Guidelines and Selection Criteria

Deakin Science and Society Network (SSN) Interdisciplinary Establishment Grant

1. **Goals of Scheme**

The Deakin SSN Interdisciplinary Establishment Grant supports proposals for activities by Deakin University early and mid-career academic researchers (EMCARs) aimed at establishing new interdisciplinary research collaborations.

Activities should be targeted at one or more of the following:

* Providing opportunities to communicate new ideas and create new collaborations and networks across disciplines;
* Enabling researchers to learn about methods and/or work being undertaken in different disciplines;
* Facilitating development of new interdisciplinary research collaborative relationships and projects.

**We specifically seek to support collaborations between researchers in the STEM sciences and researchers in the humanities and social sciences (HASS).** Activities aimed at collaborations between only STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines or only HASS disciplines are unlikely to be successful.

1. **Eligible Activities**

Below are **examples** of the types of activities eligible for support. Please note that **activities are not restricted to this list**, we encourage the submission of innovative ideas and proposals that create or develop interdisciplinary collaborative relationships by Deakin EMCARs. Refer also to the selection criteria to ensure your proposal will be competitive.

Provide opportunities to communicate new ideas and meet potential new collaborators from new disciplines:

* The organisation of an interdisciplinary workshop aimed at exposing participants from different disciplines to new methods, environments or ideas.
* The organisation of interdisciplinary meet-up events aimed at creating introductions and establishing new collaborative relationships and networks.

Enable researchers to learn about methods and work being undertaken in different disciplines:

* Supporting conference attendance in disciplines outside of your own to meet prospective collaborative partners and engage with researchers from different disciplines.
* The organisation of a small, interdisciplinary symposium in which researchers from different disciplines come together to present papers on a shared topic.

Facilitate development of new interdisciplinary research collaborative relationships and projects:

* Visiting research groups or individual researchers to develop new collaborations;
* Sponsorship of researcher(s) to travel to visit a Deakin researcher/research group to deliver a talk, seminar, masterclass, or workshop;
* Employment of a research assistant to conduct a literature review on a new interdisciplinary research topic in preparation for a collaborative research project (grant proposal and/or publications).
1. **Guidelines for activity proposals**

Proposals should address the following questions:

Background of the applicant and type of collaboration they seek to develop (max 500 words):

* Briefly describe your disciplinary background.
* What is the broad research topic you wish to explore through a new interdisciplinary collaboration?
* What could your own disciplinary expertise bring to the research topic?
* What kind(s) of interdisciplinary collaborations do you seek to develop?
* How could this interdisciplinary collaboration benefit the research topic?

Details of activity/activities proposed (max 500 words):

* Briefly describe your proposed activity/activities. Include details such as timing, format, duration etc.
* What are the specific aims of the activity?
* How will it create or develop new interdisciplinary collaborations? E.g. who will be included in the activity?
* How would the proposed activity benefit you (and others) as a researcher, Deakin University’s agenda and goals, and any of the Deakin SSN’s research themes?
* Briefly outline any preliminary work, if any, which has been completed so far on the proposed activity (e.g. meetings with potential collaborators, lab work, etc.).

Expected project outcomes (max 100 words):

* Briefly outline the expected outcomes from the grant (e.g. conference presentation, proposal for an SSN Interdisciplinary Project Incubator or other seed-funding scheme, completion of a literature review, plans for additional or ongoing activities). Expected outcomes will vary depending on the kind of activity/activities proposed.
1. **Selection Criteria**

Eligibility:

1. The lead applicant must be an EMCAR at Deakin University. EMCAR researchers are defined as up to 15 years FTE post PhD and Level A-D. Any additional applicants listed do not have to be Deakin employees or EMCARs; and,
2. The lead applicant 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 lead applicant cannot be someone who received a 2018 SSN Project Incubator Grant or 2018 Interdisciplinary Establishment Grant.

Eligible applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Extent to which proposed activity/activities will support development of new interdisciplinary collaborations.
2. Alignment with one or more goals of the Interdisciplinary Establishment Scheme.
3. Alignment 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/>

1. Cost effectiveness: All budget items must be clearly justified and should be proportionate to the expected impact of the proposed activity. Strong preference will be given to projects where funds primarily 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 very strong justification.

**E. Availability and distribution of resources**

The Deakin SSN Interdisciplinary Establishment Grant will award up to $25,000 in funding in the 2019 round. It is expected that funds will be allocated to a range of proposals led by a mix of early- and mid-career researchers. Individual proposals are eligible for up to $5,000 in funding. Proposals for activities of all sizes and budgets are encouraged. Co-funded projects are also eligible and encouraged.

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.

The support of Deakin SSN should be acknowledged in all materials produced for successful Establishment Grant activities.

**F. Application process**

* Include a one-page CV for each applicant 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.
* Complete and submit the application form together with the CV/s **as one pdf document** by 9 September 2019 to artsed-research-grants@deakin.edu.au
* Successful applicants will be expected to be available give a presentation at an interdisciplinary research day in 2020.

**G. Application timeline**

* Applications open: 12 June 2019
* Applications close: 9 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