Guidelines and Selection Criteria

Deakin Science and Society Network (SSN) Project Incubator

1. **Goals of Scheme**
* To provide Deakin early- and mid-career academic researchers (EMCARs) with resources, tools and training to conduct high quality and impactful interdisciplinary research
* To increase the feasibility and impact of new research projects
* To achieve greater internal and external grant success for Deakin EMCAR projects

**B. Selection criteria**

1. The project proposed must involve interdisciplinary collaboration. This may include:
* Researchers from different disciplines working together in a team
* Researchers collaborating to bring different perspectives to solve a problem
* Researchers utilising methods normally associated with one or more disciplines to solve problems in another discipline
* One or more researchers translating innovative 'blue-sky' or applied research outcomes from one discipline into an entirely different applied research discipline.

**We specifically seek collaborations between researchers in STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and the HASS disciplines (humanities and social sciences).** Projects that involve collaboration between only STEM disciplines or between only HASS disciplines are unlikely to be successful in their applications.

1. The first listed investigator must be an EMCAR at Deakin University. EMCAR researchers are defined as up to 15 years FTE post PhD. Level E researchers are not eligible to apply. Investigators from outside Deakin University may be listed as collaborators.
2. The first lead investigator must be employed at Deakin for the expected duration of the project. Certification from relevant business units will be requested from shortlisted projects.
3. The first lead investigator cannot be someone who was a first lead investigator of a successful 2018 SSN Project Incubator Grant.
4. The project must address a significant problem.
5. The project’s aims, methods and/or design should demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach to the problem.
6. The proposed project should be aligned with at least one of the research themes of the Deakin Science and Society Network:
* Environmental Challenges
* Healthy Futures
* Indigenous Knowledges
* Data Cultures
* Future Earth

For descriptions of the research themes visit the SSN website: <https://blogs.deakin.edu.au/science-and-society-network/>

**C. Guidelines**

The project application should address the following questions:

Significant problem addressed by project (max 500 words):

* Briefly describe the significant problem your interdisciplinary team seeks to address.
* Why is it important (including potential benefits and links to industry challenges where relevant)?
* Why does it require an interdisciplinary approach?

Interdisciplinary project proposed (max 500 words):

* Briefly explain the project aims, methods and design.
* What is new or innovative about this approach to the research problem?
* Briefly outline any preliminary work, if any, that has been completed so far on this project (e.g. meetings with potential collaborators, lab work, etc.)

Expected project outcomes (max 100 words):

* Briefly outline the expected outcomes from the seed funding (publications, connections with external partners and industry, progress towards Category 1 or Category 2-4 grant applications, other funding schemes)

**D. Availability of resources and distribution**

The Deakin SSN Interdisciplinary Project Incubator will award and allocate seed funding resources of up to 10,000 AUD per project. We will seek to fund a mix of early and mid-career researchers, with up to five projects to be awarded in the 2019 round.

To develop the project management skills of Deakin University EMCARs, it is expected that any allocated funds will be held in a Deakin University account and managed by Deakin University staff members in accordance with relevant University policies and procedures.

**E. Resource allocation**

The allocated seed funding can be used in the following ways:

* Recruiting Research Assistants
* Travel expenses (Fieldwork and consultation, travel to facilitate project development, travel to meet industry partners or mentors, etc.)
* Acquiring project materials (surveys, lab materials, etc.)
* Other approved expenses

Please list any contributions from other sources (School, Faculty, Institute, external) in the budget.

Funds should ideally be used to support the development of Deakin University staff members. Applications that require funds to be allocated to travel for external collaborators or items that will be used outside of Deakin University will require strong justification.

In addition to seed funding, the SSN will also provide support in the form of mentorship and regular feedback on project development. Where possible, it will broker collaborative relationships and assist in further developing the interdisciplinary dimensions of the project.

Please note: resources allocated from this scheme cannot be used for conference attendance.

**F. Application process**

* Complete and submit the application form by **9 September** to artsed-research-grants@deakin.edu.au
* Include a one-page CV for each investigator as a single PDF in your submission. Please include a statement of the amount of FTE equivalent time elapsed since the conferral of your PhD taking into account periods of leave, time working in industry, etc.
* Shortlisted applicants will be expected to give a 15-minute presentation to an SSN selection committee in late September 2019

**G. Application timeline**

* Applications open: 12 June 2019
* Applications close: 9 September 2019
* Presentations by shortlisted candidates: late September 2019
* Final decisions and notification of successful applications: mid-October 2019

For further information or enquiries, please contact ARTSED Research Grants at artsed-research-grants@deakin.edu.au