ECU Collaboration Enhancement Scheme

Round 1, 2016

Application Deadline 15 April 2016
Key Dates

Call for Applications: 7 March 2016
Application Deadline: 15 April 2016
Awards announced: 2 May 2016
Funds available from: 9 May 2016
All funds must be used by: 31 December 2016
Project Report Deadline: 31 March 2017

Purpose

One of the strategic priorities of Edith Cowan University (ECU) is to strengthen research capability, capacity, translation and impact. To facilitate this priority, the University’s research development strategy supports collaborative engagements. These collaborations will allow ECU to develop a vibrant research culture and environment that will enhance the University’s areas of research strength and expertise. Therefore, the University welcomes collaborative partnerships that will strategically strengthen links with national and international research organisations, including universities, industry, government and community. These collaborations should align with the University’s areas of research strength (see Appendix A) to further develop expertise that will produce quality and tangible research outcomes.

The ECU Collaboration Enhancement Scheme (CES) provides funding to support new developing initiatives that will widen the University’s research collaboration capacity both nationally and internationally. The overall aim of this program is to stimulate and facilitate high quality collaborations with external organisations that will enhance opportunities for ECU staff to develop research skills and knowledge, research publications and grants.

Applicants are encouraged to submit funding applications for innovative and sustainable programs built around collaborative research, connecting the University with the world’s leading research institutions, commercial organisations, government departments and community. Applications from Early Career Researchers or for multi-disciplinary research are particularly encouraged.
Eligibility

- The first named Chief Investigator (CI) must hold a full-time or fractional (at least 0.4 FTE) ECU appointment at the time of the award, and for the entire award period.
- The CI is responsible for the award and the submission of the final report.
- Undergraduate and postgraduate students are not eligible to be CIs.

Funding

A maximum of $10,000 will be available for each application and can be distributed between research collaboration (e.g. travel) and research consumables.

- Funding can be requested for costs directly associated with developing the collaboration; such as travel, accommodation, cost associated with workshop organisation, etc.
- Funds can be used to bring an external collaborator/s to ECU
- Funds can be used for large collaborative workshops
- Funds can be used to purchase research project consumables
- To obtain the maximum funds available, requests should clearly detail the division between research collaboration (e.g. travel) and research consumables.
- Funds cannot be requested for teaching, salaries, scholarships, computers, course fees, student travel, conferences or PhD projects.
- Only one CES award can be granted to the lead CI per calendar year
- Only economy class travel will be considered. All travel must be consistent with the Edith Cowan University Travel Policy

Application selection process

Applicants must submit the CES application form together with all requested attachments by the closing date, along with signed approval by the relevant Dean or Associate Dean (Research) of School. Applications that are incomplete or submitted after the closing date will not be considered. Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by 2 May 2016.
Selection criteria

A selection committee chaired by the Director of the Office of Research and Innovation will review all applications and recommendations will be sent to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) for endorsement and approval. The following criteria will be used:

- **Relevance (25%)**: clear indication of the strategic importance and the likelihood of tangible benefit to ECU; including the potential to advance knowledge within an area of research strength.
- **Capacity (25%)**: the ability to build research capacity and enhance research output making the best use of resources, such as knowledge, networks, skills and facilities.
- **Collaboration (25%)**: plans for the collaboration, the degree to which research quality, capacity and outcomes will be enhanced by the collaborative partners and the likelihood of sustainable long-term partnership.
- **Outputs (25%)**: the proposal identifies, and is likely to produce, measurable outputs (e.g. publications, potential and plans for external funding, skills development, participation in networks, workshops, research visits, etc).

Administration and Reporting requirements

Funding will be allocated to successful applicants from 9 May 2016 and must be expended 31 December 2016. The University will recoup any funds not spent by the end of the calendar year.

Award recipients will be required to submit a final report within three months of completion of the award or by 31 March 2017 (whichever comes first). Reports will detail all activities undertaken with CES funding and should include outcomes, such as:

- dissemination of knowledge and expertise gained from the collaboration;
- research publications and grants (planned and submitted);
- a detailed acquittal of funds
- research training and skills development; and
- an indication of the project’s sustainability.

If the final report has not been submitted to ORI on time, then ORI has the right to refuse any future CES submissions for a period of two years.
APPENDIX A: ECU AREAS OF RESEARCH ACTIVITY

- Business and Society
- Communications and Creative Arts
- Education
- Engineering
- Environment and Sustainability
- ICT
- Health and Wellness
- Security
- Law and Justice
- Social and Community
- Indigenous Culture, Education and Health