Early Career Researcher Grant Application

* indicates a required field

Information Before Completing the Grant Application

The Early Career Researcher Grant aims to support early career researchers demonstrating clear evidence of high research potential to progress their research careers and enhance competitiveness in applying for external research funding.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Please ensure you have read and understood the Early Career Researcher Grant Scheme Guidelines and FAQ/Instructions to Applicants.
- Use the Faculty Certification Form template available on the scheme website to secure support of the School, Department or Medical Research Institute (MRI) you are applying to.
- For applicants based at eligible affiliated MRIs, the Faculty Certification Form must be signed by the appropriate affiliated Director or delegate. If awarded, the MRI is required to provide a co-contribution of up to $20,000 (50% of application budget up to $40,000)
- You will be required to upload the signed certification into this application before submitting.
- Eligibility exemption requests must be made as part of this Application. Exemption requests made outside the Application form will not be considered.
- A Themis Grant submission is required for all applicants. The status of the workbench submission should be 'Forwarded to HoD' by end of submission day.
- Incomplete applications or declined eligibility exemptions will not be progressed for further assessment.
- **Applications must comply with the formatting, page and word limit requirements stated in the Application Form. Please ensure that you meet these requirements, _as non-compliance risks your application being deemed ineligible for consideration_. This is particularly important with regards to the page length of CVs and Project Descriptions.**

Save as you go: Manually save your work as you progress through the application.

Part A . Administrative Summary

Applicant Details *

Title	First Name	Last Name

Applicant Primary Phone Number *

Applicant Primary Email (Please double check your primary email by clicking on the hyperlink

https://sso.unimelb.edu.au/enduser/settings

found on the right, under the text box.) *

Are you currently employed by the University of Melbourne? *

○ Yes, I am a continuing staff member (full time or fractional) at the University of Melbourne with a research appointment of at least 0.4FTE at Level A, B or C.

○ Yes, I am a current fixed-term staff member (full time or fractional) at the University of Melbourne with a research appointment of at least 0.4FTE at Level A, B or C that will be extended to cover the duration of my grant project period.

○ Yes, I am a continuing or fixed-term staff member at the University of Melbourne at Level A, B or C and I have confirmation of future capacity for research at 0.4FTE (or equivalent/averaged over the grant period) from 2 January 2026 or earlier, and extending over the duration of my grant project.

○ No, I am not currently employed with the University of Melbourne but, if successful, I have confirmation of a future research appointment of at least 0.4FTE at Level A, B or C from 2 January 2026 or earlier that covers the duration of my grant project period.

○ No, I am not currently employed by the University of Melbourne.

Are you an honorary staff member of the University of Melbourne? *

○ Yes, I am an honorary staff member of the University of Melbourne, employed at one of the following eligible affiliated research institutes: The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre; The Florey; The Bionics Institute; The Baker Institute; Orygen; Melbourne Business School; The Centre for Eye Research Australia.

○ No.

Applicant Gender *

☐ Woman ☐ Man ☐ Prefer not to say ☐ Non-binary/gender diverse

Other

No more than 1 choice may be selected.
There is an optional field to add self entered response.

Do you identify as Indigenous? *

With regards to Australia, Indigenous refers to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) peoples.

A1. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

The University of Melbourne is interested in supporting research and researchers equitably and inclusively. The following questions will assist the various ECR Grant selection committees to understand how well your proposal aligns with institutional strategic aims to support equity, diversity and inclusion.

Please select the options relevant to your background/experience: *

☐   Indigenous researcher
☐   Researcher with a disability
☐   A researcher who has experienced career disruptions in the last five years
☐   Minority researcher in your discipline (e.g. woman in STEM)
☐ Other:

☐   None of the above
☐   Prefer not to say
*'Other' may be used for free text answers.

Please select the options that are relevant to your ERC Grant project: *
☐   The project involves Indigenous knowledge or research that has significance or relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities
☐   The project involves interdisciplinary collaboration
☐   The project involves cross-faculty collaboration within the University
☐   None of the above

A2. Host Faculty

At The University of Melbourne, 'Faculty' refers to Faculties and Graduate Schools.

Schools, Departments and Centres sit within these Faculties. You will need to select both the Faculty and School, Department, or Centre that you are applying to work in.

You may select more than one department only if this project is to be shared between departments. If so, you will need the permission of both department heads.

If selecting an eligible affiliated research institute, please note the affiliated medical research institute (MRI) employing the ECR grant holder will be responsible for covering the portion of grant funding that is normally contributed by the Faculty.

Host Faculty *

Please refer to Scheme Guidelines for eligible affiliated research institutes

Cost Centre *

If uncertain please contact your Faculty finance representative

Fields of Research Codes (FoR)

You may include **up to five** FoR codes that best describe your area(s) of research, as relevant to the nominated publication(s). Please include code and percentage (**totaling 100% for all FoR codes**), e.g.:

- 123456 - Atlantean Spearfishing (excl. mammals) - 51%;
- 654321 - Atlantean Poetry - 49%

If unsure, please consult your faculty research office.

FoR Code
Select a Code *

FoR Code Percentage
Percentage *

Must be a number and between 1 and 100.

Total FoR Percentage *

This number/amount is calculated.
Total must be 100.

Socio-Economic Objective Codes (SEO)

You may include **up to five** SEO codes that best describe your area(s) of research, as relevant to the proposed research project. Please include code and percentage (**totaling 100% for all SEO codes**).

If unsure, please consult your faculty research office.

SEO Code
Select a Code *

SEO Code Percentage
Percentage *

Must be a number and between 1 and 100.

Total SEO Percentage *

This number/amount is calculated.
Total must equal 100.

A3. Appointment Details

Where applicable, please create additional rows for multiple appointments. Please select the 'Maximise' button to ensure you can view and complete all columns.

Current supervisor/ lab head	Start of current appointment	End of current appointment (if not continuing)	Current appointment type	Appointment duties	Appointment level	Current FTE
	For multiple appointments, please use the start date of the first appointment	Applicants must be employed for the full duration of their ECR project. Must be a date.			Level A, B, C, etc.	e.g. 1.00 FTE, 0.4FTE, etc

Can you confirm you have confirmation of capacity for research at 0.4FTE (or equivalent/averaged over the grant period) from 2 January 2026 or earlier, and extending over the duration of your grant project? This is required for eligibility. *
○ Yes
○ No

The Carlo and Rita Giugni ECR Grant for Aged Care Research and **The Judy Yeung ECR Grant for Voluntary Assisted Dying and Euthanasia Research** **are only open to current University of Melbourne staff in any discipline who will maintain a salaried position for the duration of the respective award period (2 January 2026 - 31 December 2026 for both Giugni and Yeung grants).**

To be eligible for the Giugni ECR grant, the proposal must have potential to improve aged care or lead to a positive impact on how society supports aged people in their final years.

To be eligible for the Yeung ECR grant, the proposal must be for research that advances Voluntary Assisted Dying or euthanasia policy, practice or research.

Please note: Staff who are honorary at the University of Melbourne are not eligible.

Please tick to confirm where applicable.

As a current staff member of the University of Melbourne, would you like to be considered for the 2026 Carlo and Rita Giugni ECR Grant? *
○ Yes – I confirm that my proposed project topic is relevant to the 2026 Carlo and Rita Giugni ECR grant, and I would like to be considered for this scheme.
○ No – I do not wish to be considered for the 2026 Carlo and Rita Giugni ECR Grant.

As a current staff member of the University of Melbourne, would you like to be considered for the 2026 Judy Yeung ECR Grant? *
○ Yes – I confirm that my proposed project topic is relevant to the 2026 Judy Yeung ECR grant, and I would like to be considered for this scheme.
○ No – I do not wish to be considered for the 2026 Judy Yeung ECR Grant.

Faculty Certification

Please attach a fully signed declaration form using the Faculty Certification Form template on the scheme web-page **(form available for download here).**

Applicants should submit a PDF copy of their application along with the Faculty Certification Form to your Head of School/Department for authorisation.

Before forwarding the form, ensure you have completed the Applicant Details section. If you are on a Research-Only appointment (as at A3), have your supervisor sign the form where indicated in addition to the Head of School/Department's signature on the remaining sections.

Faculty Certification Form (PDF only) *
Attach a file:

Part B: Education, Appointment and Prior Funding Details

* indicates a required field

Applicant Academic Career

Date of PhD Award *

○ I was awarded my PhD between 14 March 2020 and the Application due date (14 March 2025).

○ I was awarded my PhD prior to 14 March 2020 and there have been demonstrable interruptions or exceptional circumstances that have limited the scholarly research opportunity post-PhD to be effectively less than five years.

'Scholarly research opportunity post-PhD' refers to salaried appointments held after the completion of a PhD degree that have enabled the applicant to spend a minimum of 40% of their workload allocation on research. Applicants who have spent 40% or more of their workload allocation on research at 1 FTE for three years or more will not be considered for an Eligibility Exemption Request, unless other exceptional circumstances are present.

Date PhD awarded? *

The award date of the PhD is defined as the date of the official notification letter or equivalent (see the scheme guidelines for further explanation).

I confirm that I have not previously been awarded an ECR Grant and drawn on the funding. *

○ Yes　　　　　　　　　　　　　　○ No

I confirm that since my PhD I have not been a named Chief Investigator or Fellow of an ARC or NHMRC grant (on the same or a distinct research proposal). *

○ Yes　　　　　　　　　　　　　　○ No

I confirm that I have not held a University of Melbourne Postdoctoral Fellowship, including a McKenzie, Mary Lugton, or Puzey Fellowship. *

○ Yes　　　　　　　　　　　　　　○ No

I confirm that the proposed ECR project does not relate to any existing grants or applications for grant funding that are currently under review. *

○ Yes　　　　　　　　　　　　　　○ No

If answered 'No', applicants will have an opportunity to provide further details.

Prior and Current Funding Details

Please provide details of all research funding you currently hold or have held, as a named investigator (i.e. Chief/Principal Investigator, Fellow), since the award of your PhD.

As per the guidelines, applicants are ineligible if they are, or have been, a named Chief Investigator or Fellow of an ARC or NHMRC grant (on the same or a distinct research proposal) as their track record is already established.

Faculty and central selection committees will consider your record of prior/current research funding relative to the scheme objectives and in view of the prior funding record of other applications.

Funding Description	Same Research Area as your 2026 ECR grant project?	Year of Award	Total amount awarded	funding awarded for
e.g. Proposal Title, UOM, ECR, #Grant ID	e.g. Yes or No	Must be a number.	Enter amount in Australian dollars Must be a dollar amount.	Please select the best option

If you have a prior, current or pending grant for a project on a similar topic as your proposed 2026 ECR grant project, please use this box to outline any distinctions or clarifications.

Please refer to the Instructions to Applicants and FAQs for further guidance

*

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

If you selected 'No' to any questions above on this page, please provide an explanation. *

Part B-1: Eligibility Exemption Request

* indicates a required field

Exemption Request

This section is only applicable to applicants who are not eligible under 4.1-4.4 of the Scheme Guidelines, such as:

- The applicant's PhD was awarded prior to 14 March 2020 and there have been demonstrable career interruption/s or disrupted capacity to undertake research or exceptional personal circumstances that have limited the applicant's scholarly research opportunity post-PhD to be effectively five years or less; or
- The applicant does not meet one of the other eligibility criteria in the Scheme Guidelines and can demonstrate exceptional circumstances that justify their eligibility.

The award of the PhD is defined as the date of the official notification letter or equivalent.

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Applicants must provide a clear timeline of their working periods and interruptions periods, with supporting documentation wherever possible.

Applying for an eligibility exemption does not automatically grant an exemption and eligibility is determined by the ECR grant scheme EER subcommittee's assessment of the circumstances.

Please tick all the relevant boxes *

☐   I was awarded my PhD prior to the cutoff date but my scholarly research opportunity post-PhD was effectively five years or less due to career interruptions.

☐   I do not meet one of the other eligibility criteria, but can demonstrate exceptional circumstances that justify my eligibility.

You must provide full details of each type of exemption being requested, i.e. the details of exactly what you are requesting an exemption for. If discussing periods of employment or interruption, all dates must be supplied as well as the FTE (full-time equivalent).

* Use the EER calculator Excel spreadsheet on our website (ECR EER Calculator) to help calculate the total interruption days.

Type of Interruption	Date interruption commenced	Date interruption concluded	Total days	FTE of interruption (e.g. 0.5, 0.75, 1.0)	Total FTE days	Details of interruption if applicable
Career interruption/s as outlined in section 4 of the Scheme Guidelines If you have had a salaried research position where less than 40% of your time was allocated to research, then select the "Research employment with less than 40% of time allocated to research" in the career interruption type drop down list. Provide details of the interruption and the date of that employment. Then,	Must be a date.	Must be a date.	Must be a number.	Must be a number.	Must be a number.	

subtract the fraction of time allocated to research (as a fraction) from 0.4. For example, if you worked 10% (0.1) on research in a Lecturer position, then subtract 0.1 from 0.4 = 0.3. Enter this number into the 'FTE of interruption' column.						

Referring to the calculated interruptions above, please demonstrate how the total duration of the interruptions you experienced brings your 'effective years of scholarly research opportunity post-PhD' to within five years. Alternatively, please demonstrate exceptional circumstances that justify your eligibility to bring the 'effective years of scholarly research opportunity post-PhD' to within five years.

*

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Please attach any additional supporting evidence (single PDF, maximum 5 pages).
Attach a file:

Please see item 4.11 of the Scheme Guidelines for examples of supporting evidence

Please attach a completed version of the ECR EER Calculator that was used to help calculate the total interruption days. *
Attach a file:

Part C: Proposed Budget

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Form Preview

* indicates a required field

C1. Budget

Please do not alter the 'Budget Category' column. Consult the Guidelines and Instructions to Applicants for details on how to complete the budget and justification.

- Leave line blank if you are not requesting items in a particular category.
- List individual budget items for each category in the central column, with their individual costs.
- Enter the overall cost for that category in the third column.
- Only list items and their relevant details and costs. You can leave justifications to your project description.
- All costs should be listed excluding GST.

Budget Category	Items requested (include individual costs)	Amount Requested for Category
Personnel		$
Relief from teaching/other duties		$
Equipment		$
Maintenance		$
Travel		$
Open access fees for publishing		$
Other		$
e.g. Travel	e.g. Airfare Melbourne-Berlin for Conference = $1500; Acommodation and per diem 6x $120 = $720	e.g. $2220 (Please exclude GST)

This number is calculated from the totals for each budget category above.

- Applicants from the faculties Architecture Building and Planning, Arts, Business and Economics, Education, Fine Arts and Music, and Law, may apply for between $5000 and $25,000 in research funding.
- Applicants from the faculties Engineering and Information Technology, Science, and Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences, may apply for between $5000 and $40,000 in research funding.

Total Amount Requested

$

This number/amount is calculated.

Is there any UOM in-kind contribution related to this project? *

○ Yes
○ No

Please describe/list the UOM in-kind contribution for this project *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

C2. Budget Justification

Explain why each item listed is essential for the project; do not simply restate information that is already provided in the budget. The Selection Committees will be looking at your project design and budget to assess the feasibility and methodology of the proposal, particularly where there is collaboration or codesign with other parties/stakeholders/communities.

*

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Part D: Project Description

* indicates a required field

D1. Proposed Project Details

Please use plain language, as your assessors may not be specialists in your specific research area.

Project Title (10 words) *

Must be no more than 10 words.

Start Date

This question is read only.

End Date

This question is read only.

If a student is working on the project, will the result of the project form part of their Thesis or Student Project? *

○ Yes   ○ No   ○ Not applicable

D2. Project Description

Please refer to the instructions in the Project Description template, downloadable from the scheme webpage (Form available for download here).

Where relevant, the inclusion of figures, graphs, diagrams etc is permitted in the Project Description as relevant to discipline.

Attach your Project Description here (max 2 pages in PDF format only) *
Attach a file:

Please use the Project Description template on the website. A maximum of 1 file of up to 2 A4 pages, uploaded as pdf

D3. Ethics

Are there specific biosecurity or ethics requirements for your project? *
○ Yes   ○ No

Have you identified any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest in undertaking this project in accordance with Managing Conflicts of Interest Policy (MPF1366)? *
○ Yes, a management plan is in place
○ Yes, a management plan is not in place
○ No
Respond on behalf of all members of the research team. Policy (MPF1366) can be found here: https://policy.unimelb.edu.au/MPF1366/

Provide the reference number of the Conflict of interest management plan (if applicable)

Does your proposed research engage with Indigenous knowledge or pertain to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (or other Indigenous) communities? *
○ Yes   ○ No

Briefly state the nature of any specific biosecurity or ethics requirements. *

Must be no more than 300 characters.

In the following box, please briefly indicate:

- Your approach to enabling collaboration with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities (for example, dialogue/collaboration with an Indigenous cultural mentor);

- Any existing or developing, supportive and high-quality relationships you have with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities;
- Any personal affiliations with local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities that can facilitate the proposed research.

Please ensure your responses briefly address how the proposed research project aligns with the advice provided by the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research and the University of Melbourne's Charter for Research with Indigenous Knowledge Holders.

*

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

Research project activity type

Pure basic research is experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge without looking for long term benefits other than the advancement of knowledge.

Strategic basic research is experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge directed into specified broad areas in the expectation of useful discoveries. It provides the broad base of knowledge necessary for the solution of recognised practical problems.

Applied research is original work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge with a specific application in view. It is undertaken either to determine possible uses for the findings of basic research or to determine new ways of achieving some specific and predetermined objectives.

Note: This scheme does not provide funds for experimental development activities. Please see the ECR grant scheme guidelines for more information.

Please select your ECR Grant project activity type *
○ Pure Basic Research
○ Strategic Basic Research
○ Applied Research

Part E: Researcher Track Record

* indicates a required field

E1. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE)

This section must be filled out regardless of whether the applicant has applied for an Eligibility Exemption.

Describe your top research achievements and contributions to academic field (e.g., awards, publications, invitations, collaborations, etc.). In your response, please outline how your

research achievements and contributions may have been impacted by your opportunities and experiences, including career interruptions (where relevant).

*

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

E2. Applicant Curriculum Vitae

This section should not include information provided elsewhere in the application.

Please upload your curriculum vitae (CV) **(3-pages maximum).**

Please note: Meeting the stated CV page limit is an application requirement and will be strictly applied in compliance checking.

Please ensure to meet this requirement or your application risks being deemed ineligible.

As a guide, your CV may focus on the most recent five years, and include:

- Full details of education, postgraduate training, present and past appointments.
- Details of awards or prizes (include $ amount where applicable).*
- Summary of total publication metrics, including total number of publications, total citation counts, h-index, proportion in tier 1 journals, etc.
- Seminar/conference presentations (details of conference, indicate if invited talk, selected for oral or poster presentation).*
- Details of any postgraduate and undergraduate teaching and supervision (including demonstrating, tutor roles or co-supervision of students).
- Leadership and service activities related to your research discipline or the University of Melbourne (e.g. membership of societies and committees, peer review experience, administrative responsibilities).
- Administrative responsibilities, including laboratory, departmental, faculty/school or institutional.
- Community engagement activities.

Attach your CV here *
Attach a file:

A maximum of 1 file may be attached. in .docx, .doc, or .pdf format. No additional supporting documents (references, etc) will be considered as part of the assessment process - please do not include these. If any further information is needed you will be contacted.

E3. Publications record

Please list up to 5 publications with a brief summary of each publication's significance and impact, as well as your role in the publication.

Publication	**For each publication, describe the publication's impact, significance, and your role in the publication.**

Max 5 publications	Must be no more than 50 words.

Please provide a brief summary describing the common publishing practices in your field, particularly concerning how your field assesses research and publication quality. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 100 words.

E4. Researcher Development

Please describe how the award of this grant will benefit your career and your independence as a researcher. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

Describe your plans to secure future funding, and how the ECR grant will support those plans. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

Describe how the proposed ECR research project builds on your research program to date and is distinct from any existing research programs that you are employed to work on. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

E5. External collaborators

As outlined in the section above, this is a sole-CI grant and having external collaborators is not a requirement of the ECR project proposal.

If this application is funded, please note that you may require a research collaboration agreement with any external parties before your funds can be used.

If you would like to collaborate with any researchers or experts external to the University of Melbourne, please list them below. You can 'add more' sections using the buttons below.

Name of Collaborator	Role (You must select 'Other Participants' only)	Organisation (Select 'Other' if not found in the dropdown list)	Email	Detail their participation/ collaboration	Is this collaboration likely to include:
Title First Name Last Name					❏ Transfer or access to samples/ materials ❏ Sharing and/or generating IP or commercialisation prospects ❏ Joint production of academic publications ❏ Payments/ transfer of grant funding between the collaborators (in either direction) ❏ Joint supervision of students ❏ Other:
Title First Name Last Name					❏ Transfer or access to samples/ materials ❏ Sharing and/or generating IP or commercialisation prospects ❏ Joint production of academic publications ❏ Payments/ transfer of grant funding between the collaborators (in either direction) ❏ Joint supervision of students ❏ Other:

	Please select 'Other Participants' only	Select 'Other' if not found in the dropdown list	Must be an email address.		Tick all that may apply.

Please enter the details for all collaborator organisations you listed as 'Other' above.

You can add more entries by selecting the 'Add More' button below.

Organisation Name *
Organisation Name

ABN (Applicable for Australian Organisations only)

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity name	
ABN status	
Entity type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main business location	

Must be an ABN.

Address *
Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Declaration

* indicates a required field

Applicant Declaration

By submitting this application, I declare that the information I have given in this application is true to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that any offer of funding may be withdrawn if false information is given. *

○ I agree

Submission Instructions

Once this form is submitted on SmartyGrants, please take the PDF and attach it to a Themis Grants Workbench submission. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you can contact your faculty research office in the first instance for further advice. Technical issues can be resolved by contacting the central research office via res-devschemes@unimelb.edu.au

The status of the workbench submission should be 'Forwarded to HoD' by end of submission day.

Themis Submission Number *

Must be a number.
This should be a 7 digit number, starting with a '2'.

Privacy Collection Notice

Research, Innovation and Commercialisation is collecting the information in this form to record administrative details of the applicant, and for assessment of the grant proposal by the relevant selection committees and personnel involved in the delivery of this funding program.

For further information about how the University manages personal information, and for details of how to make an enquiry, lodge a complaint, or to contact the University's Privacy and Data Protection Officer, please refer to our Privacy webpage, view the University's Privacy Policy or contact privacy-officer@unimelb.edu.au.

Last updated 22/02/22.

Admin Use Only

Admin Use Only - Applicants do not need to complete

The following section will be completed by the Research Development Schemes team post submission of application.

Award Number

This question is read only.

IA Role

This question is read only.

Project Number

This question is read only.

Attachment uploaded
○ Yes
○ No
This question is read only.