**Announcement of Extraordinary Large Grant Scheme 2021**

Dean of Research Strategy, March 2021

**Background**

The 2021 Commonwealth Research Block Grant (RBG) allocated to the university includes a one-off extra Research Support Program (RSP) grant of $557,736, UD’s share of the $1bn the Morrison Government allocated to the University sector for research in 2021. This provides an extraordinary opportunity for the university to grow its research capacity strategically in support of the research pillar of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

At its meeting on 10 March 2021, on the recommendation of the Research Strategy Committee and University Executive, Council approved the expenditure of $450,000 on an extraordinary Large Grant Round in 2021. The turnaround in awarding the funding is tight, in that all projects for which funds are awarded must commence in the second half of 2021 and be completed by November 2022 and the funds fully acquitted by the University in December 2022.

| Enquiries: | Researchers are required to direct requests for information to the Research Strategy Officer, Carly Osborn [cosborn@divinity.edu.au](mailto:cosborn@divinity.edu.au) |
| --- | --- |
| Date guidelines released: | 19 March 2021 |

**Grant Guidelines**

**Timeline:**

Applications open 29 March

Information session 8 April 3-4 pm AEST (via Zoom)

Application closing date 14 May

Assessment period 17 May to 18 June

Announcement of results 25 June 2021

Project report due date 11 November 2022 (all receipts to be submitted for reimbursement by this date; report to include full account of funding expenditure against original budget)

**Eligibility:** The project Lead Investigator must be a person eligible for large grants under the current [Research Grants Policy](https://divinity.edu.au/documents/research-grants-policy/). Partner investigators and other project staff e.g. research assistants do not need to be such persons.

**Funding limits:** Min. $50,000 to max. $150,000 per application

**Assessment Weighting**:

* Investigator(s)/Capability 35%
* Project quality, innovation and benefit (including addressing specific criteria below) 55%
* Feasibility 10%

**Required criteria:** Projects must demonstrate how they

a) drive the [2021-2025 University of Divinity Strategic Plan](https://divinity.edu.au/about/vision-mission-strategy/)

b) improve ERA/EI outcomes, and

c) foster collaboration

**Desirable criteria:**

* International scholarly involvement
* collaboration with other Australian universities
* alignment with university-wide goals (SP 5.1-4)
* support for Early Career Researchers (ECRs)
* building track record of individual researchers and University reputation towards ARC (Australian Research Council) and other external funding applications
* industry partnership and co-funding
* Asia-Pacific focus

**FAQ**

**Does the current Research Grants Policy apply to this extraordinary round?**

Yes, except where specific differences are noted in this document.

**Who will decide which applications are successful?**

The University Research Grants Panel + 1 University Council member + 1 consultant from another university

**How will they make their decision?**

On the basis of the specified criteria and weightings above, using a ranking process as standard in the Research Grants Policy.

Deliberations will be informed by written assessments from independent assessors. The independent assessors will be chosen from University staff, honorary researchers, and University Council members with experience at assessing ARC grants.

**Does the project need to meet all of the desirable criteria?**

No. They are listed in no order of preference. Capacity to meet some of these criteria will increase the likelihood of success.

**What can the grant funding be used for?**

Eligible expenditure items under the current Research Grants Policy.

**The Research Grants Policy (5.4) says that ‘A person may be awarded no more than $10,000 of Large Research Grant funding within a calendar year, whether that funding is awarded individually or as part of a group’. Is a team or individual awarded a Large Grant under the ordinary grants scheme in Round 1 2021 excluded from applying? Can they apply for funding for the same project?**

No, they are not excluded. Yes, they can apply for funding for the same project. If you apply for the same research project for which a Round 1 Large Grant was awarded, and your application under the Extraordinary Large Grant scheme is successful, you will, however, be given the opportunity to surrender your Round 1 Large Grant under the ordinary scheme. You can’t hold both. If you choose to surrender the Round 1 Large Grant, any funds already expended from that grant will be acquitted against the Extraordinary Large Grant funds awarded.

**What is the relationship between the Extraordinary Large Grant scheme and the 2021 ordinary grants scheme?**

The two are independently funded. The ordinary grants scheme will continue to run in parallel, according to its usual funding limits and criteria.

**Can collaboration refer to a project that involves researchers from a single college?**

Yes. Bear in mind that single college projects may not be considered as competitive as inter-college projects or ones that engage with researchers external to the university. You need to make as compelling a case as possible as to how your project advances the Strategic Plan and ERA/EI objectives, and explain clearly why the required collaborative expertise is found within a single college.

**Can a researcher be named in more than one application?**

Yes. These are team projects. You can be involved in more than one project, provided that you are able to devote the required time to both projects, should both applications prove successful.

**Can the same research team (or a variation thereof) submit more than one application?**

Yes. The two projects must, however, be discrete and not overlap in having fundamentally the same research intent, approach and outcomes.

**What will the application form include, and where will it be available?**

An editable version of the application form is appended to this announcement. Please note that this form is for information and drafting purposes only; applications will be received through an online form, which will open on the University of Divinity website on the 29 March.

**Since these are team project applications, what additional information will I need to provide?**

All listed investigators must provide a CV. You will need to justify the inclusion of each investigator to the project, based on their qualifications and experience. CVs for other team members such as research assistants are not compulsory, but may be useful in supporting your rationale for including that team member in the project.

**Can I generate a PDF from the online application for my records?**

Yes. You will also be sent a copy of your submission by email, to confirm that it has been received for processing.

**Who approves the application for submission?**

The application must be approved by the College Academic Dean and Research Coordinator of the lead investigator of the project, as usual.

**Who can I ask for advice about the project idea and how well it meets the criteria, the strength of the team I’ve assembled, whether budget items are likely to be approved, etc?**

In the first instance, attend the information session on 8 April. If you can’t attend, a recording will be made available.

You can also arrange to meet with the Dean of Research Strategy, Prof. Wendy Mayer ([wendy.mayer@alc.edu.au](mailto:wendy.mayer@alc.edu.au), 08 71208233), as a team or individual researcher to ask questions and receive advice.

Appendix: Application Drafting Tool

Please note that submissions will not be accepted via this Word form. It is for project participants’ drafting *use only. Applications must be submitted through the online form released on 29 March at* [*https://divinity.edu.au/sgr/research-grants/internal-research-grants/*](https://divinity.edu.au/sgr/research-grants/internal-research-grants/)*.*

# PROJECT TITLE: Click or tap here to enter text.

Proposed Start Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

Proposed Completion Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

# APPLICANT NAME (LEAD INVESTIGATOR):

Click or tap here to enter text.

Please note that applicant contact details will be retrieved from the University Staff database, and all communications will go to the Applicant’s official University or College email address.

# PARTICIPANT SUMMARY:

List all Project Participants.

Participant roles may be Lead Investigators, Co-Investigators, or Research Support Staff. Research Support Staff should be listed even if not yet recruited, with ‘TBC’ in the Name column.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| NAME | CURRENT POSITION DESCRIPTION AND EMPLOYER | PROJECT ROLE |
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# PARTNER ORGANISATION SUMMARY

List any partner organisations outside of the University of Divinity.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ORGANISATION NAME | CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECT |
|  |  |
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# APPLICATION SUMMARY:

Provide an Application Summary focusing on the aims, significance, expected outcomes and benefits of this project (300 words).

Write the Application Summary simply, clearly and in plain English. Consider the following questions:

a) What specific questions will the project help to answer?  
b) What activities will you carry out to answer those questions?  
c) Why is this project needed?  
d) What concrete deliverables will you produce by the end of the project?  
e) What impact will your project have?

Click or tap here to enter text.

# INVESTIGATORS AND CAPABILITY

Attach a CV for each investigator. The CV must include current and previous appointments and research outputs.

For each listed investigator, answer:

# Investigator ROPE (Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence)

Explain the investigator’s ROPE (up to 500 words per investigator).

Provide clear information that explains the relative importance of different research outputs and expectations in he participant’s discipline/s. Note any relevant career interruptions that affect ROPE.

If this question is not relevant to a participant, for example a PI with non-academic background, include a short explanatory statement as to why this question is not applicable.

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Investigator Contribution to Project

Describe the investigator’s relevant qualifications, achievements, research impact and contributions to the field, and how they will contribute to the project (up to 1000 words per investigator).

Include evidence of experience in research training, mentoring and supervision, and the capability of the investigator to build collaborations both within Australia and internationally (where appropriate).

Click or tap here to enter text.

# PROJECT QUALITY, INNOVATION AND BENEFIT

# Project Background, Design and Activities

Describe the conceptual framework, research questions, methods, activities and timelines of the project (up to 5 pages) .

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Contribution to Knowledge

Describe the Project’s contribution to an important gap in knowledge or significant problem; its novelty/originality and innovation of the proposed research (including any new methods, technologies, theories or ideas that will be developed) (up to 1000 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Project Outputs

List the anticipated outputs for ERA/EI reporting.

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Project Benefits.

### **Essential Criteria:**

How will the project drive the [2021-2025 University of Divinity Strategic Plan](https://divinity.edu.au/about/vision-mission-strategy/)? (up to 300 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.

How will the project improve ERA/EI outcomes? (up to 300 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.

How will the project foster collaboration? (up to 300 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.

### **Desirable Criteria:**

Explain the project’s benefit to any relevant criteria (up to 300 words per criteria)

Click or tap here to enter text.

# FEASIBILITY

What support and resources will the project receive from each investigator’s home institutions? (up to 300 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.

What will each participant's time commitment be to research activities related to this project? (up to 300 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Note that feasibility assessment includes assessment of participant capability and project design as well as time and resources.

# BUDGET

Item types must be from the listed categories of eligible funded items in the Research Grants Policy, unless they are items being funded from supplementary sources. These include in-kind contributions from colleges such as academic staff salaries for time dedicated to the project, and partner organisation in-kind or cash contributions.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM TYPE** | **DESCRIPTION** | **GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED** | **SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDED**  **AMOUNT** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **T**otals |  |  |

# Justification of Grant Funding

Justify, in terms of need and cost, each budget item requested. (1-4 sentences per budget item, as many budget items as required)

*Use the same headings as in the Description column in the Budget Table of this application.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

# Supplementary Funding

Provide an explanation of how existing and partner contributions will support the proposed project. (1-4 sentences per budget item, as many budget items as required)

*Use the same headings as in the Description column in the Budget Table of this application.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

# CERTIFICATION

I certify that—

1. To the best of my knowledge all details provided in this application form and in any supporting documentation are true and complete in accordance with the grant guidelines
2. Proper enquiries have been made and I am satisfied that the participants and the organisations listed in this application meet the requirements specified in the grant guidelines
3. I will notify the University if there are changes to any named participant or organisation after the submission of this application
4. The listed participants are responsible for the authorship and intellectual content of this application, and has appropriately cited sources and acknowledged significant contributions to this application
5. To the best of my knowledge, all material personal and financial interests and Conflicts of Interest relating to parties involved in or associated with this application have been disclosed to the University.
6. I have obtained the agreement, attested to by written evidence, of all the relevant persons and organisations necessary to allow the project to proceed.
7. If this application is successful, I am prepared to have the project carried out as set out in this application and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the grant guidelines.
8. The project can be accommodated within the general facilities of the University and if applicable, within the facilities of other relevant organisations specified in this application and sufficient working and office space is available for any proposed additional staff
9. All funds for this project will only be spent for the purpose for which they are provided
10. The project will not be permitted to commence until there is an ethics plan in place to ensure that the appropriate clearances or other statutory requirements will be met before the part/s of the project that require those clearances commence
11. I consent, on behalf of all the parties, to this application being referred to third parties, who will remain anonymous, for assessment purposes
12. I consent, on behalf of all the parties, to the University copying, modifying and otherwise dealing with information contained in this application for the purpose of conducting the funding round.