The University of Melbourne-The University of Manchester Research Fund 2018-19

Guidelines for Applicants

Deadline: Friday 13th July 2018 (Midday AEST)

The University of Melbourne and The University of Manchester Research Fund is an initiative of the respective Vice-Chancellors to enhance research collaboration between the two universities. This is the fourth call for proposals.

The purpose of the fund is to enable staff at both institutions to undertake short-term exchange visits to deepen and extend collaborative research links (not necessarily new links) with a view to enabling collaborators to subsequently make joint proposals to external funding sources for the next phase of their research.

The fund will be targeted to specific areas of overlapping/common interest. At Manchester, the priority areas are the research beacons as well as education, cities, arts and heritage, and digital humanities. At Melbourne, the focus is on the grand challenges, research institutes and hallmark research initiatives. Other areas where there is mutual interest from researchers may also be considered.

Activities and Scope of Support

Proposals may include, but are not limited to symposia, workshops, staff exchanges, giving research seminars/presentations and formation or development of a collaborative network.

The scheme does not cover salaries, equipment, scholarships, conference attendance or tuition fees.

Priority will be given to applications in the areas listed above. Applications in other academic fields with potential for sustainability of the partnership beyond the funding period are also welcome.

Eligibility

Manchester: Academic staff members from all disciplines are welcome to apply. The lead applicant must be a permanent member of staff. Post-doctoral staff are eligible to apply on the condition that the end of their post-doctoral contract is after the end of the proposed project.

Melbourne: Academic staff members holding full-time or part-time employment (minimum 0.5 FTE) from all disciplines are welcome to apply. The lead applicant must be a member of staff at Academic Level A (6) or higher. Honorary researchers can be named as non-lead participants but in doing so must demonstrate that they have capacity to fund their participation. Funds can only support expenses of UniMel employees and graduate research students.

Applications must be endorsed by the relevant Heads of Department/Units and Faculty Deans/Directors of Institutes of the home university.

Previous applicants are not eligible to apply.
Funding

The total fund across both institutions is AUD 100,000. We expect to award up to 5 grants in this round – up to $10,000 per University of Melbourne collaborator and £5,000 per University of Manchester collaborator.

Each institution will pay funds directly to its researchers. Approval of expenditure will be governed by each university for the portion of funding provided. The funding for Manchester grant holders must be spent by the end of the 18/19 financial year.

How to Apply

This is a joint call to ensure maximum alignment between research agendas. Applications should be submitted online using SmartSurvey. The application form can be previewed here. Applications should be submitted by the lead collaborator who can be based at either institution.

The University of Melbourne collaborator will need to also complete an application via Themis Submissions for Head of Department approval and email the Themis Submission number to ric-international@unimelb.edu.au

Any queries should be directed to:

University of Manchester: Joanne Jacobs, Senior International Officer  
  e: joanne.jacobs@manchester.ac.uk  t: 0161 306 1716.

University of Melbourne: Peter Blight, International Grants Officer  
  e: pblight@unimelb.edu.au  t: 8344 6160

Evaluation Criteria

Each proposal will be evaluated on the following criteria (with equal weighting):

- Quality of proposed activities
- Impact of visit/exchange (including academic gain)
- Ability to leverage future external funding

Timeline

The deadline for applications is 12:00pm AEST Friday 13th July 2018. Applicants will be notified of the results by 31 August 2018.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to submit a report outlining the activities undertaken and the actions to be taken forward within one month of completion of the project.

Other Information

University of Manchester: There is no requirement to produce a fEC costing or Research Approval form. The proposal should be entered onto the Research Management System.

You should choose the most economic and direct route for travel. As a guide for Manchester staff, the costs of hotels in Melbourne should be in the region of GBP128 per night. Details of the University’s travel insurance can be found here.

University of Melbourne: All applicants are required to enter the application into the Themis Submissions Workbench and have approved by their Head of Department by the deadline.