GCI CROSS-FACULTY SEED FUNDING SCHEME GUIDELINES

The GCI Cross-faculty Seed Funding Scheme is created in partnership with the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (FEIT), Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS), and Faculty of Science (FOS) to provide financial support to early to mid-career researchers who are employed by the University of Melbourne. The funding is for small to medium sized projects within the biomedical engineering and medtech research fields.

Open date: 3 July 2024
Closing date: 30 July 2024

Objectives

- To support researchers to build track records and research capabilities with the long-term aim of attracting external funding;
- To foster new interdisciplinary collaborations across multi faculties at the University of Melbourne;
- To promote innovative research ideas, bringing together research expertise within the biomedical engineering and medtech fields.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this scheme, an applicant must:

- Hold a salaried academic appointment of at least 0.5FTE at Level A, B or C at the University of Melbourne and at the time of application the appointment must have an end date of 31 December 2025 or beyond; and
- Have been graduated with a PhD within five years (ECRs) or fifteen years (MCRs) of the submission date of this scheme (not including career interruptions).

To be eligible for this scheme, the project must meet each of the following criteria:

- Include Chief Investigators from at least two of the three Faculties named above;
- Include a Lead Investigator from one of the three Faculties named above. The Lead Investigator is responsible for the overall project management and final reporting;
- Be new and innovative with potential to generate high research impact;
- Be relevant to biomedical engineering and medtech. For key research areas within the institute, please refer to: https://clarkinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/#research;
- Identify and target a significant external funding opportunity.
Application criteria

• Applications should include project personnel, project description, role of each CI, status of ethics approval (if any), deliverables, project timelines, intended impact from the research, detailed budget and targeted opportunity for external funding submission;
• Applications must include a 2-page CV for each Chief Investigator. The CV should include research and development experience, industry experience (if any), academic achievements and awards, community engagement and leadership potential in innovation, research and development and/or commercialisation;
• Governance of intellectual property is in accordance with the University of Melbourne’s policies and procedures: https://policy.unimelb.edu.au/MPF1320/;
• Project personnel must disclose any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest: https://policy.unimelb.edu.au/MPF1366/.

Funding

• Project funding is up to $20,000;
• Funding is for a period of 12 months (January – December 2025), with the expectation that an externally funded application submission will be made within 24 months of project commencement;
• Funding can only be spent according to the approved budget. Any variations on budget, project plans and timelines will require prior approval from the GCI;
• Funding can be used to employ research staff, purchase of equipment, lab consumables, research-related travel (max 15% of the total project funding), or other research costs directly related to the project;
• Funding cannot be used for Chief Investigators’ salaries;
• Project overspending is not supported;
• Project extension is allowed up to 6 months. A request must be sent to the GCI at least one month ahead of the initial completion date;
• Funding will only be transferred when any necessary ethics approvals have been obtained;
• Any funds unspent at the project end date must be returned.

Requirements

• Grant recipients are to provide a final report (2 pages) one month after project completion, including the project outcome, details of publications, conference papers and/or presentations, media coverage or additional grants arising from the funding;
• Project financial acquittal statements will be acquired (confidentially) from the Faculty Business Partners;
• Grant recipients are to acknowledge the GCI and faculties’ affiliation on relevant research outputs;
• Grant recipients are to become GCI members and give the GCI permission to post research project highlights on their website, annual report or other communication platforms. Refer to GCI Membership Terms of Reference;
• Grant recipients are expected to present their research project at the GCI Cross-faculty collaboration event in Oct/Nov 2024;
• Generally, successful applicants will be advised of the outcome in writing within 4 weeks after the closing date;
• If there is a change in circumstances after approval of funding, meaning that the funding is no longer required for the proposed activity, the applicant must notify us immediately.

Submission

• Application form and any supporting documents (in PDF format) to be submitted to the GCI Centre Manager, Minh Nguyen at nguyen.m@unimelb.edu.au by COB 30 July 2024;
• Your application will be received by the GCI administrative staff and checked that sufficient information has been provided for further consideration.

Contact

For further information and enquiries about the GCI Cross-faculty Seed Funding scheme, please contact the GCI Centre Manager, Minh Nguyen at nguyen.m@unimelb.edu.au or 03 8344 9630.