

2026 POC Fund Application Form-NEW Version

Form Preview

2026 Proof-of-Concept Fund Application Form

About the Proof-of-Concept Fund:

The University's Proof-of-Concept (POC) fund provides support to achieve key technical or commercial milestones for UoM technologies and innovations that have been disclosed to the University via an IP Disclosure. UoM staff members can apply for up to \$50,000 in funding for a range of activities focused on validation of an exciting innovation.

Purpose:

This form should be used for formal application to the RIC Proof-of-Concept Fund for funding of "proof-of-concept" research.

Eligible Applicants:

The Fund will invest in IP and researchers that have a demonstrable link to UoM, and at a minimum must meet the following criteria:

- Researchers are currently employed by the University of Melbourne.
- If the technology is jointly developed, UoM holds at least 50% of IP ownership.
- The technology has been disclosed to RIC via submission of an IP disclosure form.
- IP assignments have been completed if students are involved in the Project or will be completed as a condition precedent of funding.
- UoM has the right to commercialise the technology.
- The team must be pursuing a commercial outcome, which includes social purpose ventures, where at a minimum the venture can repay the amount of the POC funds awarded from future commercialisation revenue, consistent with the University's IP policy
- There are no obvious "Freedom to Operate" issues that may impact on the commercialisation of the technology
- TRL is typically 3 or lower. Projects above this level may be considered where significant commercial, regulatory or adoption risks remain unresolved.

Preferred Qualifying Criteria:

The Fund will preference applications that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Have secured external funding (investment or grant);
- Commitment from a commercial partner to co-develop the technology;
- Customer validation or support; or
- Acceptance into the UoM Venture Studio.

Applications that provide clear and credible evidence against these criteria will be viewed more favourably during assessment.

Endorsement Requirement:

A signed Endorsement Form is required as part of this application. Please download and complete the template with your RIC Technology Transfer representative and Faculty representative, and upload the signed document within the form. Applications submitted without this document may not be assessed.

[Endorsement form template](#)

Instructions:

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The form should be completed in conjunction with, and as reviewed by, a Business Development staff member (BD) of Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (RIC).

Complete all sections keeping to the word limit as directed. Documents may be attached to the application (in PDF format) if further detail is required, and should be referred to by title.

The form should not be submitted unless the applicant can truly answer "Yes" or Not Applicable ("NA") to all eligibility criteria.

If you have any questions regarding this form, please refer to your RIC Technology Transfer Manager, or email jennifer.fagundes@unimelb.edu.au.

Applicant and Research Team

* indicates a required field

Lead UoM Researcher *

Title First Name Last Name

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

Please enter the HR system/legal first name and last name (not preferred name).

Primary Email *

Please enter Unimelb primary email address.

Contact Mobile *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Internal Association *

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

Role *

Cost Centre *

5 digit code

Provide contact name, a link to the organisation website or other identifying information such as ABN or address

Other UoM Team Members (if applicable)

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Name

First Name

Last Name

Please enter the HR system/legal first name and last name (not preferred name).

Primary Email

Must be an email address.

Note: Please enter Unimelb primary email address.

IRT Internal Association

*Internal research team (IRT)

Role

Provide contact name, a link to the organisation website or other identifying information such as ABN or address

External research team members (if applicable)

Name

Title

First Name

Last Name

Email

Must be an email address.

External Association

Role

Provide contact name, a link to the organisation website or other identifying information such as ABN or address

RIC Technology Transfer Manager *

First Name

Last Name

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Email *

Must be an email address.

RIC Business Development Manager *

First Name

Last Name

Email *

Must be an email address.

Eligibility

* indicates a required field

Please confirm the following and attach supporting documentation where necessary:

Researchers are currently employed by the University of Melbourne *

Yes No

If a co-development, UoM hold at least 50% of IP ownership *

Yes No N/A

UoM Comm spin-off company owned 100% by UoM *

Yes No N/A

It is a novel product, process or service that you wish to commercialise *

Yes No N/A

The technology has been disclosed to RIC *

Yes No

Creators/inventors' confirmatory assignments have been completed *

Yes No

IP assessment - RIC's Technology Licensing Office have issued advice that confirms:

UoM has strong ownership rights *

Yes No

UoM has the right to commercialise the technology *

Yes No

There are no obvious "Freedom to Operate" issues that may impact on the commercialisation of the technology *

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Yes No

Has the IP been publicly disclosed (i.e. publications, media releases etc) *

Yes No

Preferred Qualifying Criteria

Please note that clearly demonstrating alignment with the Preferred Qualifying Criteria serves as a strong indicator of your readiness to undertake a successful project. Applications that provide complete, accurate, and well-aligned evidence against these criteria are more likely to progress through assessment.

Proof of External Funding (e.g., investment, grant)

Attach a file:

Industry partner engagement (e.g., letter of support, MOU)

Attach a file:

Customer validation (e.g., letter, proof of engagement)

Attach a file:

Proof of Acceptance into the UoM Venture Studio

Attach a file:

Other Attachments

Attach a file:

Project Endorsement

Endorsement Form (signed by RIC Technology Transfer Lead and Faculty Representative) *

Attach a file:

Technology / Product Description

* indicates a required field

Project Information

Project Title *

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A brief overview of what the technology is / does, what unmet need it addresses and what is hoped to be achieved through PoC funding (max 100 words) *

Word count:

Tech ID *

(e.g. 2026-001)

Anticipated Start Date *

Must be a date.

Anticipated End Date *

Must be a date.

Total Amount Requested (up to \$50k) *

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Project Area *

Other:

Spin-out Company Name, ACN (if applicable)

Is there any aspect of this project or its associated agreement that is or needs to be treated as confidential? *

- Yes
- No

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

- Yes
- No

Research Activity Type *

- Pure Basic Research
- Strategic Basic Research
- Applied Research
- Experimental Research

This research involves *

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This project involves a clinical trial *

- Yes
 No

Approved to be included in the UoM successful applications library *

- Yes
 No

Is there any UOM in-kind contribution captured in this award/agreement? *

- Yes
 No

Will this project require the procurement of new equipment valued over \$200K AUD? *

- Yes
 No

As per the Procurement Policy (MPF1087)

IP Protection Strength: describe the IP you are seeking to develop (max 200 words) *

Word count:

TRL and IRL Assessment *

Word count:

Tech Transfer Manager to provide their assessment of the Technology Readiness Level and Investment Readiness Level (max 200 words)

Use of Funds

Prototype development and/or validation *

- Yes N/A

Technology scale-up and/or validation studies *

- Yes N/A

In vivo proof-of-concept studies in relevant disease models for therapeutic opportunities *

- Yes N/A

Software coding and documentation to enable field trials or alpha/beta testing *

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Yes

N/A

External advice on IP, market, business planning, technical and/or competitive analysis to support the commercial potential of the opportunity *

Yes

N/A

If the use of funds is not fully classified as above, please describe: (max 100 words)

Word count:

Business Case

* indicates a required field

Addressable market / Forecast revenue / Evidence of willingness to purchase: *

Describe the overall size of the market, predicted market share and any analysis supporting potential uptake of the product / technology

Cost / Profit modelling for the business: *

How will be the product / technology generate a profit over the short / medium and long term?

Competitive landscape and competitive advantage of the product / technology: *

Who are the competitors (if any) and why would a customer want this product / technology over existing offerings

Proposed business model (spin-out, licence, other): *

Outline proposed business structure and potential evolution over time.

Future funding requirements: *

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Assuming a successful POC, what future funding is required?

Need for funds: *

What alternative source(s) of funds have been explored?

Team and management capability: *

A brief outline of the skills / qualifications of the future management team. Address any critical gaps that need to be filled.

Non-commercial benefits:

If relevant please outline any non-commercial / social impact of the project

Matching funds (if applicable):

Project Planning

* indicates a required field

The following describes the proposed project / use of funds

Project objective (max 100 words): *

Word count:

Describe the desired results/expected outcomes of the project. The project objective must be specific and measurable and must be realistic for the time and budget requested

Project Timetable & Funding

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Please tell us about the administrative stages you expect to pass through as part of your project.

Project deliverable (max 50 words each) **Planned start date** **Planned end date** **POC Funds Required**

| | Must be a date. | Must be a date. | Total should equate to requested amount |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Budget

Expenditure

\$

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Budget Totals

Total Expenditure Amount

This number/amount is calculated.

What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

Compliance

* indicates a required field

Compliance and Regulatory Approvals

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.

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

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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, description, and percentage (totalling 100% for all codes), e.g.:

- 3001 - Agricultural biotechnology - 51%
- 3002 - Agricultural, land and farm management - 49%

FoR Code

Select a Code *

FoR Code %

Percentage *

Must be a number and between 1 and 100.

Total Percentage *

This number/amount is calculated.

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, description, and percentage (totalling 100% for all codes).

SEO Code

Select a Code *

SEO Code %

Percentage *

Must be a number and between 1 and 100.

Total Percentage *

This number/amount is calculated.

Proof-of-Concept Fund – Key Terms of Engagement

If your application is successful, the following conditions will apply:

- A final Completion Report must be submitted within 2 weeks of finishing the project.
- You must notify RIC as soon as possible if any issues arise that could affect your ability to complete the project as proposed.
- You agree to participate in meetings with RIC, as reasonably required, to discuss project progress or issues.
- You must maintain appropriate records of all project expenditure and provide them to RIC upon request.
- Any unspent funds at the end of the project must be returned to RIC.

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- Any new Intellectual Property (IP) generated by the project will vest in University of Melbourne and you are responsible for ensuring that any third parties or subcontractors involved in the project agree to this arrangement.
- Proof-of-Concept funding represents a cost of developing and commercialising intellectual property, and as such will be deducted from any proceeds of commercialisation received by the University before such proceeds are distributed in accordance with the University's IP Policy.

I acknowledge that, if this application is successful, I (and my project team) agree to comply with the University of Melbourne Proof-of-Concept-Fund General Terms of Engagement. *

Yes

Admin Use Only

This section is Admin Use Only

Yes

No

Award Number

Proposal Number

Attachment uploaded

Yes

No

Currency