

BioInspiration Seed Funding Competition 2020

FAQ

What are appropriate project outcomes?

Appropriate outcomes should be realistic, giving the funding and project time frame, and reveal the potential to develop new technologies or approaches to solve a specific problem. An outcome could include the production of a workable prototype. The outcome or solution must be novel bio-inspiration that has a clear relationship with biological materials, principles or processes, rather than simply focussing on more sustainable ways to use or produce existing biologically-based technologies.

Can I submit more than one proposal?

No. We allow one entry per Team, one Team per person.

Is there a limit to the size of my Team?

No, but we would recommend keeping it to a manageable size, perhaps 2-6 members.

Can I have international members on my Team?

Yes. The only restriction on Team membership is that the Coordinating Investigator holds a salaried academic position at the University of Melbourne of at least 0.5 EFT for the duration of the project and the reporting period.

Are you expecting detailed CVs of the team members?

No, we ask for their contact details, and a statement outlining their role and how they will contribute to the project.

How strict is the application of the 5 page limit? Can we include images and sketches as additional pages?

The selection panel will read five pages only. We encourage the use of schematics and images, but these must fit within the 5 pages.

What are you looking for to be included in the Resources section of the application?

The resources section should include sources of inspiration, expertise or justification for your proposal, and could include reference to the literature; names of experts that have been consulted about the feasibility of your concept; and/or laboratory or other facilities.

What kinds of things can I use the funding for?

We allow substantial flexibility in how the funds are used, including prototype development, equipment purchase, attending or hosting workshops (including consultant costs for workshop preparation, facilitation and/ or post-workshop follow-up), travel costs (for conference attendance, or collaboration).

Can I use the funding for salary/ staff?

Funds cannot be used for salary top-ups to existing UoM staff, extension of UoM staff contracts, retainer fees for consultants, or extensive overseas travel by UoM staff. However, funds may be used for employing Research Assistants to undertake components of the project, and/or casual staff to provide development or administrative support.

Are there allowances for COVID-19 impacts?

Yes. Time-frames for reporting and use of funds will be negotiated with successful teams, depending on the impact.

Am I able to defer the prize, if awarded?

Yes. Given international travel restrictions, delays and impacts for the foreseeable future, we will allow deferment of seed funding for up to 6 months.

Do I have to have an Industry team member to submit my proposal?

No, but we will prefer teams with an industry team member and/or collaborator.