

Research in South Australia: a concise guide for newly arrived Italian researchers



2021

Com.It.Es South Australia & ARIA*

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Association of Italian Researchers
in Australasia



Consulate of Italy
Adelaide

Table of contents

- 3 Introduction to the Guide
- 4 A message from Mr Adriano Stendardo, Consul of Italy in Adelaide
- 5 A message from Dr Christian Verdicchio, Com.It.Es South Australia
- 6 A message from Dr Ilaria Pagani, ARIA
- 7 South Australia: hotspots of excellence
- 8 Education: Higher Degrees by Research
 - Choosing a university in South Australia, what to look for?
 - Admission to Higher Degrees by Research in Australia
 - Stipend Scholarships Available to Higher Degree by Research Students
 - Australian Academic Ranks
- 11 Publishing in Australia
 - Peer-Reviewed Journals
 - Conferences and national professional bodies
- 13 Funding your research
- 15 Conclusion and acknowledgements
- 16 Appendix A: Higher Education Providers in South Australia
- 17 Appendix B: Research Centres in South Australia



Introduction to the guide

Welcome to South Australia!

This brief guide aims to provide newly arrived Italian researchers in South Australia with a general, yet specific to the State, outline on where and how to research in South Australia, and more broadly Australia.

While in fact multiple aspects of the academia are internationally valid and applicable, the reader will notice throughout this guide that there are unique conventions and systems which apply to research in South Australia, and Australia as a whole. It is therefore hoped that this guide can bridge what is unique to the State's academia with internationally valid academic notions.

This guide is aimed to researchers at all career levels: from students looking to embark on a Higher Degree by Research to early career and more experienced researchers. With this in mind, this guide aims to provide a brief overview of key scholarships to expand your education as well as how to apply for funding in South Australia. Prominent South Australian research centres, institutions, and universities are included to further assist the reader in finding the right place for them. Australian-specific details, from academic rankings to Universities' field of strengths, as well as information on how to publish in Australia are also present.

Buon viaggio!



A message from Mr. Adriano Stendardo, Consul of Italy in South Australia

South Australia is an attractive destination for many Italian researchers and academics. Its economy offers a wealth of employment and research opportunities. Moreover, Adelaide stands out as having a relatively low cost of living compared to other Australian capital cities.

The restart of international mobility offers new and unexplored perspectives for our countries. Italy, in addition to being a cultural superpower, is a world leader in many other important sectors, such as machinery, infrastructure and mobility, industrial design, pharmaceuticals and aerospace technologies, to name a few. For such reasons, opportunities for strengthened cooperation will only grow over the next few years, given South Australia's renewed focus on innovation and research.

This guide is intended as a resource to assist Italian researchers in planning their new professional and private life in South Australia. I am grateful to ARIA and to Com.It.Es. South Australia for the invaluable collaborative work in realising such a critical instrument for many new arrivals to be.

Mr Adriano Stendardo
Consul of Italy in South Australia



A message from Dr Christian Verdicchio, Com.It.Es South Australia

Cari amici,

It is with great pleasure that Com.It.Es South Australia has partnered with ARIA to present to you this information guide for Italian academics and researchers wanting to call South Australia home.

Since our initiation in 2015 Com.It.Es South Australia identified the key importance of Italy within the academic and research areas, which led us to create the Research and Language sub-committee to cover this important field. Since then, we have completed several projects, and held extensive discussions with government and local authorities to promote the amazing work Italy does within the scientific and technology fields. In fact, recently with the announcement of the Australian Space Agency now in Adelaide, there has been a new wave of skilled Italian migrants within the field of science and technology, but also new investments by Italian space and defence companies to be a part of the new and exciting opportunities that exist here in South Australia. There is an exciting future ahead for Italy and South Australia!

The aims for this guide are to provide you with the assistance to identify what opportunities exist here in South Australia for all academics and researchers alike, covering a range of topics about; funding and grant opportunities, our universities and research institutes, and key contacts to assist you further in your new start in our beautiful state.

As a fellow researcher, I am blessed to be able to call South Australia home as it presents so many opportunities for academics and researchers from abroad, in a city that is regularly in the 'Top 5 Most Liveable Cities in the World', with amazing Universities and research facilities.

I would like to take this time to thank ARIA for the opportunity to partner in this important project and the support of the Consulate of Italy. I do hope you enjoy our guide and that it helps you in the start of your new journey here in South Australia.

Cari saluti,

Dr Christian Verdicchio
President Com.It.Es South Australia



A message from Dr Ilaria Pagani, ARIA

Benvenuti!

ARIA, the Association of Italian Researchers in Australasia, is proud to welcome newcomers to South Australia in this joint venture with Com.It.Es South Australia.

At ARIA we are mostly migrants and researchers too and we are aware of the difficulties faced when starting a new chapter abroad. With this short guide to Research in South Australia, we hope to make your journey easier because South Australia has a lot to offer!

We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal peoples as South Australia's first peoples and nations, and recognise them as the traditional owners and occupants of the land and waters in the State. The spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices, as well as the cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws of Aboriginal peoples are of ongoing importance and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to South Australia.

Our mission at ARIA is to foster research networking, promote science communication and strengthen the collaboration between Italian and Australasian Research institutes and Universities. Hopefully, this booklet will be a little contribution towards that direction.

Enjoy your stay!

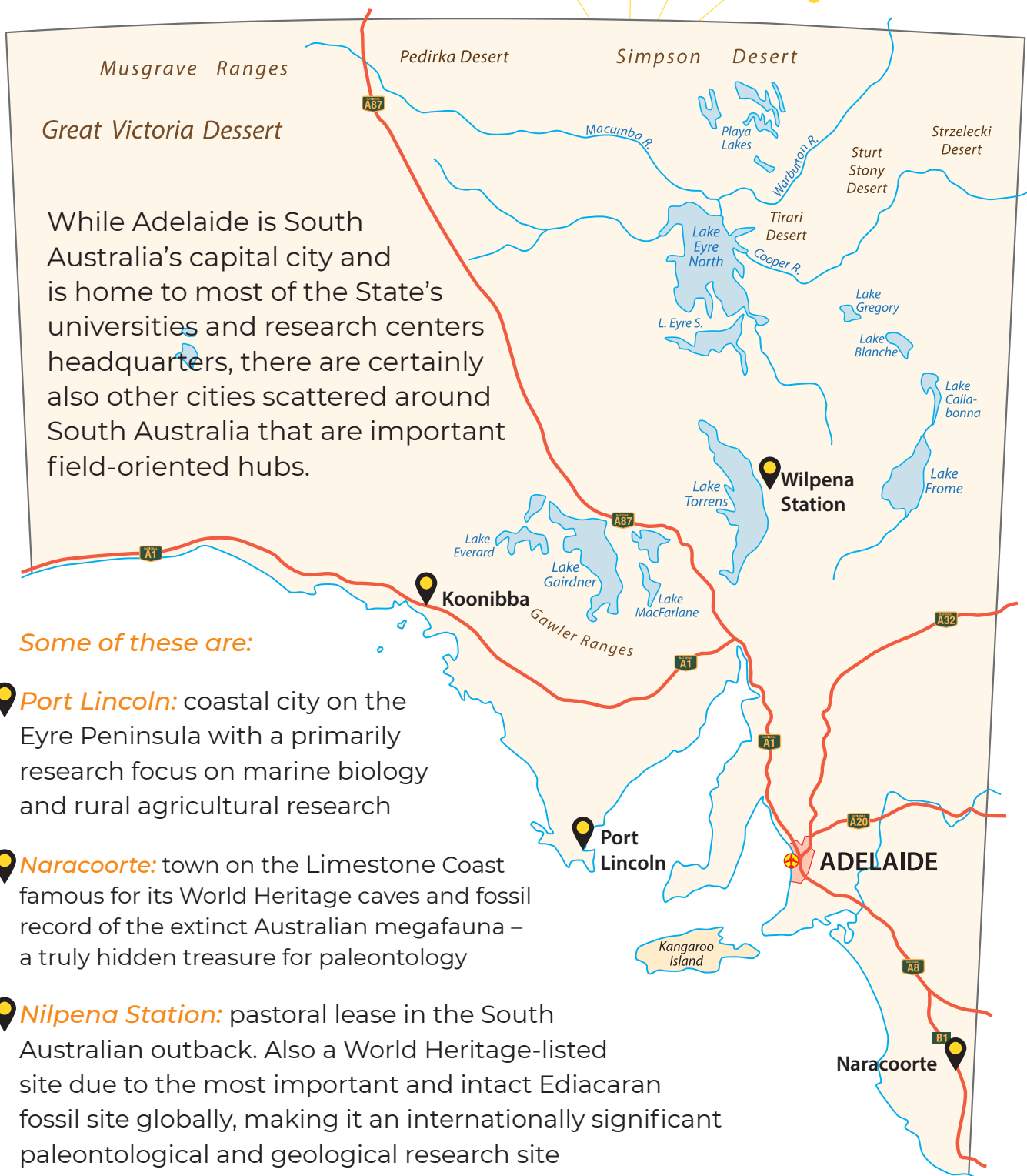
Dr Ilaria Pagani
President of ARIA

South Australia: hotspots of excellence

While Adelaide is South Australia's capital city and is home to most of the State's universities and research centers headquarters, there are certainly also other cities scattered around South Australia that are important field-oriented hubs.

Some of these are:

- Port Lincoln:** coastal city on the Eyre Peninsula with a primarily research focus on marine biology and rural agricultural research
- Naracoorte:** town on the Limestone Coast famous for its World Heritage caves and fossil record of the extinct Australian megafauna – a truly hidden treasure for paleontology
- Nilpena Station:** pastoral lease in the South Australian outback. Also a World Heritage-listed site due to the most important and intact Ediacaran fossil site globally, making it an internationally significant paleontological and geological research site
- Koonibba:** Locality and Aboriginal community in the South Australian outback, home to the Koonibba Test Range. Together with the Whalers Way Orbital Launch Complex on the Eyre Peninsula and other precincts, makes South Australia the undisputed national centre of Australia's space industry.



Education: Higher Degree by Research

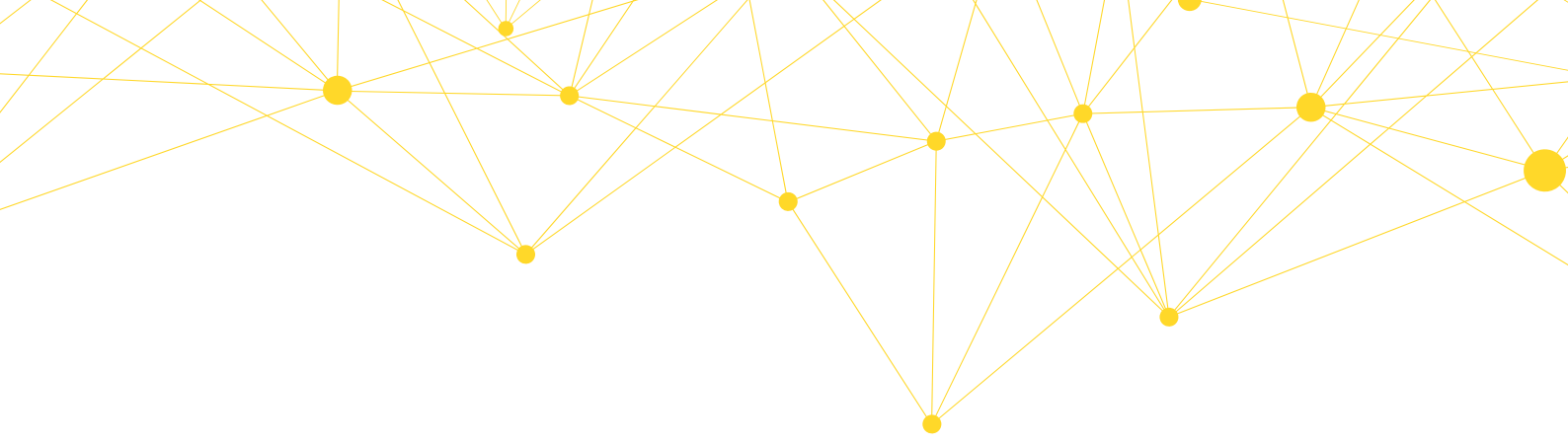
Choosing a university in South Australia, what to look for?

In choosing where to pursue a Higher Degree by Research it is recommended to consult the **Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)** website. ERA is a government initiative that provides an updated assessment of Australian universities, providing a field-specific score system ranging from 'Well Below World Standard' (1) to 'Well Above World Standard' (5). This ranking is of major importance when determining the education provider as it provides a field-specific evaluation rather than a general ranking. For a list of **Higher Education Providers in South Australia** see Appendix A.

Admission to Higher Degrees by Research in Australia

To be granted admission to Doctorates and Masters of Philosophy/Master by Research in most South Australian universities, it is necessary to hold a Bachelor's degree with Honours from an Australian education provider. If coming from Italy, most universities will grant admission with a Bachelor degree (Laurea Triennale) followed by a Master's degree (Laurea Magistrale or Master di Primo Livello) with a prominent research component.

There are also other less common admission pathways. For example, many universities accept an extensive professional experience in lieu of particular qualifications. These options are usually program specific and assessed on a case-by-case scenario.



Stipend Scholarships Available to Higher Degree by Research Students

A key source of funding for students pursuing Higher Degrees by Research in Australia is the Research Training Program (RTP), provided to eligible domestic and international students based on academic performance and research potential. As the scholarship is provided by individual universities, it is strongly recommended to contact the graduate centre of your university of choice for additional information regarding the selection process.

In addition, there are numerous scholarships available from individual universities, institutes and private entities. Examples include but are not limited to:

The University of Adelaide Research Scholarships

The University of Adelaide

University President's Scholarships

University of South Australia

International Research Tuition Scholarship

University of South Australia

The William T. Southcott Scholarship

University of South Australia for PhDs in the field of engineering

Flinders University Research Scholarships

Flinders University

Fraser Mustard PhD Top-up Scholarship

Flinders University for PhD students in child development and relative policies

CSIRO Industry PhD program

joint program between the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), an industry partner and university partner, involving a 6-months industry placement internship

Postgraduate Scholarships

National Health and Medical Research Council

Future Leaders Scholarships

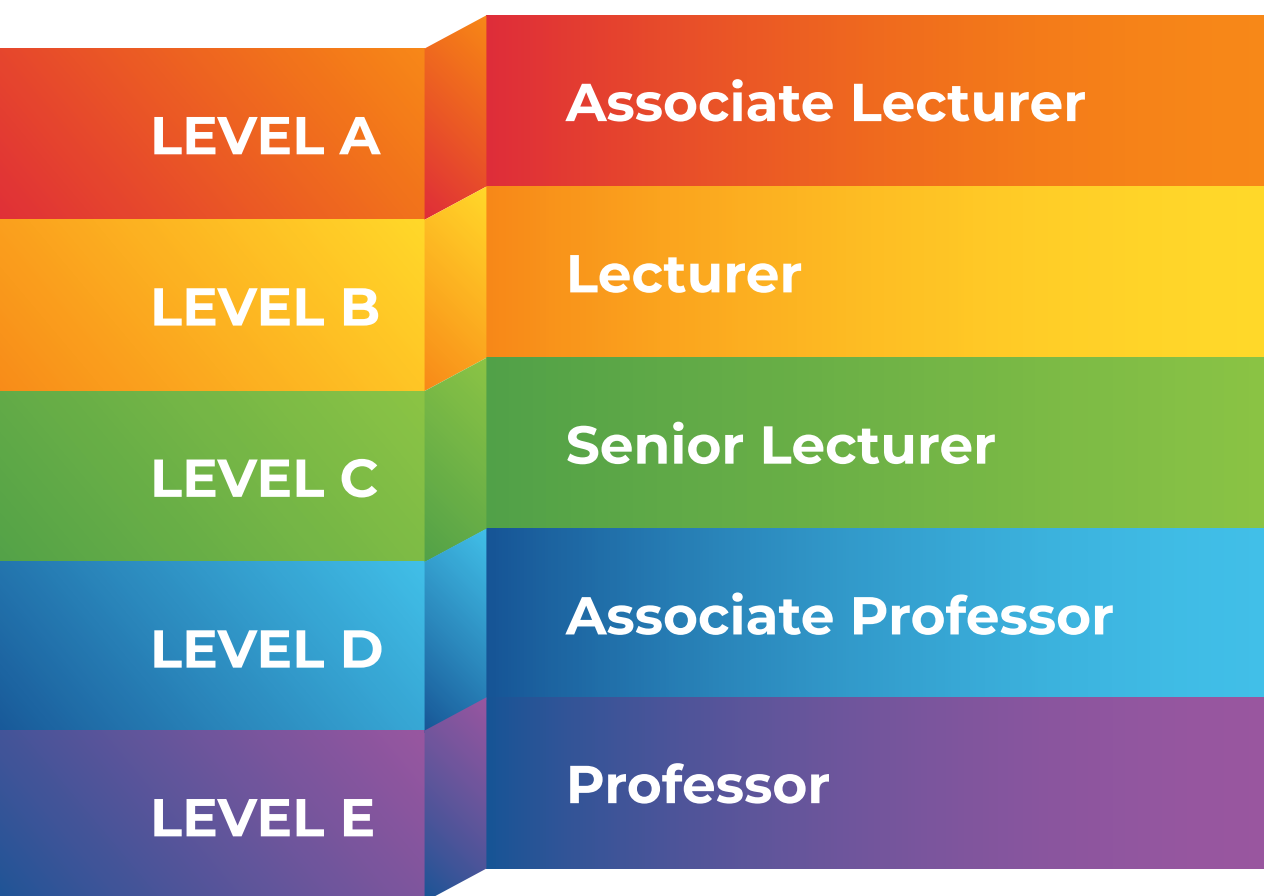
Westpac Foundation.

For a list of Research Centres in South Australia see Appendix B.



Australian Academic Ranks

Australia has a different system of academic ranking than Italy. In Australia, academics are ranked on a 5 levels scale of ascending seniority:



Promotion from one level to the successive one is subject to assessment of performance by individual universities, against specific criteria. Oftentimes assessment is triggered by self-nomination, to be submitted by a given date each year.

Publishing in Australia

Peer-Reviewed Journals

When publishing in Australia, other than following the international publication metrics such as impact factor, it is strongly suggested to consult the ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia) Journal List, released by the Australian Research Council. Although the ERA List doesn't provide a ranking, it indicates the journals' Field of Research (*FOR*), greatly assisting in finding the best journal for your research.

For research in business, social sciences and mathematics it is recommended to consult the **Australian Business Deans Council Journal Quality List** or the **Australian Mathematical Society Ranked list of Journal**, respectively. These lists regularly evaluate and rank field-specific journals from A* (highest standard) to C (the lowest).

Further, many Australian universities recommend using the following international resources when considering a journal:

- Scopus
- Scimago
- Web of Science

Consulting the **Beall's List of Potential Predatory Journals and Publishers** is also indicated when verifying the journal is not predatory.



Conferences and national professional bodies

Australian conferences are normally held by professional field-specific bodies. An excellent way to find conferences in Australia is to search for annual conferences organised by the relative professional bodies.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- The Australian Historical Association (AHA) – annual
- The Australasian Society for Classical Studies (ASCS) - annual
- Australian Medical Association (AMA) - annual
- Australasian Association for Engineering Education (AAEE) - annual
- Australasian Association of Philosophy – annual
- Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) – biennial
- The Australian Institute of Physics (AIP) – biennial

Furthermore, the **Australian Council of Learned Academies** is a peak organisation linking Australia's four learned societies:

- The Australian Academy of the Humanities - annual
- Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia - annual
- Australian Academy of Science - annual
- Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering - annual

Many of the professional bodies and societies run journals which represent another opportunity for publication. They also offer awards and professional recognitions, as well as research funding.

Funding your research

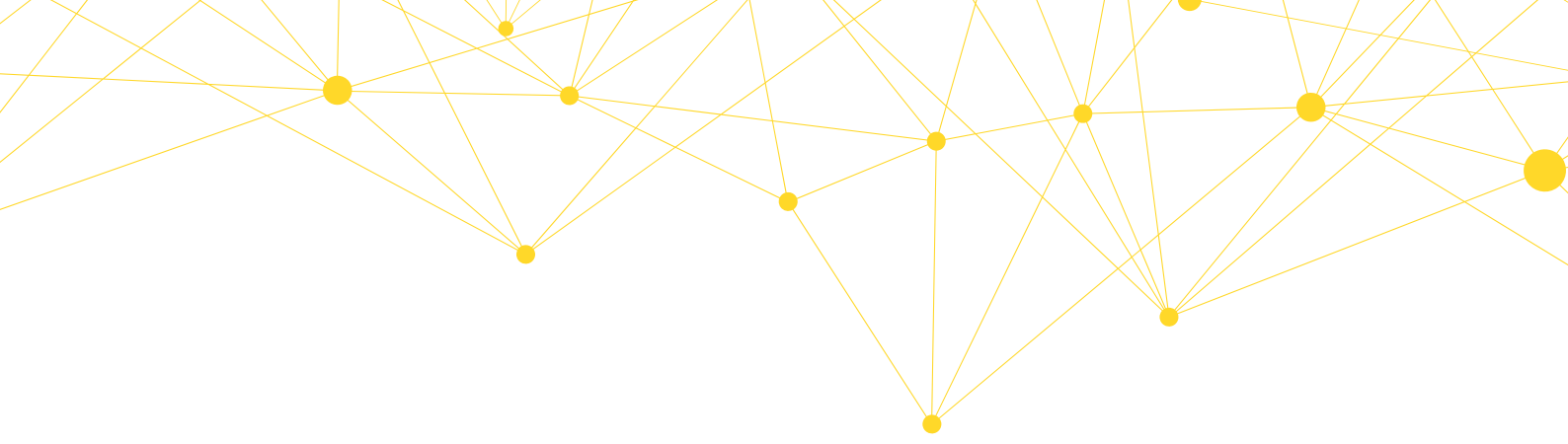
Research funding in Australia mostly derives from government, universities, industry and academic societies.

The main source of funding comes from the Australian Government which provides a centralised resource of past and current government grant opportunities via the website **GrantConnect**. This resource is recommended to be the first one to be employed when looking for funding as it provides information on grants available in multiple fields, including eligibility and selection criteria, funding offered and how to apply.

From the Australian Government, the **Australian Research Council (ARC)** is the primary non-medical research funding agency, while the **National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)** is the main body responsible for medical research. The grants and fellowships offered are usually based on the applicants' career level (i.e. early, mid and late career researchers), in addition to other criteria.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- **Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) [ARC]** – provides research support for early career researchers (up to 5 years post-PhD) in both teaching and research, and research-only positions
- **Discovery Projects (DP) [ARC]** - grant funding to support research projects that may be undertaken by individual researchers or research teams
- **Australian Laureate Fellowship [ARC]** - available for late-career researchers, namely those at Level E to support innovative, internationally-competitive basic and applied research and mentorship to early-career researchers
- **Linkage Projects [ARC]** - promotes research partnerships between researchers and business, industry, community organisations and other publicly funded research agencies
- **Ideas Grant [NHMRC]** - support innovative research projects addressing a specific question
- **Investigator Grant [NHMRC]** – funding for a significant research support package available to researchers at all career stages with.



As mentioned, individual government Departments, research institutes and private entities also offer specific funding opportunities.

Some examples include:

- **Australia Awards** - opportunities for further education to citizens of a number of Asia-Pacific countries by the Department of Health or the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- **Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research** - funding by the Department of Health or the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade opportunities to eligible applicants.
- **Early Research Career Postdoctoral Fellowship** - by CSIRO
- **Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF)** - funding opportunities in the field of natural science, in collaboration with partner organisations of CSIRO
- **Research Fellowships** – funded by the Westpac Foundation
- **Beat Cancer Project** – from Cancer Council in conjunction with the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute.



Conclusion and acknowledgements

This marks the end of the introductory guide to research in South Australia. We hope that the read has proven enjoyable, and that the booklet has been helpful in providing the basics.

As you can imagine the topic is vast, and it is sometimes hard to provide a concise guide, but we hope to have provided the reader with a sufficient overview on where to find additional information.

Please note, that while care is taken to ensure accuracy of the content, Com.It.Es and ARIA cannot guarantee that all the information expressed herein is correct and recommends that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use and that readers will be responsible for making their own assessment. We believe that the information is derived from reliable and accurate sources at the time of publication. However, changes in circumstances after a document is published may impact on the accuracy of information.

Appendix A: Higher Education Providers in South Australia

Below is a list of South Australian higher Education Providers and their main research field of strength.

Higher Education Institutions in South Australia	Offers Higher Degree by Research in Adelaide?	Main Field	CRICOS Provider Number
Australian Catholic University	No (but Master of Theology [Research] offered in other states)	For research: theology	00004G
Carnegie Mellon University, Australia	No	Public Policy	02696B
CQUniversity Adelaide	Yes	Interdisciplinary (special focus on sleep and fatigue research via their Appleton Institute)	00219C
Flinders University	Yes	Interdisciplinary	00114A
Tabor	No	Divinity/Ministry/Theology	03436C
The University of Adelaide	Yes	Interdisciplinary (important agricultural sciences and winery facilities based in its Waite campus)	00123M
Torrens University	Yes	For research: only Business, Education, Design, Health and Information Technology/ Artificial Intelligence	03389E
University of South Australia	Yes	Interdisciplinary	00121B

Appendix B: Research Centres in South Australia

There are many research centres in South Australia, many of which are affiliated with universities. The following list includes some of the key centres in the State:

Research Institute	Affiliated with	Main Field
Alliance for Research in Exercise, Nutrition and Activity (ARENA)	UniSA	Nutrition and physical activity, including research into metabolism and cardiovascular health
Appleton Institute	QC University	Sleep/Fatigue
Assemblage Centre for Creative Arts	Flinders University	Performing and Creative Arts
Australian Centre for Child Protection	UniSA	Research into "child abuse and neglect"; Public Policy
Australian Government, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Australian Government	Multidisciplinary
Australian Institute for Machine Learning	The University of Adelaide	Machine Learning
Australian Research Centre for Interactive and Virtual Environments	UniSA	Virtual Reality
Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Health Research	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital	Health
Behaviour-Brain-Body Research Centre (BBB)	UniSA	Chiefly chronobiology/sleep and cognitive Ageing
Centre for Automotive Safety Research	The University of Adelaide	Road Safety
Centre for Cancer Biology	SA Pathology and UniSA	Oncology
Centre for Change and Complexity in Learning (C3L)	UniSA	Interdisciplinary, in relation to learning/cognition
Centre for Markets, Values and Inclusion	UniSA	Interdisciplinary, focus on sustainable and inclusive economic development

Appendix B: Research Centres in South Australia cont.

Research Institute	Affiliated with	Main Field
Environment Institute	The University of Adelaide	Interdisciplinary, including Marine biology and urban planning
Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute (FHMRI)	Flinders University	Health
Hanson Institute	SA Pathology	Biology; Biomedicine
Institute for Nanoscale Science & Technology	Flinders University	Nanotechnologies
Medical Device Research Institute	Flinders University	Chiefly Biomechanics
Órama Institute	Flinders University	Mental Health
Robinson Research Institute	The University of Adelaide	Congenital conditions
Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre	UniSA and Rosemary Bryant Foundation	Nursing/Midwifery
South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)	The University of Adelaide, UniSA and Flinders University	Health
South Australian Immunogenomics Cancer Institute (SAiGENCI)	The University of Adelaide	Oncology; Genetics
South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)	Government of South Australia	Agriculture (crops and livestock); aquatic sciences and food science
South Australian Space Industry Centre (SASIC)	Australian and South Australian Government	Space, defence, hi-tech
Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity	Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute (FHMRI)	Socio-economic determinants of health
Stretton Institute	The University of Adelaide	Public Policy
Torrens Resilience Initiative	Flinders University	Disaster management
Waite Research Institute (WRI)	The University of Adelaide	Agricultural Science, including viticulture



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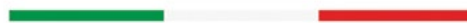
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This project was kindly funded by Com.It.Es South Australia through the funds made possible by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Mr Mirco Di Giacomo for compiling most of the information present in this booklet and Victoria Placentino from Studio Victoria for the graphics.