

Cross-faculty Seed Funding Scheme

Graeme
Clark
Institute

Research Support Initiative guidelines

Overview

The Graeme Clark Institute Cross-faculty Seed Funding Scheme has been established in partnership with FEIT, MDHS, and FOS at the University of Melbourne.

It provides financial support early to mid-career researchers to undertake projects in biomedical engineering and medtech. The scheme aims to foster collaboration, strengthen research capability, and support external funding opportunities.

Key Details

Timeline	Refer to Critical Dates noted on website here .
Funding Available	Up to \$20,000 per award (January – December 2027)
Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and mid-career researchers (≤ 15 years post-PhD) at FEIT, MDHS, or Science, University of Melbourne at ≥ 0.5 FTE • Cross-faculty collaborative project • Research relevant to biomedical engineering or with transferable impact to medtech • Has not previously received funding from this scheme
Application Requirements	Applications must include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVs for Chief Investigators • Application form (including project description, budget, ethics estate, research impact, external funding plan, 3-minute video pitch)

Further information on these details provided below.

Eligibility Requirements

Chief Investigators must meet the following conditions:

- Hold ≥ 0.5 FTE Level A-C appointment at the University of Melbourne
- Appointment extends to at least 31 December 2026 or confirmed extension by HoD
- Within 5 years (ECRs) or 15 years (MCRs) post-PhD
- Not be funded under this scheme in previous years

The project must meet the following conditions:

- Include investigators from at least two of the faculties listed above
- Include a Lead Investigator responsible for project delivery
- Limit of two applications per CI role
- 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 Requirements

- **Application Form** to be submitted as per instruction below by the specified due date, including: 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
- **2-page CV** of the CIs focussing on research capabilities, industry experience and collaboration (if any), leadership and achievements
- **3-min online video pitch:** presented by one or more CIs with up to 5 slides covering problem statement, interdisciplinary and collaborative approach, proposed solution and impact & feasibility of the project.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- **Research quality and innovation:** innovative aspects and demonstrate high-quality research outcomes or potential
- **Potential to address an unmet health/research need:** the extent to which the project addresses a clear and significant gap in health, clinical practice, or knowledge, and its potential to advance the field
- **Collaborative impact:** the strength and diversity of collaboration across disciplines and faculties, and how these partnerships enhance the project's impact
- **Feasibility of project milestones and deliverables:** the clarity, realism, and achievability of the project's milestones, timeline, and deliverables
- **Potential for future external funding and possibility for commercialisation/translation:** the likelihood that the project will lead to follow-on funding, commercialisation, or real-world application and impact
- **Pitch delivery:** the clarity, structure, and persuasiveness of the project's presentation, including the ability to communicate key ideas, significance, and impact effectively to a broad audience within a short timeframe.

Funding

- Up to \$20,000 per project (12-month duration January – December 2027)
- Funding supports staff, equipment, consumables and travel (max 15%)
- Cannot be used for CI salaries
- Any variation requires prior approval, and unspent funds must be returned
- Funding can be transferred to one nominated project account via internal journal and shared among CIs at their discretion.

Award Conditions

Successful recipients must agree to the following:

- Acknowledge the Graeme Clark Institute's affiliation on relevant research outputs originated from this funding
- Become Graeme Clark Institute members and give the Institute permission to post research project highlights on their website, annual report or other communication platforms
Refer to [Membership Terms of Reference](#)
- An externally funded application is to be submitted within 24 months of project end date (Dec 2027)
- 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.

Reporting requirements:

Successful recipients must provide the following:

- A final report to the Graeme Clark Institute one month after the project's completion
- A financial acquittal statement

- Updates on externally funded application within 24 months after the project's completion

Submission:

Applications (containing all supporting documents) should be submitted in PDF format to Institute administration staff, Deborah Mussett by the due date via email at deborah.mussett@unimelb.edu.au.
Please note, applications will be reviewed for completeness before assessment.

Enquiries

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Graeme Clark Institute Centre Manager

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