



Australian
National
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ANU Merit Allocation Scheme 2027 Call for Applications

Information for Applicants

Updated 18 September 2026

Key Dates

21 September 2026	Applications open
16 November 2026	Applications close (5:00pm AEDT)
24 December 2026	Allocations announced

1. Overview

The ANU Merit Allocation Scheme (ANUMAS) 2027 Call will **close at 5:00pm AEDT on 16 November 2026**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

The ANUMAS 2027 Call for Applications is expected to be competitive due to resource oversubscription. Last year, the combined request of all applications was 360 MSU on the Gadi system, whereas 267 MSU was allocated.

To apply, complete the [Application Form](#). You will attach a PDF application as part of the submission, and it is strongly recommended that you prepare the PDF in line with the instructions below before submitting the form.

Lead Chief Investigators (LCIs) and their research group should read the following application guidelines and reference information in full before preparing an application. In general, applicants are encouraged to read all ANUMAS announcements and supporting documentation in full.

This document may be updated during the 2027 Call for Applications to clarify rules and processes as determined by the Committee Chair, NCI or the ANU Research Infrastructure and Entities team.

If your 2026 ANUMAS application was not successful, you are welcome to apply again.

Projects requiring ≤ 100 kSU/year do not require an ANUMAS application. Access is available year-round through the MyNCI “Propose a project” function under the ANU Startup scheme. Existing ANU Startup projects can request renewal through an NCI support ticket. Please contact help.nci.org.au for more information.

If you have further questions about the ANUMAS 2027 Call for Applications, they can be submitted by email to rie@anu.edu.au.

2. Submission Instructions

Who submits?

The LCI or Delegate LCI on a project must submit the ANUMAS 2027 application for that project.

Step 1 – Are you registered for NCI?

Use MyNCI to register an account if you don't already have one. You can register even if you don't have an active project. Your NCI user ID will be used as part of the Application Form.

MyNCI: <https://my.nci.org.au>

Step 2 – Submit the online ANUMAS 2027 application

The Application Form is available here: [ANU Merit Allocation Scheme 2027 Call for Applications – Fill out form](#)

The online application requires upload of a PDF document containing your Project Proposal, and for existing projects, your 2026 progress report. The PDF file is limited to **5 pages** excluding references, and must use the following naming convention:

ANUMAS2027-[SURNAME]-[PROJECTCODE].pdf

If your application is for a new project, substitute “NEW” for the project code.

3. Eligibility Criteria

General eligibility

- An individual may be named as a CI or LCI on only one ANUMAS 2027 application.
- The LCI must hold at least a 0.2 FTE research position at the ANU as at 1/1/2027.
- Academics with ANU emeritus appointment status are also eligible to serve as LCI or CI.
- HDR students are not eligible to be a CI or LCI. For avoidance of doubt, students may be added to project teams as a Researcher.
- By using NCI you are agreeing to the NCI Terms and Conditions of Access.
- To ensure compliance with relevant Australian Government legislation, all researchers named in ANUMAS applications must register and use their ANU email address for all correspondence. The LCI is responsible for ensuring all project staff use institutional email addresses.
- Applications received after the closing time will not be accepted unless by exceptional circumstances.

Commercial Use Disclosure

Projects intending to incorporate commercial use or commercial outcomes must explicitly disclose this in the application. Eligibility will be assessed against Commonwealth-funded research infrastructure policies and ANU guidelines.

Early Career Researchers

The Application Form allows applicants to identify where the LCI is an Early Career Researcher (ECR). Our definition of ECR is that you were awarded your PhD within the previous five years (i.e. on or after 1/1/2022), but excluding time for any career interruptions.

Compute Requests and Underutilisation

- It is expected that ANUMAS projects make use of the allocation received, as failure to do so means that this allocation may be 'wasted' and could have been distributed to other projects.
- If a current project uses less than 85% of its ANUMAS allocation for 2026 (measured across Q1-Q3), it is considered **underutilised**.
- Underutilised projects:
 - are not eligible to apply for a 2027 allocation larger than their 2026 allocation, unless a clear justification is provided in the proposal and accepted by the Committee.
 - are typically allocated a reduced amount proportional to their actual 2026 usage, unless a clear justification is provided in the proposal and accepted by the Committee.

4. Project Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities and assessment treatment
Lead Chief Investigator (LCI)	Leads and manages the research team; approves or rejects membership requests; removes inactive members; provides research output and funding track record; approves and submits the final application; and acts as the official contact with the Secretariat and Committee.
Chief Investigator (CI)	Supports application preparation and project management; provides research output and funding track record; and may be appointed as Delegate LCI.
Delegate Lead Chief Investigator (Delegate LCI)	Appointed by the LCI, normally from the CIs, to manage the project and application. Performs LCI responsibilities. The Delegate's research track record is not assessed.
Researcher	Member of the research team. The Researcher's track record is not assessed.

5. Allocation process

1. Call for applications announced by the Secretariat.
2. Applications accepted by the Secretariat.
3. Eligibility and compliance verification; assignment to assessors by the Secretariat and Chair.
4. Merit assessment undertaken by the Committee.
5. Allocation Committee meeting supported by Secretariat.
6. Notification of outcomes by the Secretariat/NCI.

The Secretariat will review all applications for compliance after the deadline. Potentially non-compliant applications will be referred to the Committee Chair for a final decision. LCIs of applications confirmed as non-compliant will be notified within seven days of the deadline.

The Committee may seek technical or feasibility advice from a member of NCI.

Allocation decisions are made only by the Committee. The Secretariat and NCI provide advice and support but do not determine allocations.

Allocation Principles

Assessment is based on the submitted material and the published scientific and technical merit criteria.

Applicants must justify requested resources and demonstrate the capacity to use them effectively. Requests must be proportional to scientific merit. The ANUMAS Committee reserves the right to allocate all or part of the resources available, and all or part of any specific request.

Resource requests for ANUMAS are not subject to a maximum limit (cap). Unbounded resource requests allow researchers to prepare a single proposal that can be considered by multiple allocation schemes, and which reflects their actual demand for HPC resources.

A request above 5,000 kSU (5 MSU) per year would normally be associated with a team of experienced researchers demonstrating a track record of efficient and productive use of HPC resources. Note that any proposal deemed not to have fully justified the resources requested will be rejected by the Committee.

6. Assessment Criteria

Criterion	Weight	Assessment focus
Project Quality and Innovation	30%	Significance of research, innovation and originality of the computational framework, advancement of knowledge, and potential contribution to Australian Science and Research Priorities.
Investigator Track Records	30%	Research record and performance relative to opportunity, publications ¹ , funding ² , recognition, esteem as well as prior HPC experience, and efficient prior use for existing projects.
Computational Feasibility	30%	Adequacy of investigator time commitment for research deliverance, ability and capacity to achieve goals within requested resources, HPC experience at the requested scale, system suitability and efficiency
Benefit and Impact	10%	Prospective impactful outcomes and potential economic, environmental and social benefits to ANU, Australia and the international community.

1: Publications acknowledging ANUMAS and NCI should be cited in the progress report.

2: Cite only research grants directly attributed to the LCI or CIs named in the application. Grants on which the LCI or CI is not directly named are not acceptable and will disqualify the application.

7. Application Content

Organise the proposal PDF into the following three sections, using section headings:

Part 1: Research Proposal (suggested: two pages)

Address the assessment criteria of “Project Quality and Innovation” and “Benefit and Impact”.

New Applicants and New Projects

Describe key elements of proposed research and benefits according to the following key points:

- Provide sufficient background to define the goals of the project.
- Describe the significance, innovation, and expected outcomes of the research.
- Explain expected scientific impact, and any societal and/or industry benefits (if applicable).
- Be specific and concise.

Returning Applicants - Existing Projects

- State whether the 2027 work continues previous research or represents a new project.
- If it is a new direction, address the requirements for ‘New Applicants and New Projects’ above. Otherwise, provide relevant background on the existing project and on the goals.
- Provide a progress report with a summary of completed work and achieved outcomes.
- Describe the continuation plan for the project.
- Justify any requested resource increase (if applicable).
- Describe expected scientific impact and any societal or industry benefits.
- Be specific and concise.

Part 2: Investigator Track Records (suggested: one page)

Describe the expertise, background and experience of the CIs, focusing on the assessment criteria of “Investigator Track Records”.

New Applicants

- Briefly summarise expertise and evidence of research excellence.
- Summarise previous HPC experience and identify Australian or international systems used.
- Describe experience with other resourcing/allocation schemes, *e.g.* NCMAS, Start-up or Partner schemes.

Returning applicants

- Briefly summarise expertise and evidence of research excellence.
- Provide a short report on use of the 2026 ANUMAS allocation and outcomes achieved.
- Explain underutilisation where applicable (see section 3 under “Compute Requests and Underutilisation”).

Special Consideration

- Individuals that have experienced a career interruption or other circumstances that have impacted their 2026 ANUMAS utilisation may include a brief statement seeking special consideration.

Part 3: Computational Feasibility (suggested: two pages)

Provide evidence that the project can use the requested resources appropriately and efficiently, focusing on the assessment criteria of “Computational Feasibility”:

- Code-scalability on the Gadi system:
 - o Provide strong parallel-scaling and, where relevant weak parallel scaling information for the application code(s).
 - o Provide single-node scalability data by CPU cores or GPU count.
 - o For software with multi-node capability present scalability data relative to single-node performance.
- Resource requirements and SU budget:
 - o Provide an SU budget that summarises and justifies the resource request.
 - o Planned major computational steps, key methods and algorithms.
 - o State expected wall times and SUs accounting for parallel scaling.
- Storage requirements:
 - o Describe data storage requirements and data life cycle for the project.
- New proposals requesting 1000 kSU (1 MSU) or more should demonstrate a history of substantial HPC use and clear calibration of the amount of compute required.

Proposal format

Use plain English, Australian English spelling, and general Australian Research Council formatting conventions. All uploaded PDF pages must meet the following requirements:

- **5 page PDF limit** (excluding references).
- Black text, with occasional colour for highlighting.
- Single-column layout on white A4 pages with margins of at least 0.5 cm on each side and top and bottom.
- 12-point Times New Roman or an equivalent, legible font such as Public Sans, Arial, Courier, Palatino or Helvetica. Mathematical typesetting may be used.
- References may use 10-point Times New Roman or equivalent and are excluded from the five-page limit.
- Comply strictly with stated word and page limits.
- Be aware that colour graphs, photographs, detailed graphics and greyscale objects may be reproduced in black and white.
- Generate the PDF directly rather than scanning it, because attachments may be slightly reduced during processing.

8. Policies and Administration

Acknowledging ANUMAS and NCI

A condition of accepting an ANUMAS allocation is that applicants acknowledge both ANUMAS and NCI in all publications and presentations of the associated work. The following is a standard acknowledgement template:

This work was supported by computational resources provided by the Australian Government through the National Computational Infrastructure (NCI) under the ANU Merit Allocation Scheme.

ANUMAS Committee: Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Considerations

- Committee members may apply to ANUMAS, but cannot assess their own application; applications from members of their research group; applications from applicants with whom they have published within the past five years; or applications from their own ANU School.
- Any such conflicts must be declared when assessment tasks are assigned.
- Committee members must keep application information and Committee discussions confidential.

Appeal Process

All decisions of the ANUMAS Allocation Committee are final. Appeals will be considered only against administrative or procedural issues and not against decisions of the Committee or against assessor ratings and comments.

NCI Terms and Conditions of Access

All users of NCI infrastructure and services must agree to the [NCI Terms and Conditions of Access](#), which includes compliance with all relevant legislation and ANU policies and rules. Please refer to the linked document for details.

Facility overview

NCI is Australia's national research computing service and provides integrated high-performance computing, data and support services to Australian researchers.

NCI is a formal collaboration involving ANU, CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and Geoscience Australia. Since 2007, the collaboration has expanded to include other Australian universities and research institutes. NCI infrastructure was established through Commonwealth Government funding.

Gadi configuration

- 3,024 Intel Xeon Cascade Lake compute nodes, with 24 × 2 cores per node and 192 GB RAM per node.
- 50 Cascade Lake nodes with 1.5 TB memory using Intel Optane DC Persistent Memory.
- 640 NVIDIA V100 GPUs across 160 nodes.
- Mellanox HDR InfiniBand data interconnect capable of 200 Gb/s transfers.
- A 2023 mid-cycle upgrade added 74,880 Sapphire Rapids compute cores across 720 nodes.
- Persistent data storage exceeding 70 PB, including major national and international data collections.
- A compute cloud for ancillary computing and data services.

ANUMAS resources

Resource	Availability
Computing	250 MSU on Gadi.
Storage	600 TB available to the ANUMAS scheme, allocated according to project need and limited to the duration of the 2027 compute allocation.

Software and user support

NCI maintains software packages for its systems. The application software catalogue is available online.

NCI Supported Applications: <https://opus.nci.org.au/display/Help/Supported+Applications>

NCI operates an expert Service Desk for users during normal business hours, Mon-Fri 9 am to 5 pm AEST/AEDT.

NCI Academic Consultants assist with user and project registration, operational issues, code development and performance, and use of scientific software in HPC environments.