

# Women in Science Academic (WISA) Awards

Faculty of Science - Funding Guidelines



<b>Trustee</b>	John Haasz (Physical Sciences) & Faculty of Science (Environmental and Health Sciences)
<b>Funding type</b>	Research and Education Award
<b>Applicants</b>	Levels A, B & C
<b>Maximum award (AU\$)</b>	\$25,000
<b>Rounds per year</b>	1
<b>Funding duration</b>	12 months
<b>Academic Lead</b>	Prof Georgina Such (Associate Dean, Diversity & Inclusion)
<b>Science Research Office Lead</b>	Liam Scott (Award Coordinator)
<b>Scheme Contact Information</b>	<a href="#">Science Research Office</a>
<b>University Gift Record</b>	UGR 076729

## Introduction

*For outstanding research and education contributions in the maths and physical sciences, or environmental and health sciences in addition to emerging leadership and outreach contributions.*

## Award Objectives

The Faculty of Science aspires to be a leader for gender equity in the higher education sector. One of the most significant challenges for gender equity in this sector is significant attrition of women within the early career stages, leading to low participation of women in senior levels of academia. The Women in Science Academic (WISA) Award aims to address this issue by highlighting two amazing early (ECA) or mid-career (MCA) academics each year and providing them with resources to further their career. The Faculty of Science WISA Award is a targeted award for women who have excelled in their chosen research and education activities but have also given back to their communities through outreach or educational activities. There will be two awards each year, one for academics working in Maths and Physical Sciences and the other for academics in the Environmental and Health Sciences. Trans women are eligible and encouraged to apply.

## Funding Amount

The award will include \$25,000 to pursue your research and education activities and to promote your work through several outreach activities.

## Applicant Eligibility

1. Women researchers with a PhD, or equivalent research experience, working within the Faculty of Science.
2. 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.
3. Continuing appointment or contract until June 2027.
4. Research expertise in either Maths and Physical Sciences or Environmental and Health Sciences. This includes researchers working on the social science challenges within these areas.
5. Participation in outreach activities highlighting science, women in STEM or other related areas.
6. Enthusiasm for participating in activities (maximum of 2) promoting their science during the year of award including promoting research to high school and undergraduate groups.

## 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 include:

- 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](mailto:science-research@unimelb.edu.au)