

Cross-Disciplinary Research Scholarship Program

Faculty of Science – Funding Guidelines



Trust	William Stone Trust
Funding type	Award
Applicants	Level A-E
Maximum award (AU\$)	\$10,000 per annum for 3 years + PhD stipend
Rounds per year	1
Funding duration	3 years
Academic Lead	Prof Andy Martin (Associate Dean Research)
Science Research Office Lead	Angela Fowler (Award Coordinator)
Scheme Contact Information	Email: Science Research Office
University Trust Record	UTR7.129

Introduction

The Faculty of Science invites applications for funding to support new cross-disciplinary PhD projects aligned with the [Faculty's Research Strategy 2023–2030](#).

This initiative is part of the Faculty's strategic research commitment to foster innovative collaborations that span disciplines, Schools and/or Faculties, with the aim of addressing complex scientific and societal challenges. Projects should demonstrate meaningful cross-disciplinary collaboration and may align with one or more of the Faculty's Big Challenges (Healthy, Sustainable and Just Food Systems, Knowledge and Solutions for a Healthy Planet, Understanding and Adapting to Climate Change, Understanding, Respecting and Conserving Biodiversity, Understanding and Improving Human and Animal Health, Enabling a Renewable Energy Future). While alignment with these themes is encouraged, proposals outside these Challenges that demonstrate alternate alignment with the Faculty's Research Strategy 2023-2030 will also be considered.

Cross-disciplinary research often faces substantial barriers, including career risk (particularly among early career academics), administrative and budgetary complexities, disciplinary silos, and challenges in communication across fields. This funding initiative aims to facilitate opportunities for research impact, by supporting new networks, and increasing the visibility, quantity and quality of research outputs. Ultimately, the goal is to establish a robust pipeline of high impact projects and a vibrant community of practice that demonstrates the value of cross-disciplinary collaboration.

For the purpose of this opportunity cross-disciplinary research refers to the convergence of individuals with deep disciplinary expertise, to solve research problems that span more than one discipline. In effect, this is referring to team-based collaborations and research activities that span more than one discipline.

Objectives

- Support the development of new cross-disciplinary research teams and networks across Schools and Faculties.
- Enable new research that aligns with the Faculty's strategic priorities and/or Big Challenges.
- Address known barriers to cross-disciplinary collaboration by providing targeted funding and institutional support.
- Increase the visibility, quantity, and quality of research outputs from cross-disciplinary projects.
- Build a vibrant community of practice for academics engaged in cross-disciplinary work.
- Facilitate opportunities for research impact through innovative, collaborative approaches.

Funding

- Each application may request 1 PhD stipend plus \$10,000 in seed-funding per annum for 3 years.
- The seed-funding may support candidate or project activities (e.g., workshops).
- Cash co-investment from Schools is encouraged but not required.
- Usual in-kind support of the Graduate Researcher (GR) from Schools is expected.
- Where cross-disciplinary projects involve a Faculty other than the Faculty of Science, matched project funding is required from the other Faculty.

Project Eligibility

- Each application must include at least 2 eligible registered supervisors for the proposed project and PhD candidature.
- Each supervisor included on the application must be on a fixed-term (with at least four years remaining) or continuing contract within the University.
- Applications must have relevant approval of School or Faculty level co-investment (cash, where appropriate and in-kind).
- Applications must have relevant approval from their Head/s of School and for cross-Faculty applications relevant approval from Head/s of School/Department or Faculty.

Application and Selection Process

- The application process focusses on the research project for which a suitable candidate is sought. A PhD candidate should not be included as part of the application.
- Applicants complete an online application form by the closing date.
- Eligibility of applications will be reviewed by the Science Research Office.
- Eligible applications will be assessed by a panel comprising the Associate Dean Research, the Associate Dean Graduate Programs, Manager of Graduate Research and a Faculty Research Committee member. This process will be administratively supported by the Science Research Office.

Post-Award Requirements

- The GR candidates must have a Faculty scholarship score commensurate with the 2026 cut-off score of the relevant School to be considered and commence no later than end of October 2026.

Selection Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criterion	Description	Weighting
Cross-disciplinary collaboration	<i>Evaluates the quality of cross-disciplinary collaboration. Proposals show meaningful engagement between at least two Schools or disciplines, with clear articulation of how different areas of expertise combine to advance the research aims and outcomes.</i>	25%
Research quality and innovation	<i>Assesses the rigor, novelty, and feasibility of the proposed research. Projects should present a clear research question or hypothesis, a sound and achievable methodology, and evidence of innovation or originality in approach, technique, or perspective. PhD candidates must meet the required academic quality standards.</i>	25%
Alignment with strategic priorities	<i>Assesses how well the proposed project aligns with the Faculty's Research Strategy. Projects should clearly show potential to advance cross-disciplinary research.</i>	20%
Supervision and support	<i>Considers the strength and complementarity of the supervisory team and has a clear plan for candidate support and mentoring throughout the course of the project.</i>	15%
Potential for impact and capacity building	<i>Evaluates the project's potential to generate meaningful research impact, attract future funding, and contribute to developing cross-disciplinary capacity. Projects should demonstrate how the PhD candidate's skills, networks, and outcomes will contribute to a collaborative and vibrant research culture.</i>	15%

Timeline

Process	Date
Applications open	05/03/2026
Applications close	02/04/2026
Outcomes	By end of April 2026
Funding	Upon successful outcome, a code will be allocated for submission of expenses. Each quarter (March, June, September & December), each grant recipient will be provided with details of their current expenditure and remaining balance on their awarded funding.
Mid-point progress report	January 2028
End of project report	October 2029

Enquiries

Please send any enquiries to [Science Research Office](#).

Reference Material

[Faculty of Science Research Strategy](#)

[Faculty of Science Research Strategy Implementation Plan](#)