# Terms and Conditions

Research Exchange Network

This document provides information for applicants of the Research Exchange Network (Grant) as part of the *AU-USA Battery Research & Development Grant* provided by the CSIRO, funded by the Australian Government.

You must read these terms and conditions before submitting an application. To be eligible for the grant, you must meet the criteria set out in these terms and conditions.

This document sets out eligibility and assessment criteria, how applications are considered and selected, how grantees are notified and receive grant payments, and responsibilities and expectations in relation to the grant.

1. **GENERAL**
	1. **Citizenship**

You must be an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident.

* 1. **Age**

You must be over the age of 18 years.

* 1. **Registered entity**

You must have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and Australian Company Number (ACN).

* 1. **Activities**

You must be involved in activities relating to the field of Electrochemical Energy Storage (Batteries). This may include being enrolled at a tertiary institution completing a Masters or PhD qualification, other post-graduate studies, TAFE course, employed in the course of your work, involved in policy and/or regulation, education activities or finance industries related to electrochemical energy storage. Applications must be consistent with the intent of the grant, specifically to “accelerate expansion and diversification of end-to-end clean energy supply chains” and “drive the development of emerging battery technologies”.

* 1. **Grant limit**

You may only receive one grant. If you have received a grant, you will not be eligible, and must not apply for, another grant.

* 1. **Tertiary Qualifications**

Grants will not be awarded to enable you to obtain or complete tertiary qualifications, for example, a Masters or PhD qualification.

* 1. **Nature of Activity**

Your proposed use of the grant must be for the purpose of pursuing **an investigative project in the United States of America**, which may include attendance at a conference to disseminate research or best practice, visit a company or research institution to learn best practice or undertake research, undertaking or attending a course related to the field of batteries, and more. If you are unsure if your proposal meets this criteria, you may email BatteriesR&DGrant@csiro.au .

* 1. **Areas of Funding**

Your proposed use of the grant must be in one or more of the following areas:

* + 1. Battery active materials development including cathode and anodes;
		2. Innovative processing of battery active materials;
		3. Electrode fabrication and manufacturing;
		4. Electrolyte development;
		5. Innovation in cell chemistries;
		6. Cell manufacturing technologies;
		7. Battery management systems, hardware and software including diagnostic techniques, AI methods;
		8. Battery system manufacturing;
		9. Integration of batteries to the electricity grid, e.g. behind the meter, V2G, grid-scale;
		10. Second-life applications of batteries;
		11. Recycling of batteries including materials separation and recovery;
		12. Education and training development for various aspects of cell/battery manufacturing;
		13. Business model development for commercialisation of battery technologies;
		14. Other topics as approved in writing by the CSIRO.

A grant may be used to explore any electrochemical energy storage chemistry type, for example, Lithium, Sodium, Calcium Aluminium, or Redox-Flow.

* 1. **Citizens Overseas**

An applicant who is an Australian Citizen and is temporarily overseas will be considered for a grant.

* 1. **Amount of Grant**

The value of the grant may be up to AU$30,000 for a maximum period of 3 months depending on the duration of travel and activities to be undertaken. See item 3 below for more detail.

* 1. **Support From Other Sources**

The grant is separate to any other support that might be received by you and may be held concurrently with other support that you receive.

* 1. **Duration of Grant**

A grant may be awarded for a maximum period of 3 months. If a grantee requires more time to fulfil the plans submitted in their application and meet the obligations of their Grant Agreement, this will be at their own expense. All travel and reporting **must** be completed by **12 June 2026**.

* 1. **Continuous Travel**

Travel must be taken as one continuous journey from Australia.

* 1. **Granting Period**

Grants may be approved until all funding is exhausted or 12 June 2026, whichever is earlier.

* 1. **Notification of application outcome**

The CSIRO will notify you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, the CSIRO will invite you to enter into a Grant Agreement (**Contract**).

* 1. **All Decisions are Final**

The decision to award the grant is at the sole discretion of the CSIRO, and all decisions on allocation of grants by the CSIRO are final. There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve an application.

1. **CONDITIONS OF GRANT**
	1. **Contract**

If your application is successful, the CSIRO will invite you to enter into a Contract. Payment of the grant is subject to the grantee agreeing to be bound by the conditions contained in the Contract, and which must be properly executed by you and the CSIRO. **No changes can be made to the Agreement.** Grant activities cannot commence, and no grant payments can be made, until the Contract is fully executed by the grantee and CSIRO.

* 1. **Australian Defence Export Controls**

A grantee must ensure that they are compliant at all times with Australian and United States Export Controls relating to battery materials and technologies. If you are unsure whether your activity may require an export licence, you should review the self-assessment guide for ‘controlled items’ and/or contact Defence Export Controls (DEC). More information can be found here: [Australian Defence Export Office | Business & Industry | Defence](https://www.defence.gov.au/business-industry/industry-governance/industry-regulators/australian-defence-export-office).

* 1. **Use of Image**

If your application is successful and subject to you entering into the Contract with the CSIRO, you will need to consent and provide permission to the CSIRO and Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) using your image and story to promote the grant and related activities.

* 1. **Acknowledgement of Grant**

If grantees make a public statement about work completed because of this Grant, whether orally or in writing, this must be acknowledged by using the following statement, or another statement as reasonably advised by the CSIRO in writing to the grantee: *‘This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.’*

* 1. **Intellectual Property**

It is the grantee’s responsibility to ensure appropriate intellectual property arrangements are in place as part of the activities they undertake, including without limitation, for any visits or stays at National Laboratories, Universities, and/or companies in the United States of America. CSIRO does not need to be named in these agreements but may request evidence that this has been completed as required. Grantees must ensure they have enough time to enter into these arrangements prior to travelling.

* 1. **Reporting**

Grantees must provide a Final Report, using a template provided by CSIRO, including an executive summary and image for communicating outcomes of the Grant and sign the declaration on the first page. Final payment of the grant will not be made until this Final Report is received and acknowledged by CSIRO as fulfilling the requirements of the grant.

* 1. **Personal information**

By submitting an application, you acknowledge and agree that you read and understand the Privacy Notice and [CSIRO Privacy Policy](https://author.csiro.au/about/Policies/Privacy).

1. **PAYMENT OF THE AWARD**
	1. **Initial Payment**

Subject to entering into a Contract with the CSIRO, 80% of the grant amount will be paid to the grantee on full execution of that Contract.

* 1. **Final Payment**

On completion of the grant activities, and submission to and acceptance by the CSIRO of the Final Report, the remaining 20% of the grant amount will be paid to the grantee. Final Reports must be delivered to the CSIRO within **2 months** of completing the grant activities, but no later than **12 June 2026**, to enable the CSIRO to consider if the Final Report is acceptable, if that Final Report is approved, request that you raise a tax invoice, and pay you that final instalment by 30 June 2026.

* 1. **Direct Transfer**

Subject to the grantee providing the CSIRO with an acceptable tax invoice, the grant will be paid electronically into the grantee’s nominated bank account in Australian dollars.

* 1. **Return of Funds**

If the grantee does not, or later ceases to, satisfy the criteria set out in these Terms and Conditions and Contract, the CSIRO may decline to pay the grantee the funding, or require the grantee to repay the funding to the CSIRO.

1. **TRAVEL**
	1. **Travel to the USA**

A grant may only be used for the sole purpose of travelling to the United States of America. It cannot be used for domestic travel or travel to other countries.

* 1. **International Travel Insurance**

We recommend that all grantees maintain an appropriate level of Travel Insurance suitable for the United States of America. CSIRO will not be responsible for any loss or injury incurred by the grantee as a result of their travel. All grantees’ travel is at their own risk.

* 1. **US Visa and Immigration**

CSIRO is **not responsible** for the Grantee being eligible to travel to the United States. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to be granted an appropriate visa to travel to the USA prior to submitting your application or entering into the Contract.

1. **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The purpose of the application form is to enable the CSIRO to assess your application to ensure it is consistent with Guidelines for Funding. All applications must be made using the online application form.

Applicants **must not** share any commercial-in-confidence or confidential information in their application form. You must not disclose material which might undermine your ability to secure patent or other protection for confidential information, or which might jeopardise or hinder your commercial activities. You must ensure information in your application will not compromise your confidentiality requirements.

1. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

All documents in the possession of the CSIRO or Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (**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 Commonwealth entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held. 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.

1. **APPLICATION ARCHIVE**

All documentation forming any part of a Grant application becomes the property of the CSIRO and will be archived electronically.

1. **FURTHER APPLICATION**

If your application is unsuccessful, we encourage you to consider applying again within the period up to 12 June 2026.

1. **CHANGES TO THESE TERMS AND THE APPLICATION FORM**

From time to time, the CSIRO may amend these Terms and Conditions and the application form, and will notify prospective applicants by publishing any updates on its website. The relevant Terms and Conditions for an application are those in place at the time that application is submitted to the CSIRO.

1. **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information, please contact BatteriesR&DGrant@csiro.au.

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