2024 Early Career Researcher (ECR) Grants Scheme
27 April 2023

Hosted by Chancellery Research and Enterprise and Researcher Development Schemes (RIC)
res-devschemes@unimelb.edu.au

Welcome and Introduction

Prof Julie McLeod
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Capability)
Early Career Researcher Grants

Kim Turner
Researcher Development Schemes
Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (RIC)

Competitive funding program for current academic staff
Identifies supports ECRs with high research potential and
Supports projects aligned with UniM priorities
Enhances competitiveness for external research funds

2024 ROUND
KEY DATES

1 MAR
- Scheme Opens
- Applicants review the scheme documentation and familiarise themselves with any faculty-specific dates or requirements

8 MAY
- Eligibility Exemption Requests due
- An EER can be submitted in specific cases where the applicant is not normally eligible

3 JUL
- Final Applications due
- Final applications are due JUN via SmartGrants. Applicants must also attach their application to a Therics Grants Workbench Submission

JUL - OCT
- Selection Process
- Applications are checked for eligibility and compliance. Eligible applications are ranked by faculties. The central selection committee meets to make final decisions for award

OCT - JAN
- Offers and Acceptances
- Outcomes are announced in October. Applicants must provide all requested acceptance details to ensure their projects can begin by January 2024
Selection Process Overview

Eligibility Review
RIC reviews each application for eligibility and compliance.

Faculty Ranking
Faculties provide a ranked list of eligible applications for the central committee review.

Central Committee Review
Each application is reviewed by at least two members of the central committee.

Central Committee Meeting
Committee selects final awards 70% as per Faculty Ranking 30% discretionary funding.

Outcome Notifications
Successful applicants are notified.

Resources

2024 SCHEME GUIDELINES
This guidelines document is the launching point for all information about the ECR Grants Program for 2024.

2024 FAQS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS
Your question-by-question guide to the ECR Grant application, to help you understand what we are looking for and create the best application.

2024 APPLICATION FORM(S)
Both the full application form and the EER Form have inbuilt instructions on how to complete each section.
Key Eligibility Criteria

**Appointment at UoM**
- Applicants must have a salaried academic appointment at UoM or one of the eligible affiliated institutions:
  - Minimum 0.5 FTE
  - From 1 Jan 2024-31 December 2024
  - If the appointment is not yet confirmed, HoD sign-off on your application is sufficient.

**Research Experience since PhD**
- PhD completed on or after 3 July 2018
  - OR
  - Prior to 3 July 2018 but you have worked less than 5 years FTE in a research organisation
  - Submit EER

**Previous Research Funding**
- No prior role as Lead CI on an ARC or NHMRC grant/fellowship
- Other prior funding is eligible but may be considered by your faculty when ranking you against other applicants to the program.

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PREVIOUS FUNDING

- I have been the Lead CI or Fellow on an NHMRC or ARC grant
  - Not Eligible
- I have received prior funding for non-research costs only (salary-only and travel-only)
  - Eligible and cannot affect how your faculty ranks your application.
- I have previously held a consultancy (fee-for-research contract) that was not obtained through a competitive process
  - Eligible and cannot affect how your faculty ranks your application.
- I have received some prior funding for research costs through a competitive (e.g., grant application) process, other than those already described:
  - Non-ARC/NHMRC
  - ARC/NHMRC, but not a Lead CI or Fellow
  - Any other domestic or international competitive grant or fellowship that included funding for research costs
  - You may still apply for the ECR Grant; however, your faculty may consider your prior research funding experience when ranking your application for the central selection committee.
PLANNING YOUR PROJECT

Aims, Significance and Outcomes
- Clear? Measurable?
- A real conceptual advance?
- An important discovery, innovative or solution of an important practical problem?
- Economic or social benefit to Australia?
- On-going research collaboration with an external organisation or industry?

Feasibility
- Method, timeline of activities
- Backup plans, contingencies?
- Will you need other experts or colleagues? External collaborators?
- Do you have all the equipment and facilities you need at GUM, or access to them elsewhere?
- Will you engage students or Research Staff?

Strategic Alignment
- What are your faculty or department’s strengths and strategic goals?
- Where and how are you building capacity for future research?
- How does your work further the University’s vision?
- Why should we invest in you? In this project?

Budget
- 35k for ECRs and 60k for STSM.
- Real-world price at time of application
- Costs directly related to the project and not to other activities
- Specific and detailed plans for the use of funds
- Use GUM Research Costing and Pricing Tool
- Value for Money

Revision
- Does your faculty/department offer any support in preparing or reviewing your application?
- Will your colleagues and mentors have time to give feedback?
- Does your HoD know you plan to apply?

You
- ROPE: Research Opportunities and Performance Evidence
- What career opportunities have you had and how did you use them to grow your experience and capacity? Did anything limit your opportunities?
- How can you best demonstrate your expertise? Publications? Projects? Leadership?
- What will you do next?

Trajectory
Your career so far, your plan for future research, and how the ECR Grant fits in.

Feasibility
How your experience, faculty, school, department and lab are set up to support this work.

Proposal and Budget
What work are you going to do and how will you make it happen?

Why?
Why this project? Why you? Why the University of Melbourne?
Q&A TIME

WITH
KIM TURNER (RIG) AND
JULIE MOLEDO (CHANCELLERY)