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## **Call for applications for the Australia-France Social Science Collaborative Workshops Program 2026**

1 December 2025

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, jointly with the Embassy of France in Australia, is proud to announce the renewal of the Social Science Collaborative Research Program.

Applications for funding will be open from 10 Jan 2026 until 10 March 2026.

### **Program Objective**

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This research funding program is intended to foster and reinforce social science collaboration between Australia and France through:

- Workshop activities on a topic of interest to both Australia and France, provided to eligible French and Australian researchers, especially early and mid-career researchers.
- Workshops activities relevant to Pacific Island Studies (including those in French overseas territories).
- Workshop activities relevant to the Indo-Pacific region.
- Workshop activities with the capacity to support the development of strategic alliances between France and Australia.

Proposals with a multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary character are strongly encouraged.

## Funding

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The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and the Embassy of France in Australia will support two collaborative workshops with funding to a maximum of \$10,000 AUD each (excluding GST).

Funding through this program is designed to facilitate:

- Workshops that catalyse innovative ideas in social science research and social policy, build capability amongst young researchers, and foster networks across social science disciplines and with practitioners from government, the private sector, and the community sector on issues of common concern.

The funding requested from this program must not exceed \$10,000 (excl GST). However, seeking additional funding or in-kind support from other parties is encouraged, and the Academy welcomes the co-badging of workshops.

Most expenses associated with delivery and promotion are eligible, such as travel and accommodation, catering, venue or equipment hire, note-taking assistance and publication-related expenses. Items not eligible for funding include overhead costs, researcher salaries, business-class airfare and alcoholic drinks.

## Eligibility

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### Team

Eligible applicants are France and Australia affiliated social science researchers (by residence or nationality), and experts in public or private sectors.

At least one of the applicants must be employed by a university or research organisation in a social science discipline on a permanent or fixed-term contract, with capacity to administer, acquit and report on grant expenditure.

Applications can include teams of up to four workshop convenors. A researcher can be listed in more than one application within the same application round. PhD candidates may participate in the workshop but are not eligible to apply as primary convenors. Affiliated experts from government, NGOs, and industry may serve as co-convenors.

As the Academy and the Embassy of France in Australia encourage the participation of early and mid-career researchers, at least one researcher involved in the project should be fewer than fifteen years beyond the completion of their PhD.

The Academy recognises career interruptions can have a significant impact on the period between conferral of a researcher's PhD and the submission of an application. We therefore allow extension of the eligibility periods for specified career interruptions.

The following career interruptions can be claimed, with details of time commensurate required as follows:

Reason for career interruption	Time which can be claimed (minimum period of one month)
International relocation	Time commensurate with the interruption, not exceeding three months per international relocation.
Child-care as primary carer (includes periods of parental leave as well as part-time work while caring for one or more children)	Up to two years per dependent child
Other caring responsibilities (including care of a dependent child due to illness or disability)	Time commensurate with the interruption.
Medical condition or disability	Time commensurate with the interruption.
Non-research employment (if not concurrent with research employment) or unemployment	Time commensurate with the interruption.

## Delivery

Workshops can be delivered in Australia, metropolitan France, or French overseas territories in the Indo-Pacific region. The current application round is for workshops delivered in the 2026 calendar year.

## Preparing a strong application

The Academy encourages applicants to consider the following when completing their Workshop Proposal form:

### Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed on the following five criteria (equally weighted 20% each):

- **Need and relevance.** The proposed workshop advances contemporary research and policy agendas on issues that are important to Australia and France.

- **Program design.** Proposed workshop activities, themes, session objectives and speakers provide an effective vehicle to achieve the workshop objectives.
- **Participants.** The number of attendees is conducive to deep dialogue. Participants are diverse, and their expertise relevant to the topic. A significant portion of the participants has confirmed attendance.
- **Outcomes and impact.** Convenors have a well-considered plan to disseminate and amplify workshop outputs, and a clear understanding of desired impacts on research, policy or practice
- **Budget.** Budget allocations are clearly outlined and align with the workshop objectives. The proposal shows efforts to leverage co-investment or in-kind support, to amplify workshop impact.
- **Bilateral collaborations.** The project fosters structured collaborations between Australian and French teams, including French Pacific and Indian Ocean territories
- **Research excellence and purpose.** The quality and excellence of the proposed teams is highlighted by publication references, and the project addresses major societal issues

## Program and delivery

As a general rule, workshops are structured as a series of presentations, followed by questions and discussion. Workshops typically run over one to two days and may include an informal dinner.

In-person events are preferable, but virtual and hybrid formats will be considered where relevant.

## Participants

Workshops are not public forums but closed-doors dialogues between leading experts in particular fields, aimed at progressing a pressing research or policy agenda. The Academy encourages small-scale events, between 15-25 participants, however alternatives will be considered if the applicant(s) present a strong case.

Where relevant, we encourage other forms of participant diversity, including participants from different disciplines, institutions, geographic locations, cultural backgrounds and sectors. Government, community and private sector participants are especially relevant for proposals with a practical or policy component.

Follow these links for more information on the Academy's [equity, diversity and inclusion priorities](#) and [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).

The Academy expects a significant portion of participants will have confirmed their attendance ahead of the proposal submission.

## Grant beneficiary obligations

Convenors are responsible for all aspects related to the management of the workshop grant. As beneficiaries of an Australia-France Collaborative Workshops Program grant, convenors are responsible for:

- Coordinating the signature and return of a Funding Agreement between the Academy, the Embassy of France to Australia, and the grant administering institution, setting out the grant's terms and conditions.
- Planning and delivering the workshop
- Providing the academy with an open-access publication (max 2,000 words) summarising the findings from the workshop within two months, for promotion on the Academy's website and social media channels. Convenors are encouraged to develop additional outputs (policy briefs, recorded discussions, working papers etc.)
- Providing the Academy and the Embassy of France with at least one image of the event, and if possible, a short video, for media promotion
- Including appropriate recognition of the Academy and the Embassy of France in Australia as sponsors in all workshop-related materials and outputs (e.g. publications)
- Completing a post-workshop budget acquittal, feedback and evaluation form.

## Agreement

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By submitting your application, you will be asked to acknowledge and agree to the following conditions:

- Information on the Application Form is collected to make recommendations to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia on the allocation of financial assistance under their respective budgets. The information collected may be passed to assessors for the purposes of obtaining a peer-review assessment of the application. It may also be passed to other funding bodies and other public organisations (including Universities and research bodies) judged appropriate by the funding organisations. In other instances, information on this form can be disclosed without your consent where authorised or required by law.
- While the Embassy of France and the Academy's selection committee gives careful consideration to applications, it is not able to enter into discussion or correspondence regarding the reasons why an application is unsuccessful.
- Successful applicants, or their institution, will invoice the Academy for the awarded amount prior to the close of the relevant financial year.
- Successful applicants are required to submit a report of the research activities funded by the program and an acquittal of funds within two months following

the completion of the funded activity. The Academy reserves the right to request partial or full repayment if funds are misused or reporting is incomplete.

### **Further Information and Contact**

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For further information including an application form visit:

<https://socialsciences.org.au/australia-france-joint-action-program/>

Or contact:

international@socialsciences.org.au