

The 2025 FoE Researcher Development Funding Scheme

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The 2025 Faculty of Education Researcher Development Funding Scheme

Guidelines

The Faculty of Education (FoE) internal research funding aligns with the University's [Advancing Melbourne 2030](#) strategy and [MGSE Strategic Plan 2022-2026 The Time Is Now](#). The strength of FoE research lies in its creating new conceptual and applied knowledge that advances the discipline education, including its impact on society through policy and practice. The *2025 Faculty of Education Researcher Development Funding Scheme* aims to support the next generation of FoE researchers; foster collaborations; and enhance research impact. All successful applicants are expected to present at the 2025 FoE Research Conference.

All awarded funds allocated for 2025 only must be spent by 31 December 2025. Unspent 2025 only allocated funding will not be carried forward into 2026.

Objectives

The Scheme's primary objectives are to :

- Support early-career and mid-career researchers to progress their research careers;
- Seed new areas of discovery;
- To expand established programs of research;
- Build new or existing collaborations into a competitive larger-scale proposition for major external research funding sources;
- Provide competitive funding for high quality research projects and pilot research; projects that enhance competitiveness in applying for Cat 1-3 external research grants;
- Enhance research impact through quality and applied outcomes;
- Foster a diverse and inclusive academic community with a strong research culture;
- Provide research funding for projects that are strategically aligned with the University's [Advancing Melbourne 2030](#) strategy and [MGSE Strategic Plan 2022-2026 The Time Is Now](#).

Projects which advance FoE's strategic priorities and articulate Indigenous, International, and Diversity dimensions are strongly encouraged. Ideas to ignite thinking are provided below as a guide only and are not intended to be prescriptive.

Indigenous

Projects which aim to advance existing commitments in research, teaching and learning, and engagement aligned with the Faculty's 2024 Divisional Indigenous Development Plan (DIDP) will be strongly encouraged. As a guide, this may involve:

- Indigenous curriculum and pedagogies in schools and higher education – determining how Indigenous curriculum and pedagogies are addressed in schooling and higher education global contexts;
- Cultural competency in education – building on the work of Morrison, et al., in defining what is the appropriate term of reference in education;
- The compilation of the varying Indigenous content resources available for teachers using the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority's document, [Selecting](#)

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[and evaluating resources](#), as a means to determine the suitability of the resources for schools and teachers; and

- Pedagogies for engaging Cultural Collections in contemporary education.

International

Projects which seek to strengthen relationships within the Asian region and with these existing global networks and alliances of which the University is a member of will be strongly encouraged:

- [International Network of Educational Institutes \(INEI\)](#)
- [Universitas 21 \(U21\)](#)
- [UoM international networks](#)
- [UoM globally engaged institutes](#)
- UoM Country Engagement Plans for [India](#), [Indonesia](#), and [China](#)

Diversity

Projects which aim to advance priorities in research, teaching and learning, and engagement that align with the [Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2030](#), the [MGSE Strategic Plan](#) and local Diversity and Inclusion strategy are strongly encouraged. As a guide this may involve:

- Research that actively redresses inequalities and exclusions, such as those based on race, gender and gender identity, sexuality, socio-economic status, language, culture, religion, disability, and neurodiversity.
- Projects that include co-design with people with lived experience, including partnering with external organisations, that will lead to accessible and practical research outcomes
- Examining the implementation of inclusive and culturally responsive frameworks and pedagogies in schools and higher education

Wherever appropriate, the involvement of a member of a relevant and interested community or industry group as a critical friend to the project will be viewed favourably.

Funding

There will be two schemes available for FoE researchers but there are important criteria to how the funds will be distributed. Please be aware of these criteria.

Team-based research funding (\$20,000 over 1 or 2 years):

These initiatives involve a team of *at least two academics* (Level A-E academics) *and must include a FoE ECR as lead CI or co-CIs*. Applications should have a clear statement of research impact, proposed outcomes, key deliverables, and present an argued case for how the research outcomes will lead to increase competitiveness for the nominated external funding (Category 1-3 research).

Note - Special funding payment initiative for team-based projects for 2025

There will be two options to select during the application stage. Note, the option selected at the application stage *cannot be changed once the funds have been awarded*.

- *Option 1 (\$20,000 over 1 year):* Funds requested (maximum \$20,000) are for 2025 only where 80% of the requested funds will be released upon award. The remaining 20% will be released if there is a satisfactory progress report (to be requested in August) and indications that funds have been spent in accordance with the time lines. The balance of funds will be checked on the InfoHub in RES05. *Funding must be expended by 31*

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December 2025. (Unspent funds will not be carried forward into 2026. Unspent funds will be returned to MERI.)

- **Option 2 (\$20,000 over 2 years):** Funds requested (maximum \$20,000) will be split between 2025 and 2026. Fifty percent of the funds will be awarded in 2025 and 50% will be awarded in 2026. The process will be the same for each annualised portion: In 2025 50% of the funds will be awarded but 80% of the funds will be released at the beginning of 2025 and the subsequent 20% will be released in 2025 if there is a satisfactory progress report (to be requested in August) and indications that funds have been spent in accordance with the time lines. The balance of funds will be checked on the InfoHub in RES05. *Funding must be expended by 31 December 2025. (Unspent funds will not be carried forward into 2026. Unspent funds will be returned to MERI.)* In 2026, if 2025 milestones have been met, then the 50% of the total remaining funds will be released, again in the same format, 80% of the funds will be released at the beginning of 2026 and the subsequent 20% will be released in 2026 if there is a satisfactory progress report (to be requested in August) and indications that funds have been spent in accordance with the time lines. The balance of funds will be checked on the InfoHub in RES05. *Funding must be expended by 31 December 2026. (Unspent funds will not be carried forward into 2027. Unspent funds will be returned to MERI.)*

Individual funded projects (\$5,000 for 1 year):

Funding for individual research proposals with a maximum of up to \$5,000 per application. These grants will support Level A-E academics to conduct research that will result in the publication in Q1 journals (submitted) and support the further development of a competitive external grant proposal for either Category 1-3. In 2025 80% of the requested funds will be released upon award. The remaining 20% will be released in 2025 if there is a satisfactory progress report (to be requested in August) and indications that funds have been spent in accordance with the time lines. The balance of funds will be checked on the InfoHub in RES05. *Funding must be expended by 31 December 2025. (Unspent funds will not be carried forward into 2026. Unspent funds will be returned to MERI.)*

Eligibility

- Chief Investigators must hold or have reasonable expectation at the time of application of holding a salaried fixed-term or continuing academic appointment until the grant end date (either 2025 or 2026).
- Only one application per year will be accepted from the lead researcher. However, a lead researcher can be part of another research proposal within the same scheme as a non-lead.
- Research-only (RO) staff whose salary is sourced from an externally funded project must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the relevant Academic Division that the nature of their appointment means that they are allowed, and have the time available, to pursue additional research activities.

Application Eligibility

- Applications must be submitted via the University of Melbourne's SmartyGrants application portal. Signatures may be handwritten, approved digital signatures, or image files used with explicit permission of the signatory.
- All application completion and formatting requirements must be adhered to as detailed in the Guidelines.

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- Requested funding must adhere to the amounts available in this scheme.
- Applications which request funds that duplicate or supplement another current internal University of Melbourne grant, external grant or research contract will be excluded from consideration. If an applicant already holds a grant in a related area, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide sufficient information to assure that this funding is not being used to 'top-up' another existing grant.

Budget Items

Items that directly support the research program, which may be funded, are:

1. Research Assistant (Appendix B has information regarding RA costing). Research assistants can, for example,

- conduct systemic searches of the literature and file the papers;
- write an annotated bibliography of literature;
- write a literature review; analyse a set of existing data;
- conduct a policy/media/curriculum analysis (i.e., research not requiring ethics approval);
- assist in data collection for projects with ethics approval (e.g., conducting interviews);
- assist in developing tools for future research, e.g., developing a survey;
- assist in producing outputs from data, e.g., write a paper (academic or public-facing) from analysed data;
- assist in planning and organising a research event, e.g., workshop, roundtable, mini-conference.

Anticipated 2025 RA payment rates for budgeting - including oncost

Payment Type Hourly rate to staff member Hourly rate including oncost (including super)

RA 1 \$50.77 \$60.20

RA 2 \$52.42 \$62.16

RA 3 \$55.59 \$65.92

Other casual academic activity Lvl A6 (with PhD) \$70.28 \$83.34

Anticipated 2026 RA payment rates for budgeting - including oncost

Payment Type Hourly rate to staff member Hourly rate including oncost (including super)

RA 1 \$51.78 \$61.40

RA 2 \$53.47 \$63.40

RA 3 \$56.70 \$67.24

Other casual academic activity Lvl A6 (with PhD) \$71.68 \$85.00

2. Marking relief (within guidelines for Teaching and Learning).

Anticipated 2025 RA Marking buy out rates including oncosts

Payment type

Hourly rate to staff member

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Hourly rate including oncost with Super

Standard Marking

\$58.77

\$69.69

Standard Marking (PhD)

\$70.28

\$83.34

Anticipated 2026 RA Marking buy out rates

Payment type

Hourly rate to staff member

Hourly rate including oncost with Super

Standard Marking

\$59.94

\$71.08

Standard Marking (PhD)

\$71.68

\$85.00

3. Consumables.

The review committee reserves the right to make reasonable adjustments to the budget of an awarded project.

Budget items not supported:

- Chief Investigators salaries and/or on-costs.
- Teaching buyout.
- Conference/travel (Please refer to the FoE LOR - Local Operating Rule).

Once awarded, any changes to the budget must be sent to the ADR for approval.

Selection Criteria

All applications will be assessed by a review Committee chaired by the Associate Dean (Research) using the following selection criteria:

1. Researcher Development (25%)

- How the project will contribute to the researcher's career development and enhance their competitiveness in securing external funding in the future to support their research program. This includes a statement on the applicant's plans to secure funding in the future and how the proposed research will facilitate this.

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2. The Quality of the Project (30%)

- Significance of the project and the extent to which the project is soundly conceived and planned and aligns with [Advancing Melbourne 2030](#) and [MGSE Strategic Plan 2022-2026 The Time Is Now](#).

3. Impact (15%)

- What are your plans for impact that the university defines as “The effect on, change or benefit to scholarly knowledge and the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life.”

4. Feasibility (15%)*

- The extent to which the project is feasible given the timelines and budget, and the skills, experience and time commitment of the Chief Investigator and any collaborator(s).**Hurdle for funding*

5. Resources (15%)

- The extent to which the budget is justified and appropriate.

With respect to Criteria 1, 2, and 3, consideration will also be given to the likelihood that the proposed research will lead to:

- An important discovery, innovation, or solution of an important problem;
- A contribution of economic or social benefit to Australia and beyond; and
- Ongoing research collaboration with an external government organisation or industry.

Assessment and Evaluation

A committee chaired by the Associate Dean (Research) will assess applications on a competitive basis in accordance with the objectives of the Scheme and the selection criteria outlined in these guidelines.

Application

* indicates a required field

Project Details

Researcher Development Funding Proposal title: Provide a short descriptive title. Avoid the use of acronyms, quotation marks and upper-case characters. *

no more than 150 characters and no more than 20 words

Do you consent to your application being available in our grants library as an example for future applicants? *

- Yes
 No

FoE's Strategic Priorities

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Projects which advance FoE's strategic priorities and articulate [Indigenous, Diversity](#) and International such as the [International Network of Educational Institutes](#) (INEI), dimensions are strongly encouraged.

Please select which strategy, if any, your proposal is engaged with.

- Indigenous Projects which aim to advance existing commitments in research, teaching and learning, and engagement in the (Divisional) Indigenous Development Plan will be strongly encouraged.
- Diversity Projects which aim to advance priorities in research, teaching and learning, and engagement that align with the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2030, the FoE Strategic Plan and local Diversity and Inclusion strategy are strongly encouraged.
- International Projects which seek to strengthen relationships within the Asian region and with existing global networks such as the International Network of Educational Institutes (INEI), Universitas 21 and alliances of which the University is a member of will be strongly encouraged.

INEI Strategic Partnerships

If you selected the International box, does this link with any INEI partner(s)?

- The School of Education, University of São Paulo
- Ontario Institute for the Study of Education, University of Toronto
- Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University
- School of Education, Aarhus University
- Graduate School of Education, Hiroshima University
- National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technical University, Singapore
- School of Education, University of Cape Town
- UCL, Institute of Education, London
- School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

What is the relationship shared with the INEI partner? eg people, theme(s), project(s)

Must be no more than 100 words

Funding Purpose

The purpose for which these fundings are being requested: *

- A) Support for Research funding Application Development (incl. pilot research) Describe in one sentence, including the anticipated funding scheme that will be applied for
- B) Support for major publications (e.g. editing, research assistance) Describe in one sentence, including details of the journal you intend to submit to
- C) Support for collaborative research events or activities (e.g. Research workshops/symposia with major scholars) Describe in one sentence, including the intended theme of these activities, and if other scholars are to be invited, who you intend to invite
- Other:

Project Team

* indicates a required field

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Team Details

Lead Chief Investigator: This investigator must be eligible and competitive as the first-named chief investigator for an Australian Competitive Research Grant Application. *

Title	First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

FoE Academic Group/Research Centre *

Organisation Name

Email *

Must be an email address.

Date of PhD award *

Level of Appointment *

eg Level A6

Team Members (Include roles of each member of your team: Chief Investigator; Co-Investigators; Research Assistant; Project Mentor; Graduate Researchers) *

Please add each team member by title, first & last name, followed by their role (CI/Co-CI/RA/PM/GR)

Does the above include any Graduate Research Team Members? *

- Yes
 No

Graduate Research

Graduate Researcher's Name *

or N/A

Enrolled Graduate Research Thesis Title *

Enrolled Graduate Research Thesis Description *

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Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

Describe how this Researcher Development Funding project is distinct from your Graduate Research thesis, and will complement your current graduate research. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

Graduate Research team member estimated percentage of time required for Researcher Development Funding project, if successful. *

Describe as .FTE fraction

Track Record Relative to Opportunity

Track Record: For the Lead Chief Investigator and for each Team member please provide your Find An Expert Link. If any members of the team wishes for their track record to be considered with respect to the [Performance Relative to Opportunity Guidelines](#), upload details below. Maximum one page PRO statement per team member.

Find An Expert Link(s) *

Copy and paste all your links in this box

PRO Statements

Attach a file:

Maximum one page per team member

Project Proposal

* indicates a required field

AIM: Briefly describe the key idea underpinning the research activity, what is the 'big idea'? *

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Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

SIGNIFICANCE: Briefly describe how the research idea is significant, how it aligns with FoE and University of Melbourne research strengths, why it is innovative or novel, and how does it addresses an important problem *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

METHODOLOGY: Outline the planned methodology for the Researcher Development Funding Project *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

MILESTONES: Outline the key milestones for the Researcher Development Funding Project *

Word count:

Must be no more than 250 words.

ROLE OF PERSONNEL: Summarise the role, responsibilities, and contributions of each team member *

Word count:

Must be no more than 500 words.

PLANNING FOR IMPACT: [Advancing Melbourne 2030](#) places a renewed emphasis on the University of Melbourne's [research impact](#) and its potential to address and solve the difficult questions and major challenges facing Australia and the world. Please attach the [Impact Plan](#) for your Researcher Development Funding Project, from the [Impact Planner via the UoM Research Gateway](#). (See [here](#) for further details about the tool, and log in support.)

Attach a file:

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Project Budget

* indicates a required field

Type of project

Is this a team project?

- YES
- NO

Team project duration

Is this a 1 year or a 2 year project?

- 1 YEAR
- 2 YEAR

Budget Justification

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FUNDS: Please detail what the Researcher Development Funds will be used for (e.g. to enable a meeting of national CI/PIs to be held in Melbourne, research interview transcription etc.) *

Word count:

Must be no more than 250 words.

BENEFIT OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FUNDS: How will the funds be used to progress the larger research idea/proposal (e.g., Australian Competitive Research Grant funding application) *

Word count:

Must be no more than 250 words.

Budget - For an individual project

Expenditure

\$

	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

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Budget Totals for an Individual Project

Total Expenditure Amount

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Budget Year 1 - For a team based project

Expenditure

\$

Expenditure	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

Year 1 Budget Totals

Total Expenditure Amount

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Budget Year 2 - For a team based project

Expenditure

\$

Expenditure	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

Year 2 Budget Totals

Total Expenditure Amount

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Budget Exceptions

If the request for funding above \$5,000 (individual) or \$20,000 (team) - please provide justification

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Must be no more than 300 words

Certification

* indicates a required field

Section D: Certification

In submitting this application, the Lead Chief Investigator affirms: (i) at least one investigator holds a salaried academic appointment at the University of Melbourne of at least 0.5 EFT and running until at least December 2025 (ii) All proposal team members agree to participate in the peer review process, meet internal deadlines to the best of their ability and meet scheme guidelines relating to fund expenditure and reporting (iii) All proposal team members have consulted appropriately with their Supervisors/Cognate Lead or Centre Director and all have the time and basic infrastructure resources to pursue the project concerned, within the context of existing research, teaching and higher degree supervision responsibilities. *

I affirm as per the above