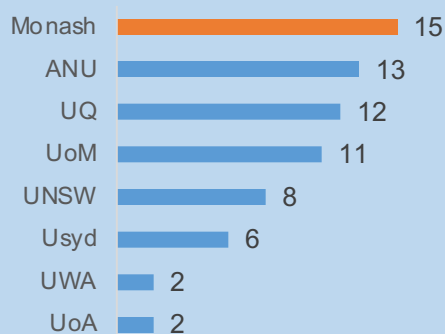# MONASH ARTS: AN ARC SUCCESS STORY

For two years running **Monash Arts** has been the top performing Faculty nationally in the Australian Research Council (ARC) Grant Schemes, with 39 ARC projects awarded to the Faculty since 2018.

In 2019 alone, 25 projects were awarded to **Monash Arts** in the ARC schemes, amounting to a total research income of **$14,311,205**. This includes 1 Australian Laureate Fellowship, 2 Future Fellowships, 5 Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards (DECRA), 1 Linkage Project, an ARC Centre of Excellence node, and 15 Discovery Projects (DP).
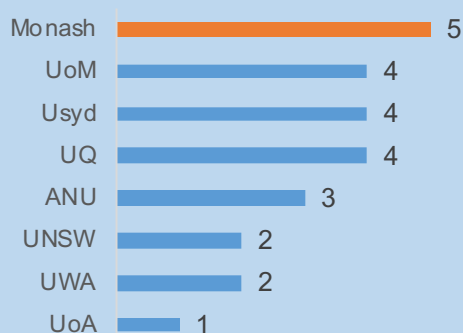
Monash Arts achieved the top position in the country for DPs and DECRAs in 2019 in 'Humanities and Social Sciences'. In particular, Monash led the FOR 16 code in the DP20 round. In the DP19 round, **Monash Arts** topped the country in the disciplines of History and Philosophy.

The Faculty of Arts led the G08 in Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) in both ARC Discovery Projects and DECRA schemes:

HASS DP 2020: Go8 COMPARISON

Monash	15
ANU	13
UQ	12
UoM	11
UNSW	8
Usyd	6
UWA	2
UoA	2

HASS DECRA 2020: Go8 COMPARISON

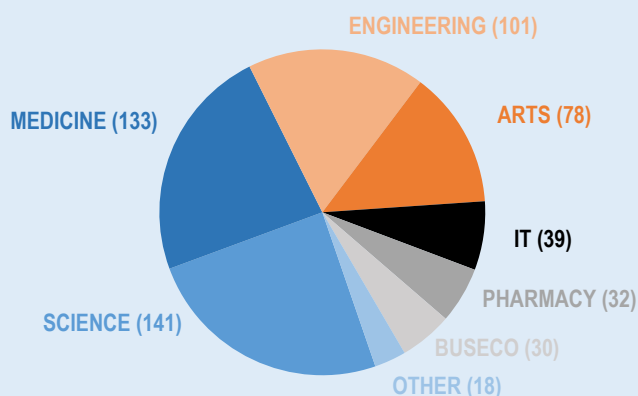|	
Monash	5
UoM	4
Usyd	4
UQ	4
ANU	3
UNSW	2
UWA	2
UoA	1

One of the driving factors in our ARC success was to encourage increased participation from our researchers in ARC schemes.

In 2019, there were 78 submissions to various ARC schemes from the Faculty. This was the 4th largest ARC submission from Monash, and dwarfed the 2017 and 2018 submissions of 50 and 55, respectively.
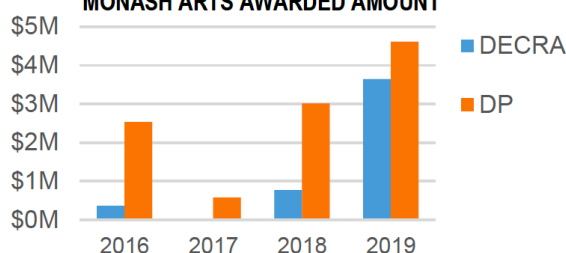
Our 2020 submission currently features 4 Laureates, as well as over 65 other applications (LP's, DP's, FT's, DE's).

MONASH 2019 ARC APPLICATIONS BY FACULTY

- ENGINEERING (101)
- ARTS (78)
- IT (39)
- PHARMACY (32)
- BUSECO (30)
- OTHER (18)
- SCIENCE (141)
- MEDICINE (133)

The increased volume of **quality** applications has led to higher levels of success.

MONASH ARTS AWARDED AMOUNT

	DECRA	DP
2016		
2017		
2018		
2019		

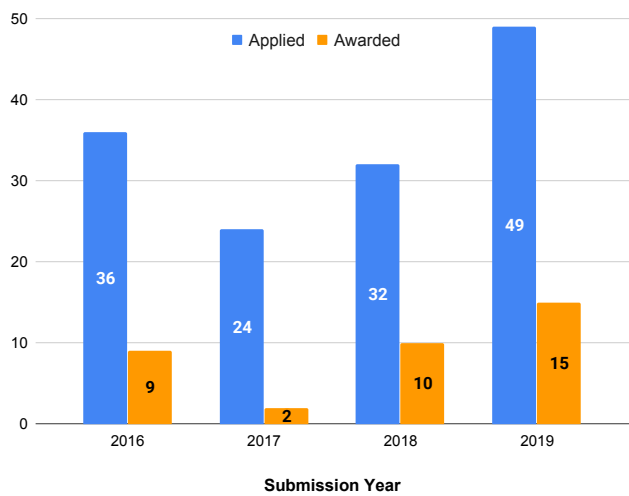## MONASH ARTS STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- Early identification of competitive bids via a rigorous Expression of Interest process involving the ADR, Heads of School and School Research Coordinators

- Keeping researchers engaged in project development through regular workshops and information sessions

- Strategies around retention to sustain volume of submissions

- Targeted workshops strategically aimed at particular sections of the proposal. E.g. first-page workshop, project design and methodology workshop

- One-to-one mentoring

- Strategic review and feedback on proposals

Arts Discovery Projects

Bar chart legend: Applied (blue), Awarded (orange)

Submission Year	Applied	Awarded
2016	36	9
2017	24	2
2018	32	10
2019	49	15

TIMELINE OF INITIATIVES

MAY 2017	New Dean's appointment
SEPT 2017	Appointment of Deputy Associate Dean Research with responsibility for ARC
2017	Better support for ARC applicants through targeted mentoring scheme
DEC 2017	Expectation that all staff appointed on T&R contracts will be ARC active with the new Dean setting a higher bar on the number of submissions, and requiring all level D & E to apply
JAN 2018	ARC Mentoring Prize introduced and ARC Near Miss Scheme available for submission of reworked applications
JAN 2018	Higher expectations reinforced through Faculty leadership positions and HoS
FEB 2018	Appointment of new Research Development Manager
JUNE 2018	Consistently using an evidence-based approach to success rates and scheme weightings to overcome disengagement with ARC schemes
JUNE 2018	Earlier and more rigorous EOI process
SEPT 2018	Ongoing substantial ADR and Deputy ADR work on the round offering detailed feedback
OCT 2018	Introduction of the First page scheme
JULY 2018	HoS/ADR approval required for withdrawing from round as part of strategies around retention to sustain volume of submission
SEPT - NOV 2018	Interactive information sessions and workshops in Schools and Centres
JAN 2019	Overhaul of Faculty support processes to focus on project development
JULY - NOV 2019	Comprehensive Fellowship workshop support program for Future Fellowships and DECRAs

APPROACHING ARC FELLOWSHIP COMPETITIONS WITH A FOCUS ON QUALITY

For Future Fellowships and DECRA, our approach has been to select the most competitive candidates via a rigorous EOI process.

The selected applicants were given comprehensive support to develop their proposals, including one-to-one mentoring and feedback.

This approach has resulted in very high success rates.

DECRA AWARDS BY FACULTY 2019

FACULTY	# AWARDS	SUCCESS RATE
Arts	**5**	**41.7%**
IT	3	30.0%
BusEco	2	14.3%
Pharmacy	1	14.3%
Medicine	3	13.6%
Science	5	12.5%
Engineering	3	11.5%