

2026 Doherty Institute Collaborative Seed Grants

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Introduction

* indicates a required field

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Please ensure that you have read and understood the [Doherty Institute Collaborative Seed Grant Guidelines](#) before you begin.

All application documents, including the scheme guidelines, templates and certification form, are available on the [Doherty Institute Intranet](#).

See below links to document templates:

- [Application guidelines](#)
- [Certification form template](#)
- [CV template](#)
- [Research proposal template](#)

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

HOW TO APPLY:

Applications are to be completed and submitted via **SmartyGrants by 10am, Wednesday 16th July 2025**. The application consists of the following sections:

- Completed Smarty Grants application form
- Research proposal (2 pages)
- Principal investigator CV (one PI per application); and
- Compiled PDF document of co-investigator email confirmations
- Signed Certification Form

Incomplete applications and applications submitted after this time will not be considered. All correspondence to applicants will be via email.

Privacy Collection Notice

The collection of personal information by the University of Melbourne (**University**) is governed by the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and Health Records Act 2001 (Vic) (together, **Privacy Laws**). The University is also considered to be a data controller for the purposes of the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) in relation to the collection of personal information from individuals located in the EU. The University is committed to protecting your privacy and processing your personal information fairly and lawfully in compliance with the Privacy Laws and the GDPR, as applicable.

The information in this form is being collected by Research Development & Evaluation in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, the University of Melbourne and the Doherty Institute Directorate. The information you provide is being collected in order to record administrative details of the applicant, and for assessment by the Selection Panel. The information will be used by authorised staff for the purpose for which it was collected, and will be protected against unauthorised access and use. The names of

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successful applicants and a summary of their projects will be reported to relevant University committees and senior officers. If you do not provide all of the information requested on this form, your application may be deemed ineligible and removed from consideration by the committees.

We take all reasonable steps to ensure that the information we hold is accurate and complete and that it is protected from misuse, loss, unauthorised access or disclosure. We will only retain your personal information for as long as required for the purpose it was collected and in accordance with our legislative obligation. Your personal information will be securely stored and destroyed in accordance with the [University's retention and disposal authority](#). We will not disclose your personal information to anybody else unless you have given consent, or we are authorised or required to do so by law. You may request access to, or correction of, your personal information held by the University at any stage. You may exercise data subject rights under the GDPR if applicable. For further information about how the University manages personal information, to make an enquiry or complaint, or for contact details of the University's Privacy and Data Protection Officer, please view the [University's Privacy Policy](#), visit our [Privacy Webpage](#), or contact the University's Privacy Office at privacy-officer@unimelb.edu.au.

Consent statement

The University of Melbourne is committed to protecting your privacy by fully meeting its responsibilities under applicable privacy laws. By submitting any personal information in this form I consent to it being collected by the University of Melbourne. If the information relates to someone other than me, I am authorised to give this consent for that person.

I have read and agree to the collection notice (required) *
☐ Yes

SECTION 1 - General Information

* indicates a required field

PART A: Scheme

In 2026, the Doherty will be offering Collaborative Seed Grants in the **Research** and **Public Health** priority impact areas worth up to \$20,000 each.

Research Collaborative Seed Grants: Applications that fall within the Doherty's Research Priority Impact Area, including discovery research and clinical research etc

Public Health Collaborative Seed Grants: Applications that fall within the Doherty's Public Health Priority Impact Area, including surveillance programs, public health interventions, health promotion and prevention programs, etc

Which Doherty Collaborative Seed Grant are you applying for? *

- ☐ Research Collaborative Seed Grants
- ☐ Public Health Collaborative Seed Grants

Note: You can only choose one.

PART B: Application Title

Title of your Research Proposal: *

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PART C: Primary Contact

What is your Primary Affiliation? *

- ☐ University of Melbourne
- ☐ Royal Melbourne Hospital
- ☐ Austin Health

Hint: In the case of Co-PI applications, this will be the Lead PI who will be responsible for all correspondence.

Applicant *

Title	First Name	Last Name
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Primary Email *

Must be an email address.

Please use your University of Melbourne Primary email address.

Mobile Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Department *

Please select your University of Melbourne Department. Start by typing your University of Melbourne Department name and select it from the menu.

Laboratory/Group *

Role/Position

Applicant *

Title	First Name	Last Name
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Mobile Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

External Applicant Primary Email *

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Must be an email address.

Primary Affiliation

Department/Unit *

Laboratory/Unit/Group (if applicable)

Role/Position

SECTION 2: Research Team

* indicates a required field

PART A: Principal Investigator

Principal Investigator Name and Title *

Title	First Name	Last Name

Position *

I.e. Post-doctoral research officer, student, laboratory head/group leader

Doherty-based Unit/Department *

Note: Applications must involve investigators from more than one Doherty Institute Department/Unit. Please refer to the scheme guidelines for more information.

Contact Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Primary Email *

Must be an email address.

Early Career Researcher *

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- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Hint: An early career researcher is defined as a researcher within 10 years post PhD graduation (taking into consideration career disruption and relative to opportunity) or without a PhD but with no more than 10 years' experience as an active researcher (e.g. may hold a masters degree but not a PhD).

PART B: Co-Investigator(s)

Co-Investigator Name and Title *

First Name

Last Name

Position *

I.e. Post-doctoral research officer, student, laboratory head/group leader

Doherty-based Unit/Department *

Note: Applications must involve investigators from more than one Doherty Institute Department/Unit. Please refer to the scheme guidelines for more information.

Contact Number

Must be an Australian phone number.
Optional.

Primary Email *

Must be an email address.

Early Career Researcher *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Hint: An early career researcher is defined as a researcher within 10 years post PhD graduation (taking into consideration career disruption and relative to opportunity) or without a PhD but with no more than 10 years' experience as an active researcher (e.g. may hold a masters degree but not a PhD).

SECTION 3: Application Summary

* indicates a required field

Question 1: Synopsis (100-word limit) *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

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Question 2: How does your project address an important research question, demonstrate excellence and satisfy the vision/mission of the Doherty Institute? (300-word limit) *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Question 3: How will this seed grant lead to submission of a larger scale collaborative proposal to external or national funding agencies? Include a timeline of which funders and round will be targeted (300-word limit). *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

SECTION 4: Research Proposal

* indicates a required field

Please use the [RESEARCH PROPOSAL TEMPLATE](#) provided to address the following:

A. Rationale A concise outline of the rationale for the application to support the scientific merit and importance of the proposed research.

B. Objective Provide clear and concise statements of the specific goals/aims of your research proposal.

C. Preliminary data Relevant and project-specific preliminary data that provide a basis of, or support the need for, the project (if available). In instances where preliminary data may not be available, you may provide examples of where the research team has demonstrated capability in a particular assay/method/expertise.

D. Approach Outline the research plan in detail, such as a detailed description of the experimental design, details and justification of controls, justification of statistical methods, any ethical considerations, strengths and weaknesses of the study design and approach etc.

E. Outcomes and significance Description of how this project could potentially increase knowledge about human health, immunity or biology of agents that affect human health. Description of how the project is innovative and how this seed grant will lead to further external or national funding.

F. References Provide a list of all references cited in the research proposal in an appropriate standard journal format (i.e. Harvard or Vancouver format) and list authors in the order in which they appear in PubMed.

G. Ethics statement (if required) Confirmation of the need for ethics approval and estimated timelines for approval, or evidence of approval (Ethics Project ID).

*** Research Proposal cannot exceed 2 pages ***

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All documents should be in Arial or Times New Roman font size 12 with 2.5cm margins. Only upload PDF copies. Use of the templates provided is recommended.

Please upload a PDF copy of your Research Proposal (PI_SURNAME-PROPOSAL.PDF). *

Attach a file:

Hint: Please only upload PDF files. Word documents will not be accepted. The Research Proposal cannot exceed 2 pages.

SECTION 5: Principal Investigator CV

** indicates a required field*

Please provide the **Principal Investigator's Current CV** using the [CV TEMPLATE PROVIDED](#) (5-page limit).

Where a proposal has co-Principal Investigators, please upload a CV for each Principal investigator. Assessors will score each CV and track record in the research area of the proposed seed project.

*** Principal Investigator CV cannot exceed 5 pages ***

All documents should be in Arial or Times New Roman font size 12 with 2.5cm margins. Only upload PDF copies. Use of the templates provided is recommended.

Please upload a PDF copy of the Principal Investigator CV (PI_SURNAME-CV.PDF):

Attach a file:

Hint: Where a proposal has co-Principal Investigators, please upload a CV for each Principal investigator. Assessors will score each CV and track record in the research area of the proposed seed project. Please only upload PDF files. Word documents will not be accepted. The CV cannot exceed 5 pages

SECTION 6: Financial Details

** indicates a required field*

PART A: Proposed project Start and End date

Projects should run between **October 2026 and October 2027 (12 months)**. Funding is subject to ethics approval being granted (if required), the project timeline can be adjusted accordingly.

Start Date *

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Must be a date and no earlier than 1/10/2025.

End Date *

Must be a date.

PART B: Budget

Funding available:- Two (2x) projects for the **Research** priority area up to \$20,000 each-
Two (2x) projects for the **Public Health** priority area up to \$20,000 each

Eligible Expenditure:Doherty Collaborative Seed Grants provide funding for non-salary research costs, such as:

- Laboratory Reagents and Consumables
- Assays and kits
- Sample collection and storage materials
- Fee-for-Service, e.g. Clinical Services, Research Services, Patient recruitment costs, sample collection and processing costs, biostatistics services, genomics services, etc.

This scheme cannot be used for salary support. However, budget items that might include payment for an individual's time for that service is allowed (e.g. nurse's time as part of fee-for-service patient sample collection)

Budget item	\$ (AUD)

Total Requested Budget (AUD) *

This number/amount is calculated.
Cannot exceed \$20,000

SECTION 7 – Ethics and Research Activity

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PART A: Ethics

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Confirmation of the need for ethics approval and estimated timelines for approval, or evidence of approval (Ethics Project ID) is required.

Is ethical approval required? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does project have ethical approval? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No/Not submitted
☐ Submitted/Pending

Date of ethics approval *

Must be a date.

Ethics Project ID *

If ethical approval is pending, what date is it expected: *

Must be a date.

Comments:

Hint: Please provide any information that may be relevant (i.e. planned submission date, expected approval date, etc.)

PART B: Research Activity Type

Please select which Research Activity Type best reflects your research:

Pure basic research is basic research carried out for the advancement of knowledge, without seeking long-term economic or social benefits or making any effort to apply the results to practical problems or to transfer the results to sectors responsible for their application.

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

Applied research is original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective.

Experimental development is systematic work, drawing on knowledge gained from research and practical experience and producing additional knowledge, which is directed to producing new products or processes or to improving existing products or processes.

Activity Type

- ☐ Pure Basic Research

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- ☐ Strategic Basic Research
- ☐ Applied Research
- ☐ Experimental Research

PART C: Fields of Research (FoR) Codes

Please select the Fields of Research (FoR) that best describe your research (maximum of 5).
The total percentage must equal 100%.

A description of the Fields of Research (FoR) Codes can be found here: <https://gateway.research.unimelb.edu.au/platforms-data-and-reporting/research-reporting/fields-of-research-for-codes>

FoR Code *

FoR Percentage *

Must be a whole number (no decimal place) and between 1 and 100.

Total Percentage *

This number/amount is calculated.

PART D: SEO Codes

Please select the SEO codes that best describe your research (maximum of 5).
The total percentage must equal 100%.

A description of the SEO codes can be found here: <https://gateway.research.unimelb.edu.au/platforms-data-and-reporting/research-reporting/socio-economic-objectives-seo-codes>

SEO Code *

SEO Percentage *

Must be a whole number (no decimal place) and between 1 and 100.

Total Percentage *

This number/amount is calculated.

SECTION 8 – Certification

* indicates a required field

PART A: Co-Investigator confirmation of collaboration

Each co-investigator needs to provide an email to the Principal Investigator confirming their involvement in the project.

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The email should state;

I certify that: i) I agree to be named as a co-investigator on this application ii) I agree to the final application being submitted on my behalf by the principal investigator.

Please collate co-investigator emails as a **single PDF file** and submit them with the application.

Please upload your Co-Investigator emails as a single compiled PDF file (PI_SURNAME-EMAILS.PDF): *

Attach a file:

A maximum of 1 file may be attached.

PART B: Signed Certification Form

Please follow these steps to complete the Certification: **Step 1:** Save a PDF copy of your **Smarty Grants Application** **Step 2:** Save a PDF of your **Co-Investigator Email(s)** confirming support of your application **Step 3:** Download a copy of the **Doherty Seed Grants Certification Form** from the [Doherty Intranet](#) **Step 4:** Forward your Application PDF, Co-Investigator Emails and your PI Signed Certification Form to your **Head of Department** for certification (this should be the Department/unit of your Primary Appointment). **Step 5: Upload** the signed Certification form before you submit your application by the deadline.

Please upload the signed copy of the Certification form (PI_SURNAME-CERT.PDF):

*

Attach a file:

Please upload a single PDF file.

Admin Use Only

IA Cost Centre

Award Number

Project Number

Attachments uploaded

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Total Amount Requested

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This number/amount is calculated.