

Industry Engagement Funding Scheme

Research Support Initiative guidelines

Overview

The Graeme Clark Institute Industry Engagement Funding Scheme is a new initiative providing financial support for Early- and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) at the University of Melbourne to foster early-stage industry engagement, accelerate collaborative partnerships, and advance translational research outcomes that strengthen competitiveness for external funding.

Key Details

Funding Available	Up to \$10,000 per project with potential of additional \$5,000 to match industry funds
Eligible Applicants	ECRs - within 5 years post PhD and MCRs - within 15 years post-PhD (excluding career interruptions) employed at FEIT and MDHS (UOM)
Research Area	Biomedical engineering, MedTech, or projects with transferable relevance
Industry Requirement	At least one industry Partner Investigator (not clinical or Allied Health staff)
Collaboration Timing	Must be established within the last 4 years. New collaborations are encouraged
Funding Usage	Research staff, equipment, consumables, research costs
Not Eligible	Chief Investigator and Partner Investigator salaries
Project Duration	Funds spent within 12 months of award (Jan-Dec 2027)
Reporting Requirements	2-page report and financial acquittal due within 1 month of project completion

Further information on these details provided below.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Industry Engagement Funding Scheme, the lead applicant must:

- Be an EMCR having a salaried academic appointment of at least 0.5FTE at Level A, B or C at the University of Melbourne during the full project period of 12 months (*if the lead applicant do not have an existing contract until that time, we would require certification from their Head of Department that their appointment will be extended in line with the minimum FTE of the scheme for the project duration*)
- Be from the Faculty of Engineering and IT or Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
- Propose a project in biomedical engineering, MedTech, or a relevant transferable field. For key research areas within the Institute, please refer to: <https://clarkinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/research>
- Include at least one industry Partner Investigator (not clinical or Allied Health staff) in the application
- Collaboration between the UoM CI(s) and the industry partner must be established within the last 4 years. New collaborations are strongly encouraged
- Demonstrate that the proposal has the potential to attract future external funding.

Application Requirements

- **Application Form**
- **CVs of all Chief Investigator(s) and Partner Investigator(s) (2 pages max)**
- **Letter of support from industry partner(s) (1 page) – to include:**
 - ✓ Partner letterhead (optional)
 - ✓ Overview of the partner organisation
 - ✓ How the project aligns with their strategic priorities
 - ✓ What this collaboration could lead to in the future
 - ✓ Contributions made to the project (i.e. time, access to non-staff resources, etc)
 - ✓ Signature from delegate

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/>.

Responsible Conduct of Research Policy is in accordance with the University of Melbourne's policies and procedures: <https://policy.unimelb.edu.au/MPF1318/>

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- **Industry need and relevance**
Alignment with a clearly identified industry partner need, challenge or opportunity
- **Industry partnership strength**
Quality of the collaboration, partner commitment, and potential for an ongoing relationship
- **Research quality and applicability**
Scientific merit, innovation, and relevance of the research to the industry partner
- **Feasibility and delivery**
Clear aims, realistic workplan, appropriate budget, and achievable outcomes within 12 months
- **Translational and future potential**
Potential for practical industry outcomes, follow-on grants, commercialisation or longer-term partnership.

Funding

- Up to \$10,000 per project. Additional matched funding of up to \$5,000 may be awarded to outstanding applications that secure a cash contribution from an industry partner.
- Can be used for research staff, equipment, consumables, or other research costs, but not for Chief Investigator or Partner Investigator salaries
- Must be spent internally at the University of Melbourne within 12 months of award (Jan to Dec 2027)
- To be transferred via internal journal after ethics approval (if required) has been obtained.

Award Conditions

Successful recipients must agree to the following:

- Become Graeme Clark Institute members (UoM applicants). Refer to Membership [Terms of Reference](#)
- Submit a 2-page project report and financial acquittal within 1 month of project completion

- Complete brief annual survey on follow-on outcome of the seed funding
- Acknowledge the Graeme Clark Institute in all relevant outputs (publications, presentations, media)
- Permit the Institute to share project highlights in various media and communication channels.

Enquiries

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