



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION RESEARCH INITIATIVE

HALLMARK SEED FUNDING SCHEME

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS ROUND 1 (2017–2018)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Hallmark Research Initiatives are intended to enable the maturing of focused research communities that build on research strengths across the University but are broader than existing research groups. They have a distinctive interdisciplinary emphasis and are in selected areas where significant potential to grow and open up new funding opportunities has been identified. Initiatives are expected to identify and involve potential external collaborators, both research providers and/or end users.

The ESPRI^t Hallmark will develop our understanding of how participation in and engagement with social, economic and political institutions can be enabled across the life course irrespective of gender, socioeconomic status, ethnic or racial background, as well as other key characteristics. To that end, it will coordinate research efforts across at least six Faculties, bringing together researchers through a range of facilitated events designed to enable them to discover common interests and develop cross-unit and multi-disciplinary collaborations.

2. OBJECTIVES

The overarching goal of the first seed funding round (2017–2018) will be to bring together early career researchers who have not previously collaborated, with the aim of generating new knowledge, insights and ideas on topics related to economic and social participation. A key requirement for seed funding applications will be cross-disciplinary research.

3. FUNDING

Grants will be awarded from a total pool of \$55,000 and we are looking to fund between 3–5 projects in this round. Applications will be assessed by a panel from the ESPRI^t steering committee ([link to committee online](#)) with a maximum of \$20,000 per proposal.

Funding will be restricted to the following:

- Employing research assistance to facilitate the project
- Support of research enabling activities (i.e., seminars, workshops, etc.)
- Modest expenses for equipment (i.e., audio recorder for interviews) or research materials (i.e., buying ABS data, HILDA licence fees, etc.)

Note that funding towards conference travel or related support for UoM staff, internal infrastructure, and service charges are not permissible.

While applicants can request up to \$20,000 per application, final amounts awarded will be decided by the ESPRI^t steering committee.

4. ELIGIBILITY

All members of the team will need to be early career researchers (Level A, B, or C and received their PhD within the last 5 years). Researchers whose doctorate was awarded more than 5 years ago, but whose research career has been interrupted may still be eligible. Research career interruptions could include non-research employment, misadventure, illness, or family and primary carer responsibilities. Career interruptions will be confidentially assessed on a case by case basis by the ESPRI^t steering committee.

Applications are expected to be developed by a team of at least two or more researchers and each application must nominate a Chief Investigator (CI).

Applications must include at least two researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds, and from different schools or research institutes.

The CI 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 (12 months post awarding of the grant). If the CI leaves the employment of the University, CI responsibility will need to be transferred to another member of the team.

5. KEY DATES, APPLICATION FORM, AND SUBMISSION

Key dates:

- Attend networking workshop on 14/12/2017
- Applications must be submitted by close of business (5pm) 16/02/2018
- Outcomes advised by 02/03/2018
- Funds Available from 16/03/2018

Application form (in brief):

The application form consists of four elements:

- 1) Administrative summary and checklist
- 2) Proposal
- 3) Detailed Budget
- 4) Each team member must provide a statement of no more than one page:
 - a. Current position
 - b. Expertise relevant to the proposed role in the current proposal including track record
 - c. List of current grants and/or publications in areas relevant to the proposal

Submission process:

Applications must be submitted as a single pdf file via email to ESPRI-contact@unimelb.edu.au, using this format:

Email subject and filename ESPRIT-SF-R1-DDMMYY-CI initial+lastname

E.g., ESPRIT-SF-R1-160218-jsmith

6. CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT

The decision of the ESPRI^t selection committee is final.

Grant offers must be accepted in writing by the CI and the relevant head of department/school/institute.

The CI will be the contact person for all administrative matters and is responsible for internal reporting requirements.

Successful teams are expected to provide appropriate acknowledgement of ESPRI^t support when communicating research outcomes.

The CI must ensure that the research is in accordance with University policy, including compliance with research ethics and financial expenditure guidelines. No project may proceed unless the appropriate ethical or other required clearances have been obtained.

Funding is for one year only from the date of commencement. Funds must be expended by the completion date. Extensions may be granted under extenuating circumstances for research related reasons only at the discretion of the ESPRI^t steering committee.

CIs must comply with any instructions or conditions in the post award documentation relating to approved items of expenditure.

The CI is responsible for ensuring 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.

The Research Team awarded the funding will be expected to participate in a research symposium / workshop hosted by the ESPRI^t hallmark approximately six months after the grant is awarded.

The CI will be required to provide a written research and financial report on the outcomes of the project within one month of project completion or at the latest, 16/04/2019.

ESPRI^t may use titles and summaries of funded proposals and final reports for promotional purposes and publications on our website and in other communications. Please keep this in mind when determining funding proposal titles.

CONTACT:

Please email ESPRIt-contact@unimelb.edu.au for any inquiries. Please use the subject headline “seed funding r1 query”.