Researcher Bridging Grants

Faculty of Science - Funding Guidelines

Trust	The Albert Shimmins Fund
Funding type	Research Bridging Grants
Applicants	Levels A - E
Maximum award (AU$)	Up to $50,000 (1:1, Faculty/School)
Rounds per year	3
Funding duration	12 months
Academic Lead	Prof Andy Martin (Associate Dean Research)
Science Research Office Lead	Liam Scott (Award Coordinator)
Scheme Contact Information	Science Research Office
University Trust Record	UTR 7.220

Introduction

The Research Bridging Grants scheme provides funding for academic staff to maintain research activities that are critical for the execution of a future funding application. The funds are primarily expected to support the activities of early- and mid-career researchers.

Funding can only be requested if it is necessary to maintain the research capacity that underpins a significant future funding application, so that the proposed research can be conducted if the grant is successful. Examples of activities that are necessary to maintain research capacity might include the maintenance of animal colonies, or time-series collection of field or experimental data where a break in collection would result in loss of past research. This loss of research capability is distinct from a delay in research outcomes.

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be a Lead Chief Investigator on an unsuccessful significant full proposal funding opportunity in the last 6 months (based on date of outcome release).
- be on a fixed-term (with at least one year remaining on your contract) or continuing contract within the Faculty of Science.
- have a clear pathway to being a lead CI on a significant funding application within the next 12 months which lists the University of Melbourne as the Administering Organization.
- have endorsement and confirmation of School funding from their Head of School.
- not have received bridging (or continuity) funding within the last 5 years.

Due to limited funding, priority will be given to level A-C staff.

Funding

Successful applicants will receive a maximum total amount of $50,000, funded on a 1:1 basis between the School and the Faculty, i.e. a maximum of $25,000 Faculty funding which must be matched by equivalent School funding, with a total of $100k Faculty funding available for this Scheme.

Funds must be spent within one year, and no part of the funds can be used towards the CI's salary.

Applicants should base the level of funding on their project requirements. Carefully consider the expenditure required to maintain your research activity until the outcome of your next funding opportunity.

Preference will be given to those with no available funding.

Application Process

- Applicants will submit their full application on SmartyGrants.
- Your eligibility will be reviewed by the Science Research Office.
- Requests will be assessed and endorsed by the Associate Dean Research (or approved delegate).

Evaluation and Assessment

A committee chaired by the Faculty of Science Associate Dean Research will rank applications against the following assessment criteria where the assessment criteria focus on the researcher's capacity to gain significant future funding for their research:

- Potential of funding to enhance applicant's competitiveness for future funding [50%]
- Track record of the researcher, relative to opportunity. [50%]

Funding Conditions

Grants supported by philanthropic donations must be used in accordance with the terms of the relevant gift. Any proposed variation to the approved proposal requires prior approval from the Science Research Office. Variations that fall outside the terms of the gift cannot be approved.

Timeline

Process	Date
Scheme open – **Round 1**	16 October 2026
Scheme close – **Round 1**	15 February 2027
Outcomes – **Round 1**	March 2027
Scheme open – **Round 2**	16 February 2027
Scheme close – **Round 2**	15 June 2027
Outcomes – **Round 2**	July 2026
Scheme open – **Round 3**	16 June 2027
Scheme close – **Round 3**	18 October 2027
Outcomes – **Round 3**	November 2027