THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

POSTERA CRESCAM LAUDE

# 2025 Early Career Researcher (ECR) Grants Scheme

**(2024 round funding to commence in 2025)**

**14 March 2024**

**Hosted by**

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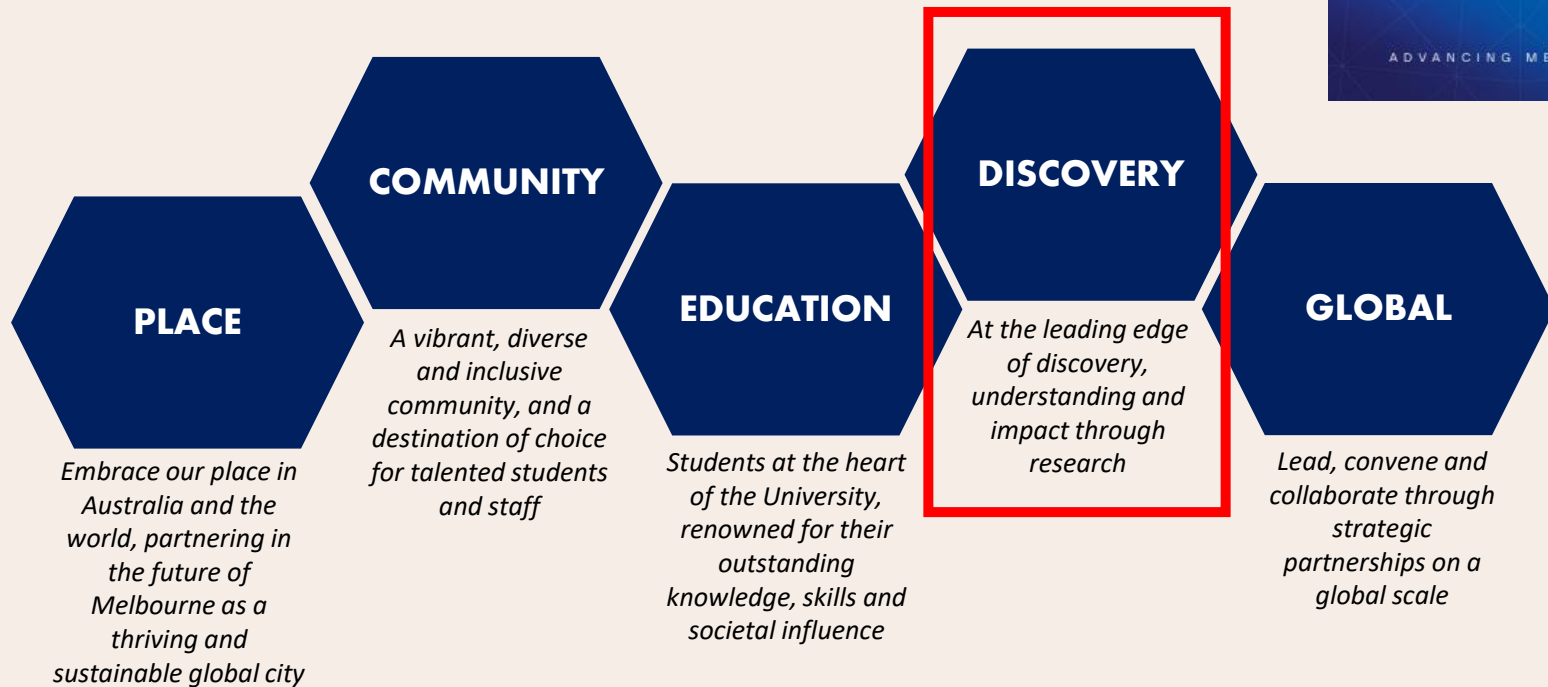
res-devschemes@unimelb.edu.au

# ECR Grant Objectives

a) Support ECRs with strong research potential to establish and progress their research careers by providing competitive funding for high-quality ECR-led research projects and pilot studies that are strategically aligned with School and Faculty research priorities and the 'Discovery' theme of **Advancing Melbourne 2030**;

b) Provide ECRs with practical experience in preparing a grant application for peer review;

c) Build ECRs' track profile and record to enhance their competitiveness in bidding for external research funds.

# Advancing Melbourne (2020-2030)

**PLACE**

Embrace our place in Australia and the world, partnering in the future of Melbourne as a thriving and sustainable global city

**COMMUNITY**

A vibrant, diverse and inclusive community, and a destination of choice for talented students and staff

**EDUCATION**

Students at the heart of the University, renowned for their outstanding knowledge, skills and societal influence

**DISCOVERY**

At the leading edge of discovery, understanding and impact through research

**GLOBAL**

Lead, convene and collaborate through strategic partnerships on a global scale

**Five intersecting themes will represent our key focus areas over the next decade**

# **Advancing Melbourne Discovery**
## Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact

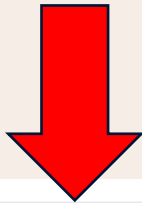### Principles of Research at Melbourne

- *Research excellence and impact are our primary indicators of success*
- *Academic freedom is paramount. Academics determine their own research path and are supported by opportunities from faculty and institutional strategy*
- *Basic research is a critical foundation for discovery and understanding*
- *We work with collaborators and partners to amplify the global impact of our research*
- *Research is conducted to the highest ethical standards with integrity and openness. This value is embedded in every aspect of our work, including in our choices of research partners and collaborators*
- *Research is integrated with the education of all our students, fostering of a spirit of enquiry and ongoing renewal of research ideas*

# Advancing Melbourne Discovery
## Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact

| Research Capability | Research Infrastructure | Research Collaboration |
|---|---|---|
| Research Quality | Interdisciplinary Research | Research Translation and Impact |

# Researcher Development

- Research Capability

  —Early Career Researcher Grants

  —Postdoctoral Fellowships (McKenzie, Puzey, Mary Lugton, etc.)

  —Research Continuity Grants

  —ARC/NHMRC Fellowship salary gap supports

  —Researcher Development Unit (RDU)

- Research Quality

  —Mock ARC-style panel reviews from UoM College of Experts

  —National Interest Test (NIT) statement workshops

  —Strategic targeted support (e.g. grant writing assistance)

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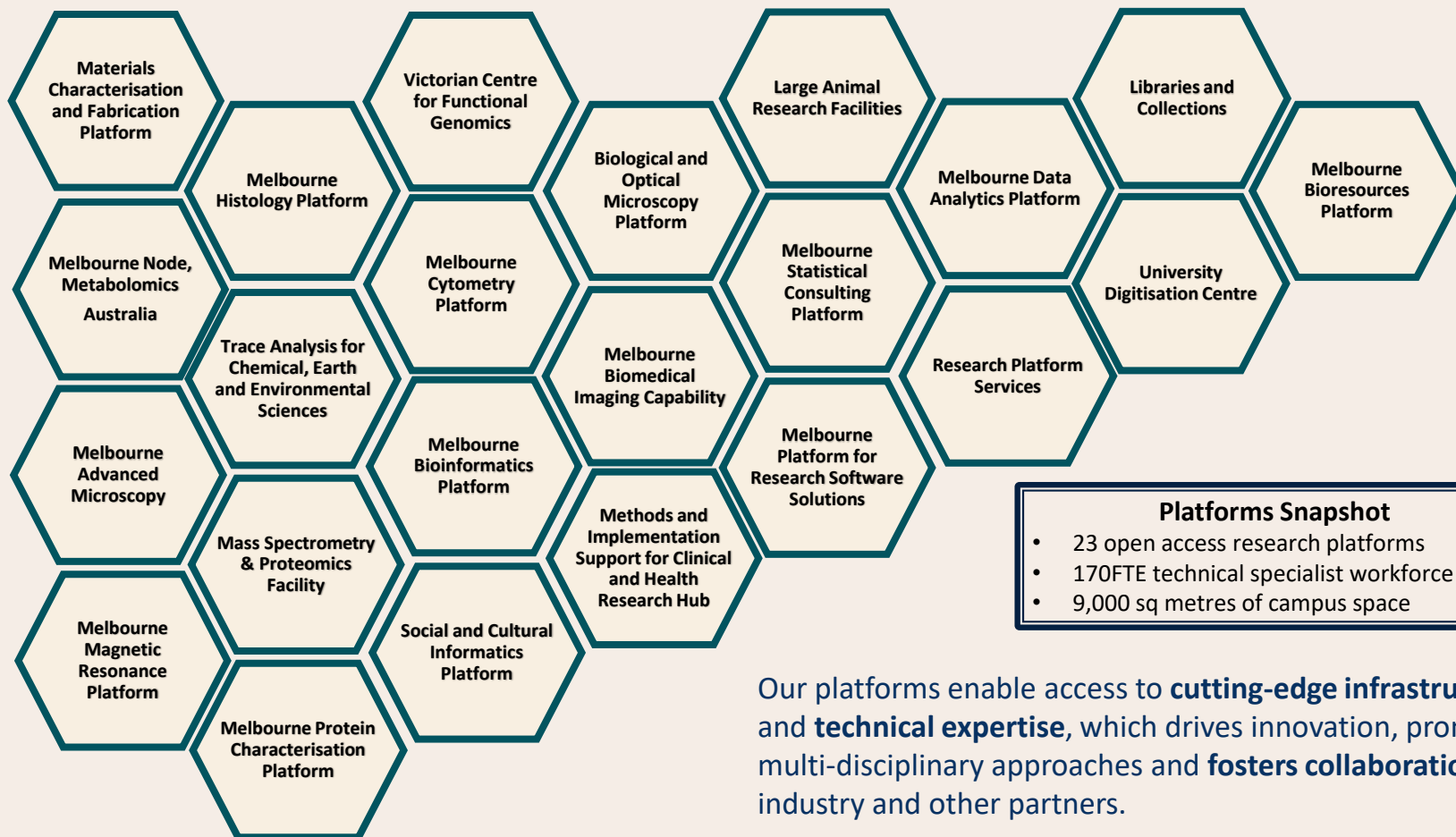# Advancing Melbourne Discovery
## Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact

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# Research Infrastructure Platforms

Materials Characterisation and Fabrication Platform

Melbourne Histology Platform

Victorian Centre for Functional Genomics

Biological and Optical Microscopy Platform

Large Animal Research Facilities

Melbourne Data Analytics Platform

Libraries and Collections

Melbourne Bioresources Platform

Melbourne Node, Metabolomics Australia

Melbourne Cytometry Platform

Melbourne Statistical Consulting Platform

University Digitisation Centre

Trace Analysis for Chemical, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Melbourne Biomedical Imaging Capability

Research Platform Services

Melbourne Advanced Microscopy

Melbourne Bioinformatics Platform

Melbourne Platform for Research Software Solutions

Mass Spectrometry & Proteomics Facility

Methods and Implementation Support for Clinical and Health Research Hub

Melbourne Magnetic Resonance Platform

Social and Cultural Informatics Platform
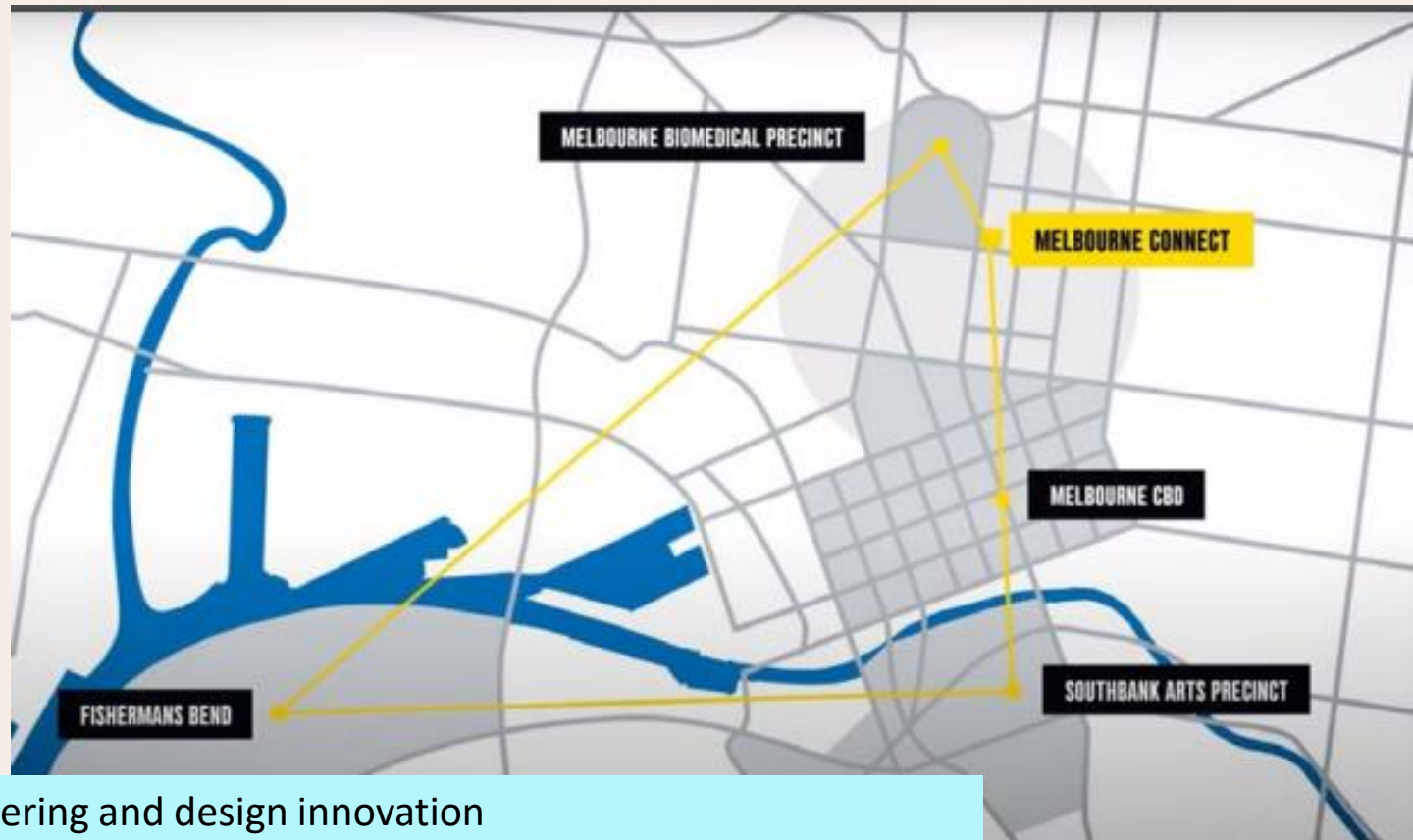
Melbourne Protein Characterisation Platform

## Platforms Snapshot
- 23 open access research platforms
- 170FTE technical specialist workforce
- 9,000 sq metres of campus space

Our platforms enable access to **cutting-edge infrastructure** and **technical expertise**, which drives innovation, promotes multi-disciplinary approaches and **fosters collaboration** with industry and other partners.

# Research Precincts



**Fisherman's Bend**-Engineering and design innovation

**Melbourne Arts Precinct**-Cultural and creative partnerships

**Melbourne City Council**-Sustainable Cities Partnership

**Melbourne Biomedical Precinct**-AIID, ACMD, Burnet move, CSL bioincubator, BioCurate

**Melbourne Connect**-digital innovation, industry links and Cremorne digital hub

**Dookie -** NorVic Food and drought hub

## Melbourne Interdisciplinary Research Institutes

Ambitious ideas. Collaboration. Local and global expertise. Solving the big challenges together.

## Hallmark Research Initiatives

Addressing significant local and global challenges that cannot be solved by one discipline alone.

**Melbourne Disability Institute**
**Melbourne Energy Institute**
**Melbourne Social Equity Institute**
**Melbourne Climate Futures**
**Indigenous Knowledge Institute**
**Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness**

**Affordable Housing**
**Anti-Racism**
**Bioinspiration**
**Creativity and Wellbeing**
**Future Food**
**Indonesia Democracy**
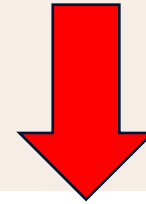**Wildfire Futures**
**Work Futures**

Ageing
Children's Lives
Computational Biology
Disability
Economic and Social Participation
Indigenous
Materials
Statelessness

**Many other affiliated Research Institutes
(e.g. Doherty, Bio21, WEHI, Peter Mac, St Vincents, etc.)**

# Advancing Melbourne Discovery
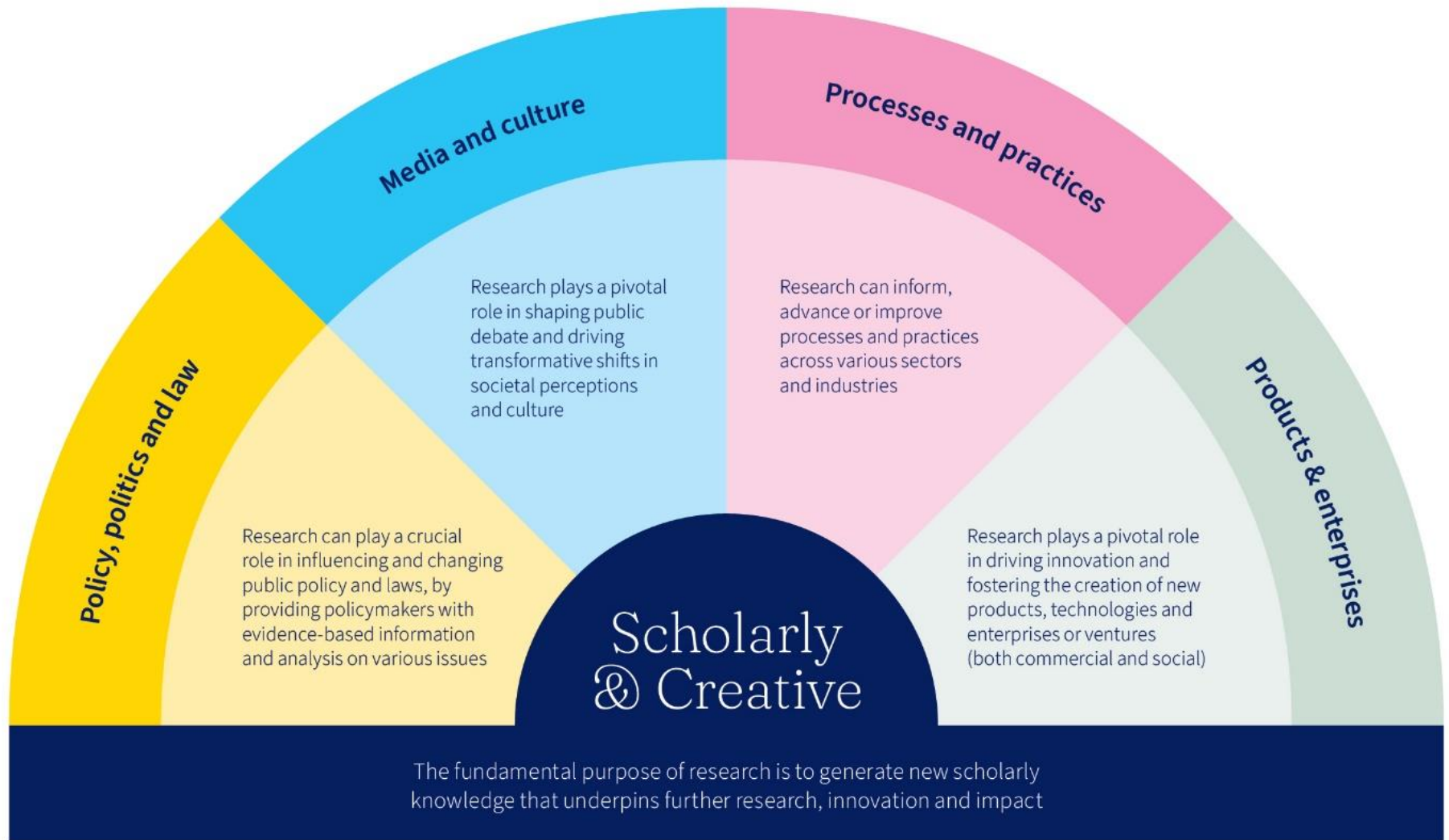## Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact

| Research Capability | Research Infrastructure | Research Collaboration |
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# **Research Impact at Melbourne**

> "The University defines research impact as the effect on, change or benefit to scholarly knowledge and the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life."

- Our *Research Impact Framework (2021)* builds and supports a culture of research impact

  — The framework was designed to be broad and inclusive, and to address the needs of diverse disciplines and approaches.

  — It considers all career stages and encompasses different pathways to impact.
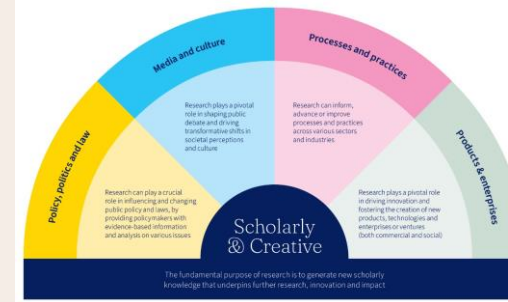
# Our Research Impact "fan" diagram



Media and culture

Processes and practices

Policy, politics and law

Products & enterprises

Research plays a pivotal role in shaping public debate and driving transformative shifts in societal perceptions and culture

Research can inform, advance or improve processes and practices across various sectors and industries

Research can play a crucial role in influencing and changing public policy and laws, by providing policymakers with evidence-based information and analysis on various issues

Research plays a pivotal role in driving innovation and fostering the creation of new products, technologies and enterprises or ventures (both commercial and social)

Scholarly & Creative

The fundamental purpose of research is to generate new scholarly knowledge that underpins further research, innovation and impact

# Facets of research impact



| Facet | Aim | What is valued? |
|---|---|---|
| Scholarly and Creative | Advance knowledge and ways of knowing | Peer judgement, prestige, rigour, expertise |
| Policy, Politics and Law | Improve politics, policy and governance | Policy attention, recommendations, improved policy outcomes |
| Media and Culture | Facilitate public debate, perceptions and culture | Accessibility, broad reach, visibility, creativity and performance |
| Processes and Practice | Improve processes and practice | Recommendations and guidance, improved practices, processes, implementation |
| Products and Enterprises | Facilitate economic resource generation | Contribution to economic system |

# Early Career Researcher Grants

Tamica Grant

**Researcher Development Schemes**

**Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (RIC)**



Competitive funding program for current academic staff

Targets ECRS with high research potential

Supports projects aligned with UoM priorities

Enhances competitiveness for external research funds

2025 ROUND

# Key Dates

**4 MAR**

**26 APRIL**

**APR - SEP**

**OCT**

**Scheme opens**

**Applications due**

**Selection Process**

**Offers and Acceptance**

Applicants review the scheme document, and familiarize themselves with any faculty specific dates or requirements

Applications are due 3 PM via SmartyGrants. Applications must also attach their application to a Themis grants workbench submission.
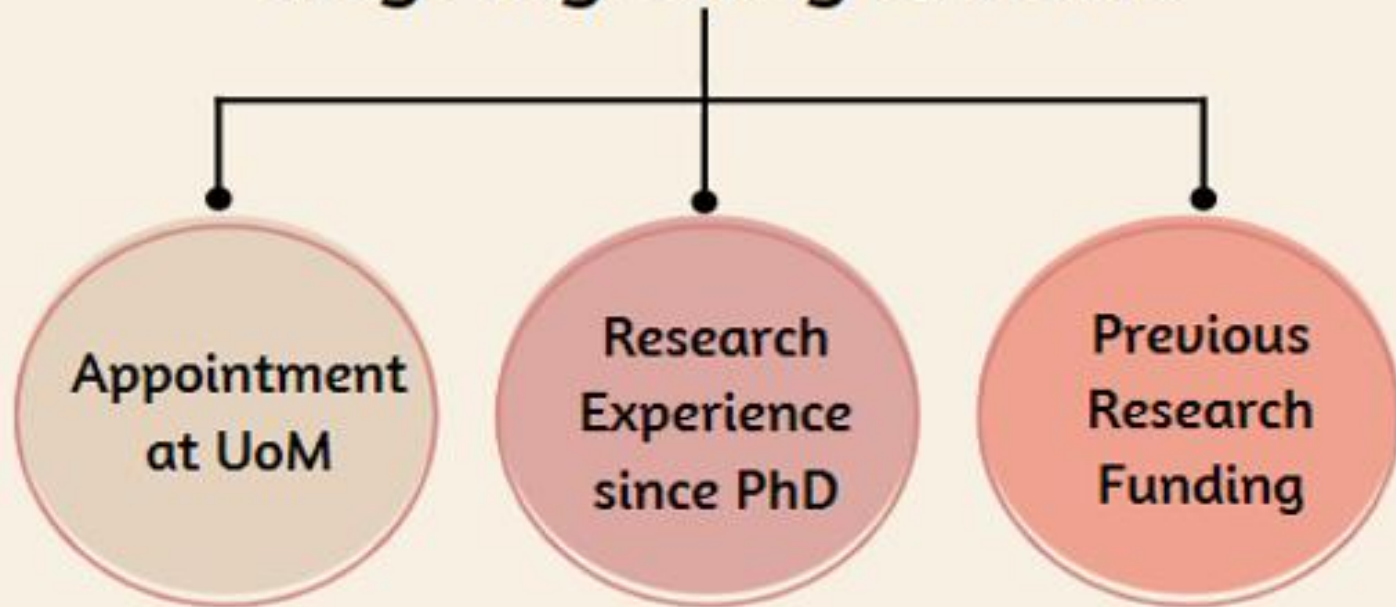
Applications are checked for eligibility and compliance. Eligible applications are ranked by faculties. The central selection committee meets to make final decisions for award.

Outcomes are announced in October. Applicants must provide all requested acceptance details to ensure their projects can begin by January 2025

# Key Eligibility Criteria



**Appointment at UoM**

**Research Experience since PhD**

**Previous Research Funding**

Applicants must hold a salaried academic appointment at UoM **or** one of the eligible affiliated institutes:
- Minimum 0.5 FTE
- From 1 Jan 2025 - 31 December 2025
- If the appointment is not yet confirmed, HoD signoff on your application is sufficient .

PhD completed on or after 26 April 2019

**OR**

Prior to 26 April 2019 but you have worked less than five years FTE in a research organisation - complete Part B1

Applicants are **ineligible** if they have previously been a CI or a major beneficiary of an ARC, NHMRC grant, or any other equivalent grant in a specific discipline or received a research capability grant or fellowship from the University of Melbourne.

# Resources

2025 SCHEME GUIDELINES
THIS GUIDELINES DOCUMENT IS THE LAUNCHING POINT FOR ALL INFORMATION OUT THE ECR GRANTS PROGRAM FOR 2025

2025 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

2025 APPLICATION FORM
THE APPLICATION FORM HAS INBUILT INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE EACH SECTION

# Selection Process Overview

**Eligibility Review**
RIC/CRE 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**
70% split in proportion to faculty research performance.
30% discretionary funding

**Outcome Notifications**
Successful and Unsuccessful applicants are notified

# Previous Funding

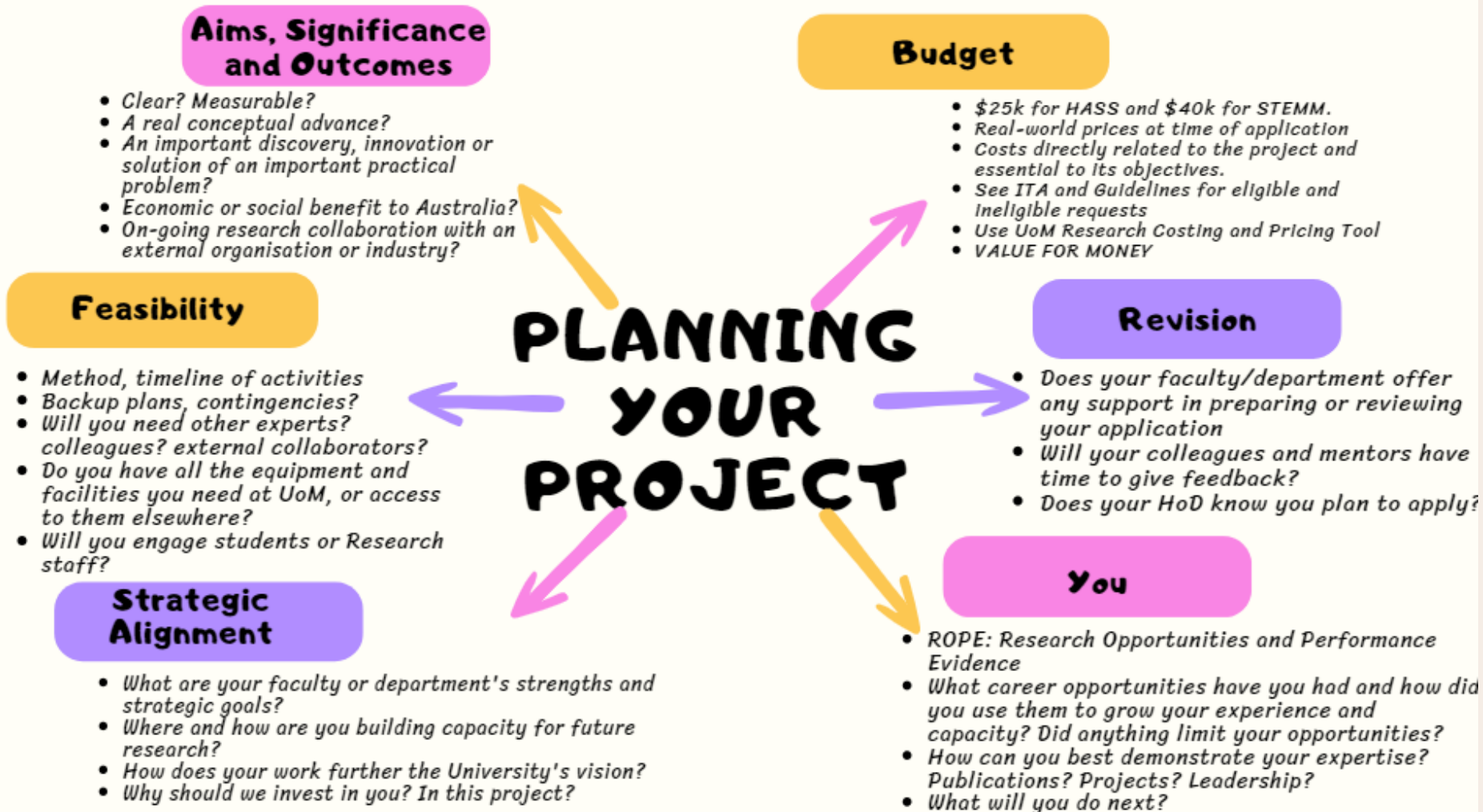| | |
|---|---|
| • I have received prior funding for non-research costs only (e.g., the Dyason - travel-only) | • You are eligible |
| • I have previously held a consultancy that was not obtained through a competitive process | • You are eligible |
| • I have been the CI or Fellow on an NHMRC, ARC grant or any other discipline-specific equivalent | • Not eligible |
| • I have previously held a University of Melbourne Postdoctoral Fellowship, including a Melbourne, McKenzie, Mary Lugton, or Puzey Fellowship. | • Not eligible |

# Selection Criteria

**a) Researcher development (40%)**

**b) Research project quality (40%)**

**c) Impact and benefit (20%)**

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

**Budget**
- $25k for HASS and $40k for STEMM.
- Real-world prices at time of application
- Costs directly related to the project and essential to its objectives.
- See ITA and Guidelines for eligible and ineligible requests
- Use UoM Research Costing and Pricing Tool
- VALUE FOR MONEY

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

**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?

**PLANNING YOUR PROJECT**

**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?

**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?

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