

Got questions?
If you have questions about the RUIC program, please check the FAQs (ADD LINK). If your question is not listed in the FAQs, please contact us via the [RUIC email](#).

Future RUIC opportunities
To be notified of all future RUIC offerings, please subscribe to our mailing list (ADD LINK).

Home
About RUIC
Eligibility Criteria
Privacy Statement

Log in or register
Email
Continue

3. Type the 6-digit Security Code sent to your email and click on 'Continue'

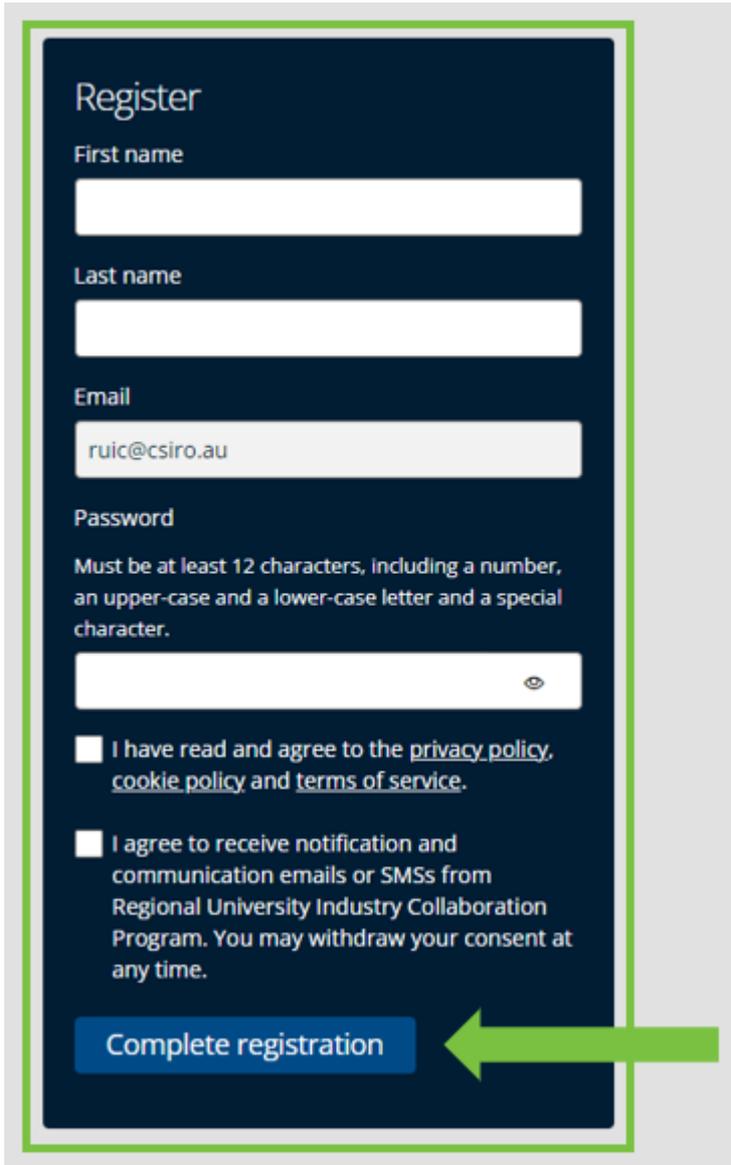
Security verification

Enter 6-digit code sent to ruic@csiro.au

Resend code

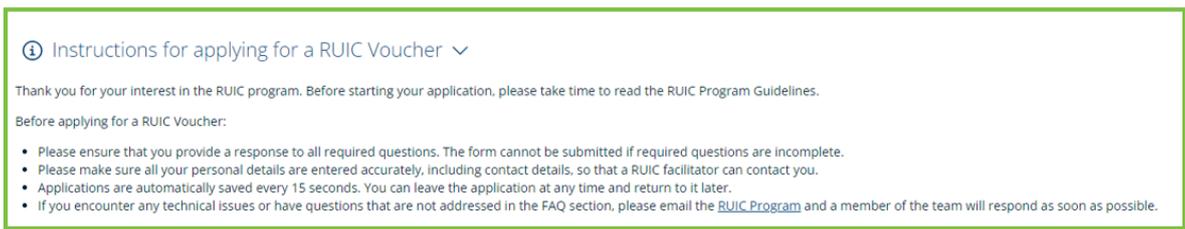
Continue

4. Type your personal information in the Register box and click on 'Complete registration'

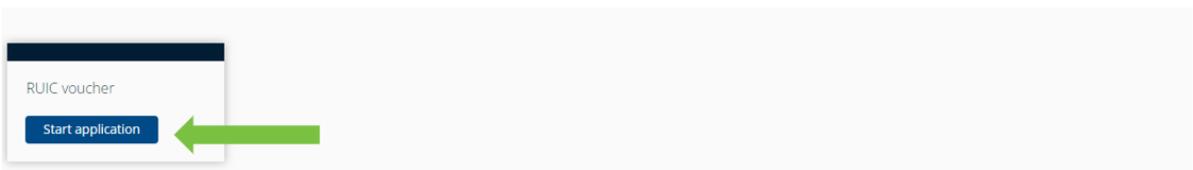


The screenshot shows a registration form titled "Register" on a dark blue background. It includes input fields for "First name", "Last name", and "Email" (with the example "ruic@csiro.au"). A "Password" field is also present, with instructions: "Must be at least 12 characters, including a number, an upper-case and a lower-case letter and a special character." Below the password field are two checkboxes: "I have read and agree to the [privacy policy](#), [cookie policy](#) and [terms of service](#)." and "I agree to receive notification and communication emails or SMSs from Regional University Industry Collaboration Program. You may withdraw your consent at any time." At the bottom, a blue button labeled "Complete registration" is highlighted with a green arrow pointing to it from the right.

5. Read the Instructions and click on 'Start application'



This section is titled "Instructions for applying for a RUIC Voucher" and includes a dropdown arrow. The text reads: "Thank you for your interest in the RUIC program. Before starting your application, please take time to read the RUIC Program Guidelines. Before applying for a RUIC Voucher:" followed by a bulleted list of instructions: "Please ensure that you provide a response to all required questions. The form cannot be submitted if required questions are incomplete.", "Please make sure all your personal details are entered accurately, including contact details, so that a RUIC facilitator can contact you.", "Applications are automatically saved every 15 seconds. You can leave the application at any time and return to it later.", and "If you encounter any technical issues or have questions that are not addressed in the FAQ section, please email the [RUIC Program](#) and a member of the team will respond as soon as possible."



The screenshot shows a card titled "RUIC voucher" with a blue button labeled "Start application". A green arrow points to the button from the right.

6. Type your Company name and click on 'Save+next'

The screenshot shows a navigation bar with three tabs: 'Start here' (green), '1.a. Company Registration' (blue), and '1.b. Company and Project Description' (blue). Below the tabs is a form with a 'Category' dropdown menu set to 'RUIC Project'. A link with a PDF icon says 'Download blank application PDF for reference'. The 'Company Name' text input field is highlighted with a green border. Below the form is a 'Save + next' button, also highlighted with a green border and a green arrow pointing to it from the right.

7. Answer the following questions in the 1.a. Company Registration and 1.b. Company and Project Description tabs

This screenshot is identical to the previous one, but the '1.a. Company Registration' and '1.b. Company and Project Description' tabs are highlighted with a green border.

8. Click on 'Submit application'

The screenshot shows a row of four buttons: 'Save + next' (blue), 'Save + close' (dark blue), 'Preview' (blue), and 'Submit application' (green). The 'Submit application' button is highlighted with a green border and a green arrow pointing to it from the right.

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The Regional University Industry Collaboration Program is delivered by CSIRO on behalf of the Queensland Government. Program stakeholders include regional universities, industry and SMEs.

For further information

RUIC Program Team
ruic@csiro.au