

Facilitating Research Collaboration Funding Guidelines

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) supports researchers to collaborate, develop research opportunities and to undertake world-class research. This opportunity aligns with ECU's strategic plan to undertake impactful world-class research, and the priorities of focused, world-class research, strong research culture and partnerships for research.

Funding is available for ECU researchers to establish and develop quality collaborations¹ with world-class researchers and research groups from overseas and Australian states outside of WA. This funding opportunity focuses on enabling quality research collaborations that will lead to the development of stronger productive research partnerships with clear outcomes.

Funding is available during 2024 for up to 10 packages of \$5,000. The funding is to support travel for ECU researchers to travel outside of WA, or for collaborators to visit ECU to discuss and plan future research projects and activities that will result in high-quality research outputs such as competitive grant funding submissions.

Purpose

This funding aims to encourage collaboration between ECU researchers and strategically important nationally recognised research partners at other (outside WA²) Universities or Research Institutes, with the particular goal of facilitating face-to-face discussions leading to the development of new collaborative research projects and subsequent shared grant applications.

This scheme aims to grow research excellence through partnership and engagement to sustainably increase:

- the volume and quality of collaborative focused world-class research activities
- ECU's research culture and the number of research-active staff and students
- the knowledge and skill sharing of ECU staff and higher degree by research candidates
- quality and volume of research outputs with a focus on publications in top-tier publications
- secure long-term competitive research funding through joint research grant submissions
- sustainable and purposeful industry and community linkages that benefit stakeholders
- real-world solutions of significance and benefit to society

Eligibility

Lead Applicants are required to meet the following criteria:

- must be an ECU academic staff member with at least 0.5FTE
- have an ongoing position or have a current employment contract until 31 December 2024
- applications are accepted from individual researchers or teams with a Lead Applicant required to be named who will be responsible for the funding
- only one application will be funded per Lead Applicant
- approval provided in Expression of Interest (EOI) by Associate Dean (Research) (or equivalent)

¹ Ongoing collaborations will also be considered where it can be demonstrated that this funding will contribute to growth of the research partnership.

² Funding to support discussions with researchers at any university or institution within WA will not be considered.

Funding

The funding for each collaboration is a maximum of \$5,000, and all expenditure must relate to the collaboration detailed in the application.

The funding is intended to facilitate in-depth collaboration discussions and activities but excludes conference attendance costs. The activity may coincide with a conference attendance, but all costs associated with the conference attendance require other sources of funding.

The funding will only be available to be expended in 2024, and unused funds on 31 December 2024 will no longer be available. There will be no exceptions or extensions to this funding only being available in 2024. For further advice on preparing your indicative budget, contact your School Finance Coordinator.

Indicative Budget

A maximum of \$5,000 funding is available for travel, accommodation and other incidental costs. The full amount of requested funding may not be provided.

Only economy class travel will be considered, and travel must be consistent with ECU expectations and policies relating to travel and finance. Further information is available at <https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/staff/centres/finance-and-business-services/our-services/ecu-travel>.

Applicants should provide and fully justify all costs for travel, including fares and per diem allowance for accommodation and meals. Travel (e.g., flights) should be separately itemised from per diem rates. Travel destinations should be clearly marked (e.g., Melbourne to Sydney). Estimates should be based on the Australian Tax Office reasonable travel allowances.

For further advice on preparing your indicative budget, contact your School Finance Coordinator.

Application Process

Applicants to submit a completed Expression of Interest Form to research@ecu.edu.au by **Monday 8 April 2024, 4.30 pm**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Key Dates

Call for EOIs:	Early February 2024
EOI deadline:	8 April 2024
Outcomes announced:	17 April 2024
Funds available from:	19 April 2024
All funds must be used by:	31 December 2024
Project report deadline:	31 March 2025

Assessment Process and Criteria

The Expression of Interest should be clear and succinct and no more than 4 pages. The selection panel will take into consideration:

- the purpose of the scheme
- the quality of the partnership

- collaboration plans
- value to research at ECU

Applications will be competitively reviewed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), or their delegate, and senior research staff. Consideration will be given to ensuring a spread of funding awards across disciplines, Schools, career stage, diversity, and availability of funding from already approved SRF initiatives.

Administration and Reporting Requirements

Research Services will arrange for the successful applicants to have access to funding with Finance and Business Services Centre. The funding will only be available during 2024 and must be expended by 31 December 2024.

Successful Applicants will provide a brief report to the Director, Research Services by 31 March 2025. The report will list the activities and outcomes and will be accompanied by a summary of the benefits to ECU. Failure to provide this may make the applicant/s ineligible for other SRF support in 2025.

For further information, contact research@ecu.edu.au.