



Australasian Leadership Computing Grants

2021 Call for Applications

NCI Communications and Outreach

NCI User Services

ALCG 2021 Call for Applications

Goal: To support novel, leading-edge computational science on Gadi using highly scalable workflows.

Allocations: 20-50 MSU per project, valid July 2021 through June 2022 (FY 2021-22).

2021 focus areas: bushfires, COVID-19

2020 call: 22 EOIs, 9 invited applications, 4 allocations

ALCG 2021 – Important Dates

- 16 Feb 2021 – EOI opens
- 03 Mar 2021 – Online information session
- 09 Mar 2021 – EOI deadline
- 15 Mar 2021 – Shortlisted EOIs invited to submit full applications
- 01 Apr 2021 – Invited application deadline
- 19 Apr 2021 – Allocation committee meeting
- 20 Apr 2021 – ALCG outcomes announced

ALCG 2021 – Eligibility

Eligibility criteria

1. Lead CI must hold position of at least 0.2 FTE at an Australian higher-education institution or research institute.
2. Independent research funding is a mandatory prerequisite, for example, current ARC or NHMRC grant support.
3. A person with a postdoctoral appointment is **not eligible** to lead an ALCG proposal.

ALCG 2021 – Eligibility

ALCG is a standalone scheme. Past or present success in HPC merit allocation schemes (e.g. NCMAS, ANUMAS) will be highly regarded but is not a formal prerequisite.

No investigator cross-linkage within ALCG: a person may be a CI or Lead CI on **only one ALCG EOI or invited application.**

The EOI phase of ALCG is open. The full application phase is by invitation only.

ALCG 2021 – Application Process

1. Expression of Interest (*deadline: 9 March 2021*)
Submit through <https://my.nci.org.au>
2. Update LeadCI+CI track records: <https://my.nci.org.au>
ORCID preferred. Profile can be updated after EOI submission, *up to the EOI deadline*.
3. Invited Application (*deadline: 1 April*)
Submit PDF document to help@nci.org.au

ALCG 2021 – Assessment and Allocation

1. Expression of Interest
 - Committee will assess and shortlist EOIs.
 - Shortlisted EOIs invited to submit applications.
 - Unsuccessful EOIs will be rejected in MyNCI.

2. Full Application
 - Committee meets to assess applications and determine allocations.

ALCG 2021 – Allocations

Successful applications will be set up in NEW projects.

ALCG allocations cannot be mixed into existing projects.

Allocations will be set up in equal quarterly installments for 2021 Q3, Q4 and 2022 Q1, Q2.

ALCG 2021 – Allocations

ALCG allocations are for NCI/Gadi compute only.

NCI will consult with successful ALCG projects about optimization of applications and workflows.

ALCG carries additional reporting requirements.

ALCG 2021 – Expression of Interest

Use the “Propose a project” link in <https://my.nci.org.au>.

Select “ALCG” as the allocation scheme.

Recommended length is two (2) A4 pages, or approximately 1000 words. (Limit is not enforced.)

The EOI must contain two sections:

1. Technical plan
2. Project description

ALCG 2021 – Invited Application

Invited application is submitted as a PDF document.

Recommended length is nine (9) A4 pages, or approximately 5000 words.

A full application must contain the following sections:

1. Cover sheet - proposal title and Lead CI name (1 page)
2. Technical Plan (2 pages)
3. Detailed project description (3-4 pages)
4. Data visualization and outcome communications/dissemination plan (1 page)
5. Data management plan (1 page)

ALCG 2021 – Advice to Applicants

Read the guidelines in full. Confirm your eligibility.

Update your career track profile in <https://my.nci.org.au> (ORCID recommended).

A track record of effective use of partner or merit allocations at NCI and/or Pawsey will be viewed favourably in your assessment.

ALCG 2021 – Advice to Applicants

ALCG is extremely competitive. 3-5 proposals are expected to receive allocations.

2020: 22 EOIs => 9 invited applications => 4 allocations

Demonstrated workflow scalability is essential.

Unsuccessful EOIs will receive only minimal feedback.

ALCG outcomes are final.

Examples: Committee Comments – POSITIVE

“Demonstrated ability to start work ASAP.”

“Application demonstrates excellent scalability”

“Well articulated and complete description of computational approach and scientific goals.”

“Computational work will produce a world-standard dataset that will be useful to the research community for 5-10 years.”

“Proposed research is challenging and ambitious. It’s not just filling gaps.”

“Thorough investigation of a difficult research problem.”

“Proposal demonstrates a methodical step-by-step approach to calculations with higher resolution and complexity.”

“Outcomes will have extensive value to the research community.”

“Good industry connections. Demonstrated benefit to industry.”

“Good outreach plan.”

Examples: Committee Comments - NEGATIVE

“The proposal is poorly written.”

“Proposal is not well constructed and lacks coherence.”

“Not clear who is responsible for application codes.”

“Not enough information about the methodology.”

“Justification for compute resources is not sufficient.”

“Not clear who will be responsible for components of the work plan.”

“The scope of this proposal is too limited.”

“Concerns about scalability.”

“This proposal is for continuation of previous, ongoing work.”

“This is discovery-focused research, without clear goals.”

ALCG 2021 – Further Information

<https://nci.org.au/users/how-access-nci/australasian-leadership-computing-grants>

Information for Applicants ([PDF download](#))



Thanks!

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