Indigenous Research Initiative
Seed Funding Scheme

Guidelines for Funding in 2017

EOI Closing Date: 5 August 2016

INTRODUCTION
The Indigenous Research Initiative (IRI) is offering a competitive Interdisciplinary Seed Funding Scheme for grants of up to $50,000 to support interdisciplinary research projects in the field of Indigenous research, with the primary purpose of building capacity and supporting new and emerging areas of Indigenous research.

ABOUT THE INDIGENOUS RESEARCH INITIATIVE
The IRI was established as one of the first Research@Melbourne Hallmark Research Initiatives to oversee and strengthen interest and participation in Indigenous research by University researchers. It provides strategic support for the development of collaborative research projects both nationally and internationally that align with the University’s broader research strategy.

SEED FUNDING SCHEME OBJECTIVES
The objectives of the IRI Seed Funding Scheme are to:
- Support and give preference to new and emerging areas of Indigenous research that enhance the University’s capabilities in this area;
- Fund highly innovative small- to-medium-scale interdisciplinary research projects that show potential for future funding by granting bodies; and
- Catalyse the drawing together of academic staff from across disciplines to work on interdisciplinary problems consistent with the broad research objectives of the IRI.

FUNDING
1. Grants will be awarded to a maximum value of $50,000 and a minimum of $10,000.
2. Grants will be awarded for one year: 1 January 2017 - 31 December 2017.
3. Expenditure on equipment or conference travel should only be proposed in exceptional circumstances and a compelling justification will be required.
4. A final report must be submitted to the Indigenous Research Initiative Steering Committee on completion of the seed-funded project.

ELIGIBILITY
1. Applications must be developed by a team with a nominated Coordinating Investigator.
2. The Coordinating Investigator must hold a salaried academic appointment at the University of Melbourne of at least 0.5 EFT for the duration of the project and the reporting period (December 2017). If the Coordinating Investigator ceases employment at the University, this responsibility will be transferred to another member of the team.

Indigenous Research Initiative Seed funding scheme 2016
3. The proposed research project must substantively address areas of Indigenous research or Indigenous issues.

4. Preference will be given to teams comprised of researchers with a track record and existing UoM Indigenous partnership arrangements (examples are listed at Appendix 1). Teams should also be looking to build capacity amongst Indigenous researchers where possible. Where teams do not have this expertise they are asked to contact the IRI Steering Committee for guidance and advice (via robyn.may@unimelb.edu.au).

5. Preference will be given to research teams NOT currently funded by large external grants, and to new and emerging areas of Indigenous research.

6. Preference will be given to research addressing innovative and emerging areas of research for the University of Melbourne

7. A simple signoff process will be used. It will be assumed that in submitting an application, all project team members have consulted appropriately with their Heads and Deans and have the time and basic infrastructure resources to pursue the project concerned within the context of existing research, teaching and higher degree supervision responsibilities.

8. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present a 10-15 min Q&A session with the IRI selection panel in September.

**FUNDING RULES**

All requests for funding are to be made through the corresponding Application Form. Projects should be costed in line with University policy and are subject to final approval by the Co-Chairs of the IRI Steering Committee.

**Funds may be used for:**

- Employing Research Assistants or Research Fellows to undertake the project;
- Employing casual staff to provide development or administrative support;
- Modest and appropriate teaching or marking relief for the Coordinating Investigator and other investigators on the team (specific justification for this item is required);
- Costs associated with workshops or events, including accommodation and catering;
- Travel costs: bringing overseas or interstate industry/community partners to the workshop, and modest travel expenses for the lead University coordinator;
- Modest equipment (specific justification for this item is required) or Accessibility costs (for example, for inclusive research, events or dissemination of findings);
- Day rates as appropriate for Indigenous community members; or
- Consultant costs for workshop preparation, facilitation and/or post-workshop follow-up.

**Funds may NOT be used for:**

- Salary top-ups to existing University of Melbourne staff for additional workload;
- The extension of contracts for UoM contract staff;
- Extensive overseas travel by UoM staff; or,
- Retainer fees for consultants.

Indigenous Research Initiative Seed funding scheme 2016
RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSAL TO OTHER PROJECTS
Because this scheme is intended to fund new initiatives, applications which request funds to supplement other current internal University grants, external grants or research contracts will be excluded from consideration. However, proposals that are clearly an innovative and interdisciplinary niche within a larger program and that would be facilitated by seed funding may be eligible.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
The grant will be paid in one lump sum and contingent upon the lodging of a project report upon the completion of the project and no later than February 2018.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Expressions of Interest should contain:

a) A short project description
b) A list of team members

Submit to: robyn.may@unimelb.edu.au by COB Friday 5 August 2016

The Committee will shortlist the EOIs and invite applicants to make a formal application.

Formal Applications must be made using the attached application form. Supporting documentation should comprise statements of no more than one page on the Coordinating Investigator and each Team Member, with the following details:

a) Current position,
b) Expertise relevant to the proposed role in the current proposal, including track record of prior collaboration, and
c) A representative list of grants and/or publications in areas relevant to the proposal.

Email Subject and Applications must use the filename format: “2016-IRI-Application-JDoe”. Please supply all in a single file (PDF or DOC format).
Submit to: robynmay@unimelb.edu.au by 27 August 2016

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Suitability of the project team (30%)

- Does the proposal involve an interdisciplinary team of academic staff with appropriate and complementary expertise for the proposed project?
- Does at least one of the Chief Investigators have a track record and established networks in the Indigenous community, or what alternative arrangements have been made to receive the appropriate advice and guidance?
- Will the project assist with building capability amongst Indigenous researchers?

Project Quality (50%)

- Does the project respond to the expressed needs of the Indigenous community?
• Does the project demonstrate innovation in at least one of the following areas: new/emerging area of focus for the university; conceptual approach and analysis; potential impact and engagement?
• Is the proposal likely to generate new research activities? What are the intended short- and long-term impacts of the project?
• Does it show potential for future funding by granting bodies?

Feasibility and Outcomes (20%)

• Is the proposed project budget aligned with the claimed outcomes?
• Has the project identified and engaged with Indigenous communities to realise the project outcomes?

CONDITIONS OF GRANT

• Grant Offers must be accepted in writing by the Coordinating Investigator and their Head of Department/School.
• Successful applicants must provide appropriate acknowledgement of the Indigenous Research Initiative.

The Coordinating Investigator:

  o Will be the contact person for all administrative matters to do with the project and is responsible for internal reporting requirements.
  o Must ensure that the research is conducted in accordance with University policy, including compliance with the Code of Conduct for Research and policies on human research ethics, health and safety and intellectual property. No project may proceed unless the appropriate ethical or other required clearances have been obtained.
  o Must comply with any instructions or conditions in the Offer of Grant relating to approved items of expenditure. This includes entering into a Collaboration Agreement with external parties involved in the project.
  o Is responsible for ensuring that the expenditure of the grant is broadly in accord with the budget presented in the application and is consistent at all times with the nature and aims of the specific project approved and the objectives of the Scheme.
  o Will be required to provide reports and presentations on the progress and outcomes of the project at the times and in the form requested by the Selection Committee from time to time, with a formal final report required on the outcomes of the project by February 2018. Summaries of projects funded and project final reports may be published.

• The project must be completed by December 2017.
Appendix 1.

University of Melbourne Indigenous partnerships (examples)

The Golburn Valley Partnerships

http://www.murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au/content/pages/goulburn-valley-partnerships

Ian Potter Museum of Art

The Schools Indigenous Partnerships Program between the University of Melbourne and secondary education providers

http://www.murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au/content/pages/schools-indigenous-partnerships-program