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THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

International Grants Accelerator Program (IGAP) 2026

Boosting global funding
opportunities and project growth

The University of Melbourne acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

The University also acknowledges and is grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.

In making this Acknowledgment of Country we commit to respectful and responsible conduct towards all others according to the Traditional lores of this land, particularly at times of formal ceremony.

Program Overview

Driven by the Advancing Research 2030 Excellence for Impact strategy, *The International Grants Accelerator Program (IGAP)* supports University of Melbourne staff to undertake targeted international activities that strengthen engagement with international research funding opportunities.

Two streams:

1. **Academic Stream** - supports researchers to develop and submit a competitive international funding application in the 2027 calendar year through undertaking or hosting an international visit.
2. **Professional Stream** - supports professional staff to build institutional capability in international research funding through targeted activities that strengthen understanding of international sponsors, funding opportunities, partnerships and research management practices.

Applications focused on Horizon Europe opportunities are strongly encouraged.

Academic Stream

Academic Stream Purpose and Expectations

Understanding the Academic Stream



Stream Objective

Designed for researchers preparing major international grant or tender proposals due in 2027, requiring involvement of international funder.

Eligibility

Hold an active salaried appointment (0.5FTE or higher) or honorary appointment at the time of application and for the duration of the award in a University department

Need to have identified an international funding scheme that can bring \$100,000+ in funding to the University as lead or non-lead participant



Understanding the Academic Stream

Funding Amounts

The Academic stream provides travel funds for up to \$10,000 will be 50% funded by Chancellery Research and Enterprise and 50% funded by the applicant's host Faculty/Department

Eligible Activities

Main activity should be travel to meet with an international collaborator or funding agency, can be outgoing or incoming; including air fares and accommodation. Venue and associated equipment hire for workshops and events.

The IGAP-supported proposal must be submitted in line with relevant sponsor and UoM policies and procedures



Examples of eligible funders

Horizon Europe Pillar II Funding

Future potential thanks to Australia's association to Horizon Pillar II funding, see our [website](#)

These are consortia proposals needing 3 partners and targeting one of 6 clusters or mission:

- [Cluster 1: Health](#)
- [Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive society](#)
- [Cluster 3: Civil security for society](#)
- [Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space](#)
- [Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility](#)
- [Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment](#)
- [EU Missions](#)

Examples of eligible funders

- US Government sponsors (NIH, DoW, NSF etc)
- Wellcome Trust
- UKRI schemes (must have UK lead)
- Other foreign government, NFP and for-profit entities
- The Australian Centre for Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is a domestic sponsor which is eligible for IGAP support

We encourage you to use Pivot-RP to find funding opportunities that align with your work. RGC International can provide advice on eligibility of your proposed activity.



Examples of eligible activities

Eligible activities

Examples of ways IGAP can support the development of an eligible application include but are

- Visiting a program officer at an eligible funder (ACIAR, NIH, DoW, Gates Foundation) to discuss development a proposal in line with funder strategic priorities
- Visiting or hosting international collaborators to brainstorm and plan the development of an eligible proposal

Ineligible activities

IGAP funds cannot be used to support conference attendance or for direct research costs (e.g., costs to generate pilot data for a grant proposal are not allowed)

Professional Stream

Professional Stream Purpose and
Expectations



Stream Objective

The stream aims to enhance institutional ability to engage with international research funding effectively.



Eligible Activities

Activities include learning about funders, funding mechanisms, and research management practices internationally.

Engagement and Knowledge Sharing

Recipients must engage with the RGC International team before applying and propose dissemination through workshops or presentations.

Funding and Benefits

Up to AUD \$6,000 travel funding supports activities benefiting wider university communities beyond individuals.



Applicant eligibility (Professional)

Fixed term or continuing UoM appointment at 0.5FTE and Level UOM7 or higher OR employed in the research office of an MRI which administers international grant funding through UoM. RIC/MRE staff are not eligible to apply.

Discussing your plans for knowledge dissemination

Applicants to the Professional Staff stream are required to discuss their proposed activity with RGC International prior to the IGAP submission deadline for an eligibility and scope check, and to receive support in developing a knowledge dissemination plan.

Contact Trish: ric-international@unimelb.edu.au



Applying to IGAP

Key Dates, Assessment, and How to Apply



Application Preparation

Early planning and consultation with the RIC International team ensures alignment and strengthens application quality.



Submission Requirements

Applications must be submitted via SmartyGrants with all required documents and completed Authority to Submit form.

Assessment Criteria

Applications are assessed on capability, activity quality, institutional benefit, and alignment with IGAP objectives.

Key Dates and Timeline

Important dates include mid-June call opening, July info sessions, late July/August deadlines, and September outcomes.

Authority to Submit Form

Key Eligibility & Approval Requirements

Head of School/Department or Institute Director must confirm:

- The project can be supported within existing facilities and workload arrangements.
- The applicant holds an eligible academic or honorary appointment.
- The applicant's appointment will remain active for the duration of the grant period.

Funding Commitment

- Co-contributions must total at least **50% of the requested grant budget.**
- Funding can be provided by the School/Department, Faculty, Institute and/or other approved sources.
- Cost centres must be identified for all funding contributions.



Key Selection Criteria: Professional

1. Institutional Benefit & Impact (50%)

- Potential to generate valuable insights, connections and opportunities for the University.
- Strength and credibility of the proposed approach to sharing knowledge and applying outcomes across the institution.
- Demonstrated benefit beyond the individual applicant.

2. Applicant Capability (50%)

- Ability to build productive relationships and professional networks.
- Experience in sharing knowledge and translating insights into practical outcomes.
- Capacity to effectively represent the University.
- Relevant track record, achievements and demonstrated impact.

Key Selection Criteria: Academic Stream



1. Applicant Capability & Positioning

- Track record relative to opportunity and proposed activity.
- Experience leading or contributing to competitive international research proposals.
- Strength of existing engagement with project partners and research consortia.

2. Quality of the Proposed Activity

- Clearly defined and targeted to a specific funding call.
- Strong alignment with funding objectives and requirements.
- Demonstrates how the activity will strengthen application competitiveness.

3. Feasibility & Likelihood of Submission

- Readiness of the project and partnership.
- Evidence of a well-developed pathway toward submission.
- Likelihood of submitting a competitive funding application within the required timeframe.

Key Dates

Milestone	Round 1	Round 2
Call Opens	17 June 2026, 9:00 AM (Melbourne time)	10 August 2026, 9:00 AM (Melbourne time)
Scheme Information Session	1 July 2026, 1:00 PM	1 July 2026, 1:00 PM
Application Deadline	24 July 2026, 3:00 PM (Melbourne time)	3 September 2026, 3:00 PM (Melbourne time)
Outcomes Released	End of September 2026	End of November 2026
Travel Concluded & Eligible International Funding Application Submitted	By 31 December 2027	By 31 December 2027
IGAP Final Report Due	13 February 2028	13 February 2028

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