

# DEAKIN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH NETWORKS (ROUND 2 FOR 2017/2018 FUNDING)

## Background

Deakin University aims to position itself at the forefront of innovative research. It has identified the need to encourage the establishment of major, dynamic and self-sustaining multi-disciplinary, cross-University research networks that are able to forecast and respond to substantial and significant research challenges.

## Purpose

The scheme is designed to formalize new or existing research oriented interconnections within Deakin University in order to create or strengthen networks that will harness their collective talents and make major contributions towards addressing current and future research challenges.

## Objective

To foster and support multi-disciplinary Deakin University research teams that have the ability and drive to tackle issues of national or international significance and impact and both the capacity and flexibility to be responsive to emerging or unanticipated challenges. Networks funded under this scheme are expected to become self-sufficient and competitive for external funding as future Research Hubs or Research Centres.

## Aims

- To spearhead innovative University research collaborations and to establish highly productive, visionary teams that demonstrate a multi-disciplinary approach to solving large scale, significant research challenges, issues and questions
- To position the University to attract substantial, future external funding in the form of Research Centres and / or Hubs
- To build Deakin University's reputation as being innovative and able to work across disciplinary boundaries, utilising a wide range of its own research expertise to address significant, global issues to produce transformational outcomes

## Eligibility & Scheme Requirements

Proposed collaborations must be genuinely multi-disciplinary and involve Deakin University staff members from at least 2 Deakin University faculties and/or the Institute for Frontier Materials. Collaborations involving more than 2 areas will be favourably regarded.

- For the purposes of this scheme, the Institute for Physical Activity & Nutrition (IPAN) and the Deakin Institute for Healthcare Transformation (DITH) are considered part of the Faculty of Health, the Institute for Intelligent Systems Research & Innovation (IISRI) is considered part of the Institute for Frontier Materials, the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship & Globalisation (ADI), the Institute for Koorie Education (IKE) and the Centre for Research in Assessment and Digital Learning (CRADLE) are considered part of the Faculty of Arts and Education.

Core Team Leaders must be academic staff members of Deakin University employed on a fixed term or continuing basis. Staff who have outstanding reports for ANY internally or externally funded grant or fellowship are ineligible to lead or participate as part of the 'Core' team. ***NB: Inclusion of individuals with outstanding reports as a Core team member will render the entire application ineligible.*** Other participants must be Deakin University staff members and it is expected that the vast majority of the Network would be academic staff members actively involved in research.

Core Team Leaders on any application should discuss their participation with their SRC or Institute Director. They must liaise with their Faculty Associate Dean Research (ADR) and/or the Director of the Institute for Frontier Materials (IFM) when preparing an application in order to discuss the bid and the potential to collaborate with other bids known to the ADR/Director IFM or to otherwise build their proposal. Applicants should also involve a Business Development Manager from Deakin Research – Commercial, when preparing bids and it is strongly advised that a Business Development Manager be part of the working team developing the bid. Business Development Managers can help determine whether the proposed programme of research is suitable for this scheme and can discuss potential cross Deakin University links and / or industry connections that would strengthen an application.

The scheme is designed to position the University and the successful Networks to build research profile and expertise in tackling major issues in order to attract future external Research Centre and/or Hub funding. It is designed to underwrite and develop long-term, self-sustaining Networks of research excellence. Applicant teams must be able to demonstrate that their research collaboration looks beyond short term outcomes.

*NB: This scheme does not fund project oriented or short-term collaborations. It is not appropriate for proposals that focus purely on producing publications or a single project grant application. The Network must focus on becoming self-sustaining and able to demonstrate a holistic programme that will produce a range of outputs to position them to apply for substantial research funding such as a Centre of Research Excellence or similar.*

## **Funding and Application Process**

The scheme consists of two, competitive stages. Stage 1 funding will allow successful Networks to explore the potential of their proposed collaboration, refine their research questions and develop plans and strategic initiatives. Stage 2 funding will support the initiation and implementation of activities to solve current challenges and allow the team to build expertise and profile. Both stages are mandatory for this scheme. Applicants cannot apply for Stage 2 funding only.

### **STAGE 1 FUNDING:**

Teams can apply for up to \$10,000 to use between mid-September 2017 and 31 December 2017 to:

- organize and hold preparatory workshops to facilitate dialogue, determine the potential of their collective expertise and to identify and define the urgent research challenges and/or questions that their Network will focus on initially
  - NB: At least 2 workshops (initial and final) must be led by an experienced facilitator (NB: notes on the role of Facilitators are provided towards the end of this document)

- develop a comprehensive, strategic plan that the team will implement to address these challenges and to position themselves to respond to future challenges and attract external Centre/Hub funding
- prepare the Stage 2 presentation and relevant documentation if the team decides to bid for Stage 2 funding

Stage 1 therefore provides time for teams to undertake ‘blue sky’ thinking to determine whether to submit a Stage 2 application and funding to support the production of a mature plan ready for presentation and, if ultimately successful, implementation.

#### Funding can be used for:

- Facilitator costs – NB: Facilitators are mandatory for this aspect of the scheme
- Research Assistance for collating information and assisting in the preparation of the Stage 2 application or proposal ‘pitch’ and the budget
- Other reasonable costs associated with building a strong collaborative bid and developing a compelling pitch as well as an initial strategic plan

#### To apply for Stage 1 funding:

- All Core Team Leaders for the proposed Network must discuss their proposal with their Faculty ADR or Director IFM and gain nominal approval well in advance of making a submission
- Applicants must complete an Expression of Interest

### STAGE 2 FUNDING:

Funding of up to \$100,000 will be provided to teams that effectively demonstrate the significance of the research challenges their collaboration will address initially, the novelty of their approach and the potential of their Network to form a strong, competitive, future focused Centre of Research Excellence. Proposals should demonstrate how they will further the University’s capacity for innovative thinking and its ability to drive the research agenda and deliver tangible outcomes of national and international significance. Successful applicants will need to demonstrate where their collaboration sits in relation to other national and international collaborations undertaking similar work, what difference this funding will make and how the Network will generate additional income. Networks must be able to demonstrate that they are well positioned to rise and respond to future challenges. The programme of research can be of up to 2 years duration (2018 & 2019 calendar years) and it is expected that teams will demonstrate that they have leveraged additional funding from industry and other research partners to implement their plans, further their agenda and purchase necessary equipment.

#### To compete for Stage 2 funding:

Teams must:

- 2 days prior to the presentation, provide:
  - a one page document outlining the Network’s Vision, a brief summary of the proposal and a basic budget table for use by the panel
  - Attachment A: A certified list of Core Team Leaders and Team members

- Any powerpoint presentation they will be using
- Those requesting items of equipment must include Lab / Technical Manager input (Attachment B) and any quotations or other documentary support (Attachment C)
- Prepare a cogent, succinct and professional pitch of up to 10 minutes duration that will be delivered to a panel of senior staff in February 2018 (refer Key Dates). Presentations of over 10 minutes are strongly discouraged as this leaves less time for panel questions.

As a minimum, the pitch should cover:

- The Core Team Leaders and their role
- The key challenges
- The Vision and Plan (including outcomes)
- Identify what is unique and how the Network is positioned in national and international contexts
- How the team plans to use the funding and whether external funding has been leveraged
- Plans beyond the 2 years duration of the funding

Stage 2 provides funding for teams to implement their research plan and to position their teams in order to effectively compete for substantial external research funding. Applicants should note that full funding is not guaranteed and the DVCR and/or panel may recommend funding reductions.

#### Funding can be used for:

- Research Assistance
- Critical equipment required to conduct the research
  - **NB: Applicants must demonstrate that any equipment can be installed and be ready for use by 30 June 2018**
- Other reasonable costs associated with delivering the stated outcomes
- Applicants should note the following:
  - requesting more than \$100,000 is not appropriate
  - due to the duration of funding, this scheme is not suitable for requesting PhD stipends

#### Assessment Process

- Stage 1 Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be submitted by the internal closing date
  - **NB: Late applications will be rejected**
- EOIs listing Core Team Leaders who have outstanding project reports for any internal or externally funded research award will be deemed ineligible and rejected
- A list of EOIs naming the Core Team Leaders will be sent to Faculty ADRs and the Director IFM and cc'd to Deakin Research-Commercial
  - bids that are unknown to or not supported by an ADR/Director IFM may be rejected without further consideration
- The DVCR will determine which teams will be allocated Stage 1 funding

- Stage 2 documentation must be provided by the relevant internal closing date
- Up to four team representatives must be able to attend the presentation day on **Wednesday 7 February 2018** at Deakin Downtown
- The DVCR and a selected panel will undertake the final assessment

## How To Apply

1. Complete the Stage 1 Expression of Interest form
  - a. Use the following naming convention for your document
    - i. [SURNAME of primary applicant] DURN 2017 EOI eg: FIRKIN- DURN 2017 EOI
2. If invited to do so, meet & prepare the pitch and the relevant documentation

## Key Dates

DATE	DESCRIPTION
By Monday 14 August 2017	Scheme Open
<b>10am</b> Monday 11 September 2017	Deadline for Stage 1 Expressions of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit to <a href="mailto:research-grants@deakin.edu.au">research-grants@deakin.edu.au</a></li> </ul>
Monday 11 September 2017	DR-Grants distributes the list of EOIs to Faculty ADRs and the Director IFM for final approval or rejection
Friday 15 September 2017	DVCR to determine which applications will proceed
By Wednesday 20 September 2017	DR-Grants will notify applicants of outcome
<b>10am</b> Monday 5 February 2018	Deadline for providing any powerpoint presentation and for the Stage 2 documentation for circulation to Assessment Panel members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit to <a href="mailto:research-grants@deakin.edu.au">research-grants@deakin.edu.au</a></li> </ul>
Wednesday 7 February 2018	Stage 2 presentations to DVCR panel by team representatives
By Wednesday 28 February 2018	DR-Grants will notify applicants of outcome

## Important Notes on the role of Facilitators

- Facilitators can be internal Deakin University staff members or individuals external to the University but applicants should keep in mind that it can be useful to have an external facilitator who understands the bigger picture and is not constrained by prior knowledge of capability
- Applicants should think creatively about who is best placed to help them reflect on the possibilities and potential opportunities of their collaboration, taking into account the whole team
- The role of the facilitator is to challenge the team and its ideas and to push the Network to realise the full potential of its multi-disciplinary talents and the role it could and would have in responding collectively to future research challenges (either envisaged or unanticipated)
- There is no need to use a 'professional' from a consultancy firm or someone you find via an internet search or phone book unless a team feels this is ideal for them
- Applicants could look for someone who is well regarded in their field or an associated industry, perhaps an Emeritus Professor or an industry leader external to Deakin University who has demonstrated their ability to invigorate and inspire diverse research teams so that they recognize the full potential of what a multi-disciplinary team can achieve
- It does not matter if a facilitator has specific disciplinary expertise or is familiar with academia or they are more aligned with one part of the team than another or if they are completely outside your fields - as long as they are someone who can question the team and draw them together to bring out ideas and strategies that they may not have thought of in isolation
- The team should therefore look at appointing someone who is:
  - Capable of helping the team look beyond their current thinking to explore potential opportunities and/or alternate possibilities
  - Able to challenge the team to think creatively or beyond the norm
  - Experienced in workshopping ideas and pushing teams to think beyond their current horizons
  - Able to ensure the group avoids tunnel vision and/or 'group think'

## Important Notes & Conditions of Award

1. Each Core Team Leader is responsible for checking their eligibility in relation to outstanding reports. CIs should check each of their projects in RMENet to assess whether they have any outstanding reports.
  - Access RMENet via <https://rmenet.deakin.edu.au/RMENet/>
  - Select "Show my Projects"
  - Check each 'current' project to see whether they have any 'Overdue Items'.
    - Those who believe that RMENet is inaccurate should email [research-grants@deakin.edu.au](mailto:research-grants@deakin.edu.au) at least 2 weeks prior to the application submission date
2. Stage 1 funding must be fully expended by 31 December 2017. Any residual funds remaining at 1 January 2018 must be returned to Deakin Research

3. Stage 2 funding provided in 2017 must be fully expended by 31 December 2017 and any Stage 2 funding provided in 2018 must be fully expended by 31 December 2018 as there is no provision for carry-forwards and any residual funds remaining must be returned to Deakin Research
4. Any equipment purchased must be on-site, installed and ready to use by 30 June 2018.
5. All funding must be expended according to the application budgets
6. Within one month of having been advised as being successful for Stage 2 funding, Networks must provide:
  - a. a detailed project plan which includes expected outcomes and key milestones together with the proposed timelines associated with large external funding bids such as a Research Centre of Excellence or a Research Hub
  - b. a detailed budget demonstrating how the DU funds will be spent and showing the amount of cash and in-kind support leveraged from Industry Partner Organisations or other research partners and how this will be utilised