

International Grants Accelerator Program (IGAP) - 2026 Academic Guidelines



Background and Purpose

In support of the [Advancing Research 2030: Excellence for Impact](#) strategy, the International Grants Accelerator Program (IGAP) – Academic awards are designed to support researchers to develop and submit a competitive large international research funding application in the 2027 calendar year, through undertaking or hosting an international visit.

Applicants are required to identify the specific funding opportunity they are targeting and, where relevant, demonstrate existing collaboration with project partners and consortia. The program is not intended to support exploratory or early-stage partnership development.

Applications for 2027 Pillar II Horizon Europe destinations are strongly encouraged.

Travel Award Funding

Award funds can be used to support inbound or outbound travel and:

- are intended to support clearly defined, targeted activities aligned to a specific funding opportunity
- can be used as a contribution towards the total cost of a larger activity.

Travel awards of up to AU \$10,000 will be 50% funded by Chancellery Research and Enterprise and 50% funded by the applicant's host Faculty/Department.

For awards to Medical Research Institute staff, this 50% contribution is shared equally between MDHS and the MRI.

Eligible expenses*	Ineligible expenses
• International economy airfares • Accommodation • Venue and associated equipment hire for workshops and events • Other direct ancillary costs related to the visit	• Direct research costs (such as PI salaries/research assistance, bench fees) • Retrospective activity (any costs incurred before the date of award) • Conference attendance • Indirect costs

** Activities outside of those mentioned above will be considered based on their merits bearing in mind the objectives of the program.*

Application requirements

As part of the applications, **all applicants must** include:

- A clearly identified funding call or opportunity (e.g. a 2027 Horizon Europe Pillar II destination).
- Evidence of prior engagement with partners, where a partnership is a requirement for the application

- An articulation of the specific role of the IGAP activity in advancing the proposal.
- How their travel budget will be used as part of the IGAP Travel Award application process.

Requirements for the funding application the activity is focused on:

A funding application developed as result of the IGAP Travel Awards (Academic) must satisfy all the following criteria:

- Be submitted to an international sponsor (including international government, non-government, philanthropic, not-for-profit and industry entities) or an eligible domestic sponsor. Eligible domestic sponsors include the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).
- Be submitted in response to a competitive funding call (grants or tenders) or other solicitation. Please contact RIC International to discuss situations outside of this criterion that you believe align with the aspirations of the IGAP scheme.
- Include the University of Melbourne as the administering organisation or as non-lead participant.
- Include a proposal budget where the value budgeted for the University of Melbourne is the equivalent of at least AU \$100,000.
- Must be for a research focused activity such that the grant would be classified as HERDC income.
- Be submitted to the sponsor within the 2027 calendar year.
- Be submitted in accordance with University, sponsor and other relevant policies and processes.

Applicant Eligibility

- Applicants must hold an active appointment (0.5FTE or higher) or honorary appointment at the time of application and for the duration of the award in a University department that administers its international research funding through the University of Melbourne.
- Prior to submitting an IGAP application, applicants are required to attend an information session jointly delivered by the RIC International Grants and Researcher Development Scheme teams. For more information about the information session, please see [scheme website](#). If you have any questions about the session, please contact ric-international@unimelb.edu.au.
- Applicants must not have outstanding Progress Reports or Final Reports from any other University of Melbourne Researcher Development Scheme.

Key Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following equally weighted criteria. Applications that are incomplete, exceed the word limit or do not comply with the guidelines will not be considered.

1. **Applicant capability and positioning:** applicant's track record relative to opportunity and in the context of the proposed activity, including their demonstrated ability to lead or contribute to a competitive international research proposal, and the strength of their existing engagement with project partners and consortia.
2. **Quality of the proposed activity:** the extent to which the proposed activity is clearly defined, targeted to a specific funding call, aligned with its objectives and requirements, and appropriately designed to strengthen the development and competitiveness of the proposed application.
3. **Feasibility and likelihood of submission:** the readiness of the project and partnership, and the likelihood that a competitive funding application will be submitted within the specified timeframe.

Key Dates

	Round 1	Round 2
Call opens	17 June 2026 9.00 AM (Melbourne AEDT)	10 August 2026 9.00 AM (Melbourne AEDT)
Scheme information session	1 July, 1:00pm	1 July, 1:00pm

Application deadline	24 July 2026 3.00 PM (Melbourne AEDT)	3 September 2026 3.00 PM (Melbourne AEDT)
Outcomes released	End of September 2026	End of November 2026
Award period: Travel concluded and eligible international funding application submitted	by 31 December 2027	by 31 December 2027
IGAP Final report due	13 February 2028	13 February 2028

Application Process

This scheme is administered by the RIC Researcher Development Schemes res-devschemes@unimelb.edu.au in close partnership with the RIC International Grants team ric-international@unimelb.edu.au

The guidelines and supporting documentation can be found on the [scheme website](#). The application form is to be completed and submitted via the University's [SmartyGrants](#) platform.

To submit your application:

- Prior to submitting an application, applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with the RIC International Grants team via ric-international@unimelb.edu.au
- Complete the application form in [SmartyGrants](#) and upload a fully signed *Authority to Submit* form.
- **Submit** your application in SmartyGrants. *Please note: Applicants are not required to create a Cayuse proposal or award for this scheme.*

Recipient obligations

Travel awardees will be responsible for all aspects of their travel, including planning, obtaining necessary clearances, booking and conducting their travel in line with University policy.

Financial obligations

- Funds must be expended, and the eligible funding application submitted by the end of 2027 calendar year.
- Recipients will be required to return funds if unspent, or if any of the seven criteria for submitting an eligible funding application, listed in "Background and Purpose", are unmet by end of 2027.
- Grant recipients who cease their employment at, or affiliation with, the University of Melbourne during the award period must relinquish their award.

Reporting obligations

A final report is due six weeks after the project end date. This final report must address the objectives stated in the original proposal and include a summary of all activities and outputs, including any variations. A faculty financial report must be submitted along with the final report to show all funds have been expended. Researchers who do not submit a final report will not be eligible for future internal funding at the University of Melbourne.

- Reporting templates can be found on the Researcher Development Schemes website [here](#).
- Travel Award recipients are expected to keep RIC International informed regarding development and submission of the international grant proposal supported by IGAP.

Further information

Enquiries can be sent to the Researcher Development Schemes (RDS) team via the [Research Helpline General Enquiries](#) form. To help you with ensuring your query gets to the RDS team, please select the following options on the form:

1. When asked "My request relates to" select "Research Grants and Contracts"
2. In the "related to a GRANT/CONTRACT" question select "Grants"

3. In the "relation to a Research Grant Proposal or a Grant Award or Agreement" question select 'Research Grant Proposal'
4. Then under the description section make sure to list you are seeking assistance for an "Internal UoM" grant called the 'IGAP' and provide any relevant information regarding your query.

Privacy Policy

Information provided by applicants in their application will be made available to members of a selection committee, administrative staff and (where necessary) professional advisers in order to assess proposals. The University of Melbourne has a comprehensive [Privacy Policy](#) that covers issues related to the responsible use and management of personal information. You are entitled to access personal information held by the University of Melbourne under freedom of information laws as explained on the [University Governance website](#).