

Leadership Award

Faculty of Science - Funding Guidelines



Trustee	Faculty of Science
Funding type	Research and Education Award
Applicants	Level A, B & C
Maximum award (AU\$)	\$25,000 (AUD)
Rounds per year	1
Funding duration	12 months
Academic Lead	Prof Georgina Such (Associate Dean, Diversity & Inclusion)
Research & Industry Lead	Liam Scott (Award Coordinator)
Scheme Contact Information	Science Internal Funding
University Gift Record	N/A

Introduction

For outstanding contributions to research or education in addition to emerging leadership and outreach contributions.

Award Objectives

The Faculty of Science aspires to be a leader in developing a skilled workforce with a truly diverse range of experiences and perspectives. We believe this diversity of experience and thought is critical for solving the world's greatest research questions and inspiring the next generation of scientists. Therefore, it is critical that we invest in developing academics with diverse lived experiences who can act as role models for this next generation. This award acknowledges an academic who has achieved excellence in research or education and will provide funds to further their academic work and thus assist to develop them into academic leaders at the University of Melbourne. The awardee will have also demonstrated a commitment to the diversity and inclusion of science by engaging in outreach or leadership activities to promote broader inclusion of underrepresented groups.

Funding Amount and Guidelines

The award will include \$25,000 to further develop the recipient's research or teaching excellence.

This funding can be used for any project that would advance the individual's academic career so they can progress in their research, education, or leadership and service and promoting them as a model of academic excellence. It can also be used to support underrepresented communities within our university or the broader community. Budget items need to be standard items in research or teaching grants: for example, project consumables/costs (including salaries for Research Assistants), travel, and other items – including publication costs and catering for events.

Applicant Eligibility

1. Academics with a PhD, or equivalent research experience, working within the Faculty of Science.
2. Must identify as being from an underrepresented community including LGBTIQ+, culturally and linguistically diverse, neurodiverse, or have lived experience of a disability.
 - Cultural and linguistic diversity (CALD) is defined as being a member of a community with diverse languages, backgrounds, nationalities, traditions, societal structures, and religions that differ from those that dominate in our community. A widely used definition of CALD refers to those people born overseas, in countries other than those classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as 'main English-speaking countries'.
 - Lived experience of a disability is defined as the intersection between having an impairment and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder equal participation in work life within the faculty.

3. Must be between 3-10 years post PhD conferral date or demonstrate equivalent research training. Any time taken away from work (either full or part-time) will be subtracted from total time since PhD conferral. Please specify these time frames within the application. Equivalent research training refers to 3+ years working in industry, with government or with community groups; or 6+ years working in an academic role.
4. Continuing appointment or contract until June 2027.
5. Commitment to leadership or outreach to promote greater inclusion for underrepresented communities within our Faculty or the wider community.

Application Process

Applicants will submit their full application on SmartyGrants according to the timeline below.

Evaluation and Assessment

Applications for this Award are assessed through a Selection Committee chaired by the Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion.

Selection criteria:

- A track record of high-quality activities in education and/or research, assessed as per discipline norms and relative to opportunity (40%)
- A commitment to outreach or leadership, as demonstrated by an emerging record of activities (30%)
- The feasibility and benefit of the planned activities as part of this award (30%)

Timeline

Process	Date
Scheme Opens	4 May 2026
Scheme Closes	30 June 2026
Outcomes	July 2026

Funding Conditions

Awardees will be required to submit an Impact Statement on completion of their project.

Contact: science-research@unimelb.edu.au