



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 regional universities and SMEs, fostering partnerships that drive economic growth, innovation, and community development across Queensland. These guidelines provide important information about the RUIC program. Please review them before submitting your Expression of Interest (EOI) 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 \$7 million program will connect four regional universities with Queensland SMEs to drive innovation and economic growth through research collaboration.

The RUIC program aims to:

- Upskill researchers and create research capabilities to foster innovation
- Accelerate regional 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

CSIRO's SME Connect team is the delivery partner of the program on behalf of the Queensland government.

2.2 RUIC Facilitation and 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

Dollar-matched funding is available to co-invest approved collaborative industry-university research projects between businesses and partner universities. RUIC dollar-matched funding key points:

- ✓ Eligibility-based (see section 3)
- ✓ Apply any time
- ✓ Businesses can apply for up to two RUIC vouchers of \$10,000 to \$50,000 each to engage with partner universities
- ✓ End-to-end support with project scoping, application preparation, and regular project check-ins

2.3 Other Offerings

Masterclasses for researchers and training for SMEs are offered as components of the RUIC program. RUIC's free R&D training series equips SMEs with the essential knowledge and tools to advance their R&D ideas and opportunities. The masterclasses for researchers offer training on industry engagement and strategies to promote research expertise and capability for industry partners, as well as techniques to grow and maintain networks.

Industry and research networking events will be delivered across the lifecycle of the program.

Masterclasses for researchers, the R&D training series for SMEs and industry and research networking event dates will be promoted on the [RUIC website](#). [Subscribe to our newsletter](#) to stay informed about RUIC's upcoming masterclasses and events.

3 Eligibility

3.1 Business Eligibility

Australian businesses that meet the following eligibility criteria can apply for the RUIC matched funding 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 ICN (Indigenous Corporation Number)
- Be registered for GST
- Operating for at least 12 months
- Have operations in Queensland
- Less than \$20 million in turnover/expenditure in the last financial year
- Indigenous Corporations can apply on behalf of First Nations businesses that are not yet incorporated

- Be able to match grant funding on a 1:1 basis. For example, if the RUIC grant provides funding of \$50,000 for a project, the business must also provide \$50,000. This must be a cash contribution and cannot be in-kind

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 up to 12 months in duration. Examples of the types of project activities could include:

- 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

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 ongoing application process for dollar-matched funding.

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 Expression of Interest (EOI) all year round to access the RUIC voucher through the [RUIC website](#). The Appendix 2 contains instructions on how to submit an EOI.

The detailed RUIC application process for the dollar-matched funding (voucher) is described in this section. The RUIC facilitators will support the business throughout all steps.

The RUIC application for the vouchers will comprise three parts:

Part 1 (SME to complete): Expression of Interest (EOI)

Online EOI 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, benefits to business, alignment with project eligibility criteria, and any other factors, the Facilitator provides the company with a 1–2-page Research Brief that will also be used to canvas capability of 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 the company for approval. The Project Proposal is required for the voucher application.

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

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 parties entering into a binding agreement between the business and the selected partner university. 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 will require business and researcher mid- and end-of-project reporting.

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

7 Acknowledgment 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

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Businesses submit an Expression of Interest, including eligibility criteria check.



EOI Assessment

EOIs 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 EOI. 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 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.



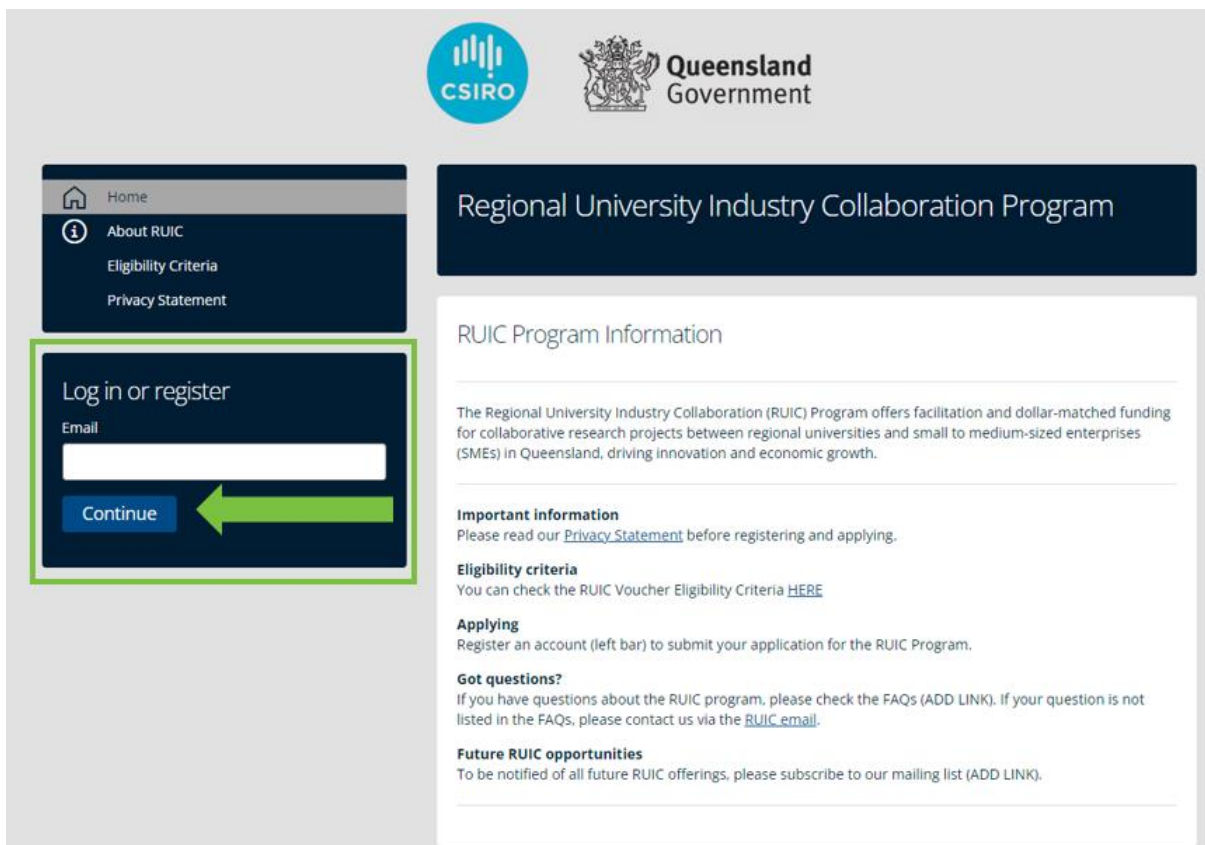
Contracting

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

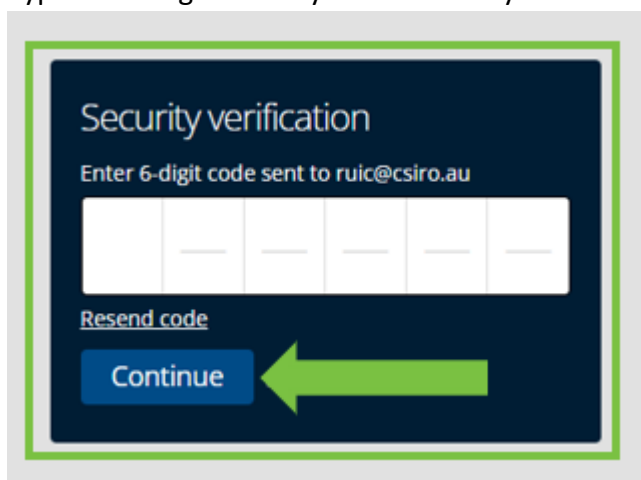
Appendix 2

Instructions to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) in the RUIC platform

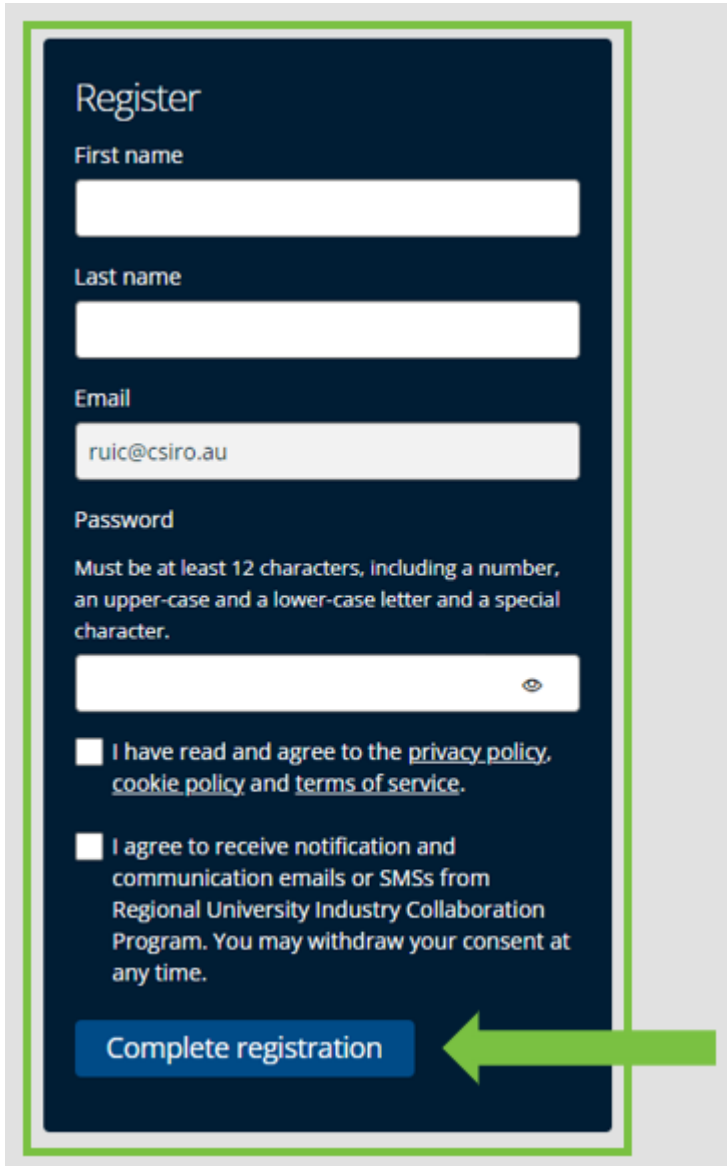
1. Access the RUIC platform using the link: <https://ruicprogram.grantplatform.com/>
2. Type your email into the Log in or register box and click on 'Continue'



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

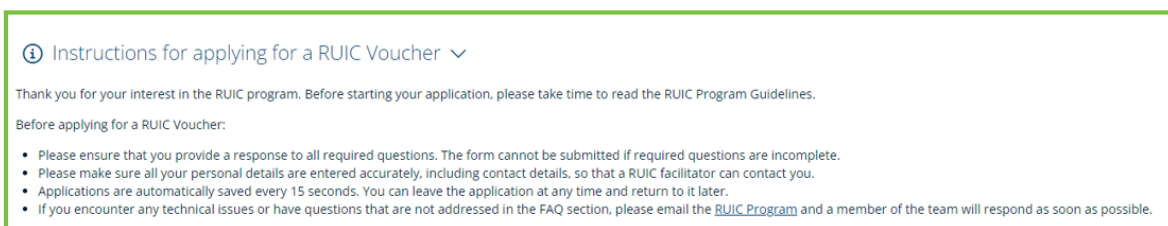


4. Type your personal information in the Register box and click on 'Complete registration'

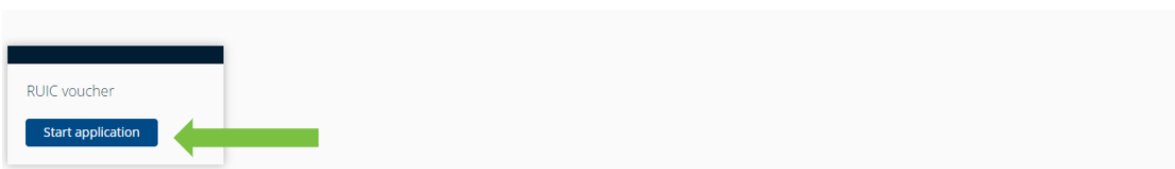


The screenshot shows a registration form titled "Register" on a dark blue background. It includes input fields for "First name", "Last name", "Email" (with the placeholder "ruic@csiro.au"), and "Password". The password field has a strength indicator icon. Below the fields are two checkboxes: "I have 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 is a blue button labeled "Complete registration", which is highlighted by a large green arrow pointing to it from the right.

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



This screenshot shows a section titled "Instructions for applying for a RUIC Voucher" with 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 box titled "RUIC voucher" containing a blue button labeled "Start application". A large green arrow points to the button from the right.

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

My applications → RUIC voucher → Start application

All questions must be answered, unless marked optional.

Start here Expression of Interest (EOI)

Category
RUIC voucher

Download blank application PDF for reference

Company Name

Save + next

7. Answer the following questions in the Expression of Interest (EOI) tab

Start here Expression of Interest (EOI)

Expression of Interest Form (EOI)

Company Information

I confirm I have read the RUIC Program Guidelines

8. Click on 'Submit application'

Save + next Save + close Preview Submit application

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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
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