Overview

The Indonesia Democracy Hallmark Research Initiative (‘the Initiative’) seeks to build a more cohesive Indonesian studies community at the University of Melbourne, create new collaborations between scholars working on Indonesia, democracy or Islam, and boost external recognition of the University’s Indonesia expertise as a prelude to major grant applications, including a possible Centre of Excellence bid. As policymakers, law enforcement agencies, aid agencies and scholars struggle to meet the challenge of ‘Indonesia rising’, this initiative will provide rigorous analysis of Indonesia’s democratic system and how Islam interacts with it.

The Initiative administers Collaborative Research Grants, which allows University of Melbourne academics access to fund joint research projects with external Indonesian collaborators.

The Initiative will accept applications from the three thematic foci of the Initiative: (1) Politics, (2) Rights and (3) Islam and Democracy in Indonesia. These themes should be understood broadly, with STEM, legal and humanities approaches all encouraged.

The fund is designed to support fieldwork by University of Melbourne academic staff working on Indonesia. It is expected that part of the funds will be used to bring the collaborator to Australia at the conclusion of the project to present findings. Projects awarded will be those deemed by the selection committee most likely to meet the criteria for research excellence and capable of seeding further research.

Although applications should be oriented towards collaborative fieldwork, recognising that different researchers (and research) have different needs, applications may be made for a wide range of support. Besides travel and research assistance, applications may be made for administrative assistance, carer costs to enable research activities involving overseas travel, and any other expense which is necessary to enable applicants to achieve an excellent research outcome.

Applicants must demonstrate how the funding will lead to excellent research outcomes, particularly publication of articles in in A*/A-ranked refereed journals, publication of monographs with top-tier scholarly publishers, contribution to strong edited collections published by top-tier scholarly publishers or production of high-quality reports or submissions to government or non-governmental bodies. They must also demonstrate that the funding is likely to generate further research once the project is complete.

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 30 April 2019.

Eligibility

1.1 University of Melbourne academics holding a salaried appointment for the duration of the proposed project are eligible to apply. Applications must include an external Indonesian collaborator as a co-applicant.

1.2 Applications can be from individuals or teams, provided at least one member of the team holds a salaried appointment as an academic at the University of Melbourne.

1.3 The teams may include international or Australian researchers from outside the University and RHD students.

1.4 Both new and existing projects are eligible to receive funding.

Funding levels

Applications can be made for amounts up to $10,000 but smaller amounts are preferred.
2.1 The Selection Panel reserves the right to award a lower amount than that requested. This is a competitive process and the distribution of funds is discretionary. The Selection Committee may vary the amount awarded, taking into account the nature and scope of the proposed research project, any additional internal or external funding awarded or available to support the activity.

Budget

3.1 **Permitted items:**
1. costs associated with travel (e.g. economy flights, transfers, accommodation),
2. administrative assistance,
3. research assistance,
4. carer assistance,
5. costs to facilitate collaboration, e.g. visit from international or domestic collaborator, and
6. any other expense which is necessary to enable applicants to achieve an excellent research outcome.

3.2 **Excluded items:** teaching relief or marking assistance, salaries or stipends for applicants

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

4.1 quality of the project proposal, including the proposed research outcome;
4.2 collaborative nature of the project with the external Indonesian co-applicant;
4.3 capacity of the project to seed further research;
4.4 track record of the applicants relative to research opportunity
4.5 cost-effectiveness of the budget (value for money will be taken into consideration when reviewing applications); and
4.6 necessity, given other sources of funding available (i.e. Research Support Funds, Staff Development Fund, Faculty schemes, UoM schemes, external sources).

These criteria are intended to guide the selection committee in assessing the likelihood of the project resulting in an outstanding research outcome.

Selection procedure

Applications will be assessed by the Initiative Steering Committee. If selection committee members are current applicants or have another conflict of interest, they must remove themselves from the selection committee.

Expiry of funds

Funds granted under this scheme will expire one year after the date of award unless an extension has been granted. Applications for extension should be sent via email to Helen Pausacker, the Initiative Academic Convenor (h.pausacker@unimelb.edu.au) before the end of the grant period. If a project no longer requires funding, the recipient should advise Helen Pausacker as soon as is practicable. This is to ensure that as many projects as possible are funded.

Reporting

A short mid-term progress report (half a page) must be sent to the Initiative Steering Committee.

Six months after the end of the project, a report of at least one, and not more than two pages, must be sent to the Initiative Steering Committee outlining the aims and objectives of the project and the extent to which they have been met. Please comment on how funds were expended, the engagement and impact aspects of the project, collaboration arising from this grant and the likelihood of further research collaboration, and the likelihood of further funding opportunities arising from this research as applicable.

Copies of publications that result from the grant are to be provided to the Initiative Academic Convenor.