

# FUNDING GUIDELINES

Science Research Office



## Researcher Development Grants

<b>Trustee</b>	<i>The Albert Shimmins Fund</i>
<b>Funding type</b>	Researcher Development Grants
<b>Applicants</b>	Early Career Academics & Mid-Career Academics (Levels B & C)
<b>Maximum award (AU\$)</b>	\$125,000 pa (Faculty: \$100,000 & School: \$25,000); two awards
<b>Rounds per year</b>	1
<b>Funding duration</b>	2 years
<b>Academic Lead</b>	Prof Andy Martin (Associate Dean Research)
<b>Science Research Office Lead</b>	Veronica Loew (Award Coordinator)
<b>Scheme Contact Information</b>	Email: <a href="#">Science Internal Funding</a>
<b>University Trust Record</b>	UTR 7.220

### Introduction

Early-Mid Career Researchers face the challenge of building a track record of supervising research staff when applying for funding opportunities. Recent teaching and research academics also face the additional challenge of maintaining research momentum through competing demands of academic teaching and service requirements.

The Faculty of Science Researcher Development Grant will support a continuing Level B or Level C academic for two years, building their independent research capacity and boosting their competitiveness in applying for external funding opportunities or obtaining industry contracts. The funding may support a postdoctoral researcher under their supervision and essential project related costs.

The Selection criteria is based on the candidate's plan to build independent research capacity, and potential development of an application for an externally funded opportunity. This funding is conditional on the candidate's School providing a co-contribution of at least \$25,000 per annum for two years.

### Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a Level B or Level C continuing staff within the Faculty of Science in 2025.
- Continuing Research Contingent staff must have an appointment until at least the 1 June 2027. Applicants who do not meet this requirement must have, from their Head of School, confirmed salary support for a contract extension to at least the 1 June 2027.
- Have not previously received more than \$100,000 per annum in Australian competitive grant funding as lead investigator (with the exception that past DECRA or NHMRC Early Career fellowship holders may apply).

Eligibility will be confirmed by the Science Research Office using grant outcome data (recent successes), HR contract data (contract status) and Themis project data and budgets (active grants, expected income in 2025 and incomplete reports).

### Funding

- Two awards will be made in 2025, with at least one being awarded to a female academic.
- Successful recipients will typically receive \$125,000 p.a. for two years, with co-contributions by:
  - The Faculty of Science: \$100,000 p.a. for two years.
  - The Host School: at least \$25,000 p.a. for two years.

### Application and Assessment Process

- Applicants complete a SmartyGrants application form by the closing date.
- The Science Research Office reviews applicants' eligibility.
- Associate Dean Research, or delegate assesses applications and endorses outcomes.
- Successful recipients notified and first payment made in mid-2025.

### Selection Criteria

- Potential of project to increase applicants independent research capacity towards development of an application for an external funding opportunity (including competitive grants and industry contracts). [50%]
- Impact of proposed research. [30%]
- Preference will be given to applicants who have demonstrated previous efforts towards winning external funding (including competitive grants and industry contracts). [20%]

### Requirement

- A significant (>\$100,000) external funding opportunity is applied for within two years of the commencement of the grant.
- Successful applicants must participate in a School based "internal review" and Faculty based "out-of-field review" if preparing an ARC or NHMRC application, or comparable mentoring for other grant schemes.

### Timeline

Process	Date
Scheme open	3 March 2025
Scheme close	30 April 2025
Outcomes	May 2025
Funding	July 2025 – June 2027
External funding opportunity application	Before June 2029

Contact – enquiries about the scheme can be sent to: [science-internalfunding@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:science-internalfunding@unimelb.edu.au)