**EARLY-MID CAREER RESEARCHER GRANT SCHEME**

**for funding commencing January 2026**

|  |
| --- |
| **EOI to be submitted in ECURMS: Tuesday 6 May 2025****Applications Close: 4pm Tuesday 3 June 2025**LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED |

**APPLICATION FORM – NOTES**

**Applications are invited in accordance with the guidelines described in the Edith Cowan University Early-Mid Career Researcher Grant** [**Guidelines**](https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/research/for-research-staff/research-journey/research-funding/internal-funding/early-mid-career-researcher-grant-scheme) **2026.**

The application must be completed and formatted in accordance with the following:

* Do **NOT** alter the order of the application in any way. Address each section question and headings in the order listed. Do not leave any sections blank, instead mark ‘not applicable’ or ‘N/A’ if they are not required. You **MAY** remove section instructions where page limits apply. You **MUST** remove this ‘Notes’ page prior to submitting your final application.
* Black, 12-point Arial font size should be used throughout. This includes publication lists, figure captions, table captions and table contents. Text within figures may be any font size but must be legible on a paper copy.
* Images may be included but must be clearly legible. Please note, application will be converted to a PDF document **after** submission. Images must still fall within the page limits.
* References may be in 10-point font size.
* Page margins must be at least 2cm on each side
* Do not include any additional documents other than those requested, such as an eligibility ruling and any quotes for equipment, where applicable.
* Links to external websites are not permitted, apart from references to journal articles, guidelines, government reports, datasets and other outputs that are only available online.
* Applications must be submitted as a word document, as per the guidelines, to your School’s Research Administration Coordinator, via research-preaward@ecu.edu.au, by the closing date. Late applications will not be accepted.

**Individual School Research Administration Coordinator contact details can be found within the EMCR Grant Guidelines.**

**Research Administration Team Leader:** Lorraine Dunbar – Phone: 6304 5402

**Email:** research-preaward@ecu.edu.au

**ECU EARLY-MID CAREER RESEARCHER GRANT**

**2026 APPLICATION FORM**

 **G Number (ECU RMS):**

1. **APPLICATION SUMMARY PAGE**

**STREAM:** Stream 1 Kickstarter [ ]  Stream 2 Pilot Projects [ ]

**PROJECT TITLE** (*Provide a short descriptive title of no more than 20 words.)*

*Ensure that the title is precise, informative and uses language which is comprehensible and accessible to the general public. Avoid**the use of acronyms. Avoid such fillers and non-communicating devices such as: A Study of... An Exploratory Study to Determine...An Examination of... A Method to Explore, etc.*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**CHIEF INVESTIGATOR** *(One CI allowed per application)*

**(Title, First name, Surname)**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**PROJECT SUMMARY** *(Provide a 100 word summary for an informed lay reader.)*

*Significance of the problem and the challenge/barrier to be addressed. Key aim or objective of the project.*

*The anticipated outcome; and the impact and benefit of the project – what will it deliver, why this is important and what contribution will it make.*

*Use plain English and minimise the use of terminology unique to the area of study; and avoid the use of quotation marks and acronyms and references.*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS REQUESTED:**

*(Please round to nearest dollar. Should match amount requested in Budget section)*

**$**

**RESEARCH CLASSIFICATION CODES**

*Indicate the relevant* [*Field of Research (FOR)*](http://aria.stats.govt.nz/aria/#ClassificationView:uri=http://stats.govt.nz/cms/ClassificationVersion/d3TYSTsmz2uc8CY1) *and* [*Socio-Economic Objective (SEO)*](http://aria.stats.govt.nz/aria/#ClassificationView:uri=http://stats.govt.nz/cms/ClassificationVersion/d1iJyaEzjWHJiRej) *codes, and their weightings. Please ensure that the total weighting of each totals 100%. The codes can be found on the* [*Australian Bureau of Statistics website*](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-research-classification-anzsrc/latest-release).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Field of Research (FOR) (6 digits)** | **Weight %** |  | **Socio-Economic Objective (SEO) (6 digits)** | **Weight %** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **100%** |  | **TOTAL** | **100%** |

**Type of Research**

*Indicate the relevant weighting/s for this research project. Definitions for each research type can be found* [*via this link*](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-research-classification-anzsrc/2020/anzsrc2020_toa.xlsx) *(refer to Table 1).*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type | Weight % | Type | Weight % |
| Applied |  | Pure Basic |  |
| Experimental |  | Strategic Basic |  |
| **TOTAL** |  **100%** |

**2. CHIEF INVESTIGATOR DETAILS**

*Provide details of the Chief Investigator (CI) below***.** *The CI must meet the eligibility requirements for an Early-Mid Career Researcher (see Guidelines) to be eligible for this grant*. *Please note FTE refers to the time you will spend on the project per week (must be a minimum of 0.2 FTE for the CI, which is equal to one day per week).*

|  |
| --- |
| **CHIEF INVESTIGATOR** |
| **Title, First Name, Surname** |  |
| **Email Address** |  |
| **School** |  |
| **ECU Strategic Research Institute or Centre** *(if you are a current listed member)* |  |
| **ECU Current Employment** *If your contract expires prior to 31/12/2027, have you submitted the fully signed EMCR Contract Renewal Consideration Form?* ***Noting that receipt of a grant is not a guarantee of contract renewal.*** | [ ]  Ongoing [ ]  Contract: End date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_EMCR Contract Consideration Renewal Consideration Form Signed:[ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| **Position type** | [ ]  Research Only [ ]  Teaching/Research[ ]  Other (please specify) |
| **PhD conferral date***Kickstart – on or after 3 June 2023**Pilot – between 3 June 2015 – 2 June 2023*  |  |
|  **Career Interruptions**  ‘EMCR Career Grant Career Interruption  Calculator’ *(Career Interruptions need to be approved by*  *Research Services prior to completing this*  *application. See page 5 of Guidelines.)* | Did you submit any career interruptions to Research Services: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No  |
|  **FTE on this grant** *(minimum 0.2 FTE for the* *CI per week)* |  |
|  **ORCID iD\*** *(required)* |  |
|  **Google Scholar** *(required)* |  |
|  **Scopus ID** *(required)* |  |
|  **[ECU Research Integrity Professional](https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/research/for-research-staff/research-integrity/research-integrity-professional-learning-ripl)**  **[Learning](https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/research/for-research-staff/research-integrity/research-integrity-professional-learning-ripl) (RIPL) module completed** *(Completion of this module is mandatory prior*  *to submission of your application.)* |  [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |

*\* ORCID iD (Open Researcher and Contribution ID) – ORCID is an open, non-profit, community driven effort to create and maintain a registry of unique researcher identifiers and a transparent method of linking research activities and outputs to these identifiers. All ECU researchers are expected to have an ORCID account and it is mandatory for applications under this scheme.*

[***Create and register your ORCID iD***](https://support.orcid.org/hc/en-us/articles/360006897454-Register-your-ORCID-iD)

**Online profiles**

*Do you have an online profile with any of the following websites/social media platforms? If so, insert your profile link into the appropriate box. Please remember to familiarise yourself with ECU’s* [*Media Policy*](http://www.ecu.edu.au/GPPS/policies_db/policies_view.php?rec_id=0000000366)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Academia.com** |  |
| **ResearchGate** |  |
| **LinkedIn** |  |
| **X / Twitter** |  |
| **ECU** [**Media Policy**](http://www.ecu.edu.au/GPPS/policies_db/policies_view.php?rec_id=0000000366) | [ ]  I acknowledge and have read ECU’s Media Policy |

1. **MENTOR(S)**

*Provide details of your ECU Mentor and justification of your choice below. It is expected that the mentor will be a senior colleague with relevant expertise in the field and hold an ECU academic or professional appointment. Mentors should provide guidance to the project and advice and support to assist the CI. Mentors are expected to have reviewed this application in its entirety prior to submission. It is not expected that the Mentor will have a role in the project. Additional mentor(s) may be included, where appropriate, from industry or other research institutions. The choice of any additional mentors must also be justified.*

**Primary Mentor**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Surname** | **First Name** | **School** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Justification of choice:***(no more than 100 words)* |  |
| Primary ECU Mentor Declaration: | *I acknowledge that I have read this application and agree that if successful I will provide advice and guidance to the CI for the duration of the project.*Signature: ………………………………………………  |

**Other Mentors:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Surname** | **First Name** | **School/Organisation** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Justification of choice:***(no more than 100 words)* |  |

*Additional table(s) only required if more than one mentor.*

1. **RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT** *(maximum of one page – instructional text does not count towards page limit)*

*Describe how YOU are supported by your TEAM (infrastructure/funding/mentoring, collaborations), SCHOOL (successful research environment, prior track record in area, mentoring, funding), and UNIVERSITY (Strategic Research Funding, internal grants, grant management and ethics etc.). Include in this section any other ECU staff and/or international/national collaborators, other than your Mentor(s), who will be providing advice and support with aspects of the research methodology and approach.*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **RESEARCH PROPOSAL** *(maximum five pages – none of the instructional text will count towards the page limit)*

*Refer to the Guidelines for details of the requirements for each section.*

***IMPORTANT:*** *Applicants must take note that applications are not assessed by experts in the field and therefore need to ensure that the proposal is understandable to a broad audience. Use of overly technical language, or language specific to a particular discipline, along with jargon and acronyms should be avoided.*

*Please adhere to the formatting requirements outlined on the notes page of this form. Address each heading, do not change the headings or order of the headings. A maximum of five pages is allowed from ‘Project Quality and Innovation’ to ‘Communication of Results’ (inclusive).*

**PROJECT QUALITY AND INNOVATION**

**BACKGROUND:** *(What research has been done so far and what is the problem not yet solved by current research?)*

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** *(Briefly describe the project’s purpose, scope and context.)*

**AIMS, SIGNIFICANCE AND INNOVATION:** *(What are the aims this research project will address? How is this project making advances in the research field and how significant are these advances?)*

**APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY**

**PROJECT METHODOLOGY:** *(Provide details of the research framework, concepts, methods and or analysis that will be used to conduct the project. Ensure these align with the Aims)*

**FEASIBILITY:** *(Outline how the aims are achievable within the proposed time frame, given the skills, experience and time commitment of* *the Chief Investigator. Also explain how access to participants, focus groups, consumer groups, critical equipment or infrastructure will be facilitated to achieve the project objectives.)*

**DESCRIPTION OF PERSONNEL:** *(Briefly describe key skills and knowledge of the CI that will support this project, and outline what aspects of the project will the CI be responsible for and which aspects will they seek assistance with, such as through hiring an RA.)*

**COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS:** *(How will the results of this project be shared with the research community and/or end users?)*

1. **REFERENCES** *(maximum two pages)*

*This reference list is NOT included in the five-page limit and the font may be reduced to 10pt.*

1. **MILESTONES**

*Consider required approvals\*, creation/recruitment of positions, data collection, analysis and report writing. Please insert/delete rows as required.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Milestones** | **Timeline** |
| 1.  | *January 2026* |
| 2.  |  |
| 3.  |  |
| 4.  |  |
| 5.  |  |
| 6.  |  |
| 7.  |  |
| 8.  |  |
| 9.  |  |
| 10.  |  |
| *11. Final Report submitted to Research Services* | *June 2027* |

*\*If you require ethics or other approvals external to ECU (such as hospitals, schools, or community approvals) and this is unlikely to fit within the 18-month project time frame, the project is not feasible within the scope of this scheme. If you have existing external-to-ECU approvals in place, please specify above as a milestone as at the grant start date of 1 January 2026.*

1. **BUDGET**

**Budget items**

***Do not include GST or Research Support Costs/USC****.*

***Refer to Guidelines*** *for budget items supported under this scheme. Do not include justification for budget items in this section.*

*The budget should be realistic,* ***value for money*** *and needs to match the methodology. Do not aim for the maximum amount if it is not needed. An example is available* [*here.*](https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/research/for-research-staff/research-journey/research-funding/internal-funding/early-mid-career-researcher-grant-scheme)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Year 1***(to be expended by 31/12/26)* | **Year 2***(to be expended by 30/06/27)* | **Total amount requested** *(round to nearest dollar)* |
| **ECU Personnel** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Equipment***(over $1000 only)* |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Maintenance****/Consumables***(incl. equipment under $1000)* |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Travel** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Other***(ex. Gift cards/honorariums)* |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** *(max amount of $40,000)* | **$** | **$** | **$TOTAL**  |

*\*Total must equal that shown on the application summary page*

1. **JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET REQUESTED**

*Fully justify each budget item requested in terms of need and cost, explaining the requirement for the individual items, with reference to the research plan. (Maximum one page for this section – instructional text does not count towards page limit) NOTE: Teaching buyout will be considered in exceptional circumstances only and with appropriate justification.*

**ECU Personnel:**

**Equipment:**

**Maintenance/Consumables:**

**Travel:**

**Other:**

1. **TRACK RECORD STATEMENT** *(maximum 1/2 page – instructional text does not count towards page limit)*

*Provide a track record statement outlining your career and contributions to the field, relative to opportunity.*

*Relative to your opportunity to conduct research (e.g. career interruptions) includes information about your contributions to your research field more broadly, especially leading to a translational benefit; collaborations; community engagement; professional involvement (committees, conference organisation, invitations, etc); supervision of HDR candidates and research staff; involvement in peer review (manuscripts and grants).*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS** *(maximum 250 words)*

*Outline up to 5 career highlights, including a short context statement for each, where relevant.*

*Content may include prizes, awards, industry engagement, keynote and speaker addresses, research income, discipline specific accolades, intellectual property, supervision, creative arts research outputs, or any other career or research opportunity highlight.*

|  |
| --- |
| 1.2.3.4.5. |

1. **FUTURE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT** *(maximum 1/2 page - instructional text does not count towards page limit)*

*Describe how the project fits into longer term research plans and will build your research track record. Describe how the project will lead to submission of an application to an external funding scheme and how this project will improve your competitiveness for external funding. Please specify target funding bodies/schemes and anticipated submission date of future external funding applications as required by this scheme. (Refer to Guidelines for detailed instruction)*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **PUBLICATION**

*List refereed publications of the Chief Investigator in reverse date order, under the following headings: Books; Book Chapters; Journal Articles; Refereed Conference Papers, Other. Mark with an asterisk (\*) those publications relevant to this proposal. Do not include submissions in preparation. For any items that are ‘In Press’ please provide date of acceptance.*

|  |
| --- |
| **Books:****Book Chapters:****Journal Articles:****Refereed Conference Papers:****Other Publicly Available Publications (major exhibitions, compositions or performances)** |

1. **RESEARCH SUPPORT**

*Please provide details for all research grants held (past, current, requested) by the Chief Investigator from 2024-2028 in reverse chronological order. Include all grants that the CI is listed on, regardless of role i.e.: Chief Investigator/Co-Investigator/Associate Investigator/Partner Investigator etc. Do not include any Expression of Interest (EOI) applications.*

***This proposal must be listed first****. Indicate with a yes/no (Y/N), any support that is* ***related*** *to this project. Support types: ‘P’ for past support; ‘C’ for current support; and ‘R’ for requested support. Round funding amounts to the nearest thousand ($’000).*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** (List all CIs, project title, funding agency, and scheme) | **Related?** | **Support Type**P, C, or R | **2024**$’000 | **2025**$’000 | **2026**$’000 | **2027**$’000 | **2028**$’000 |
| *Example:* ***Smith, B.****, Project Title, Funding Body, Funding Body Scheme* | *Y* | *R* |  |  |  | *40* |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

*Add more lines as necessary*

1. **RELATED APPLICATIONS**

*Have you submitted an application/s for this project or similar, to another funding agency? If so, briefly explain the relationship between those applications and this application.*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. **SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**

*Save your application using the following naming convention: ‘RMS G Number’ ECU EMCR, Last Name, First Name STREAM X (i.e.: G1008000 ECU EMCR, White, Walter STREAM 1)*

*Once completed, please send the application form to your Research Administration Coordinator (RAC) at* *research-preaward@ecu.edu.au* *by* ***4pm Monday 20 May 2025*** *for internal review.*

*The RAC will review your application in accordance with the guidelines, confirm budget approval, Associate Dean (Research) (or delegate) approval and submission. You will be notified if your application requires revision prior to the closing date of 3rd June 2025.*

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

*Research Administration Coordinator to complete this section after the final application has been submitted for internal review.*

EOI submitted in RMS by deadline: YES [ ]  / NO [ ]

Career Interruption approved: YES [ ]  / NO [ ]  / N/A [ ]

Contract Renewal Consideration Form: YES [ ]  / NO [ ]  / N/A [ ]

Mentor signed declaration: YES [ ]  / NO [ ]

Finance approval received: YES [ ]  / NO [ ]

The internal review/RAC deadline was met: YES [ ]  / NO [ ]

 If NO, date received:

Date final version submitted to Research Services: