**UWS Early Career Research Grant Scheme**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- **I am finishing my PhD and will submit it soon. Am I eligible to apply?**

  If your PhD has yet to be submitted or is still under examination, then you would be ineligible to apply. PhD examination can take months, and may involve some re-writing — submission is not sufficient for eligibility. If your PhD is likely to be conferred very close to the scheme deadline, you should contact the Office of Research Services to discuss eligibility.

- **I was named on a research grant at another university but only had a small part to play, am I eligible to apply?**

  No. The scheme is designed to support researchers or research teams of ECRs who have not had the opportunity to develop a successful research grant application.

- **I was on a UWS internal research grant with more experienced researchers who led the project. Am I eligible to apply?**

  No. The scheme is designed to support researchers or research teams of ECRs who have not had the opportunity to develop a successful research grant application.

- **I was involved in a grant-funded research project as a research assistant/PhD Student/PostDoc, but was not named on the grant. Am I eligible to apply?**

  Yes. If you were not one of the grant recipients (such as a Chief, Associate, Principal or Co-Investigator), then you would be eligible to apply for this scheme.

- **Is there any reason why applications to be hosted in a Research Institute are ineligible?**

  Research Institutes receive additional research funds to support research activities and projects for members; you should seek funding through your Institute.

- **Does the same eligibility restriction apply to Postdocs in Research Centres?**

  No. As long as PostDocs in Research Centres have the support of their supervisor and fulfil the other eligibility criteria, then they may apply.

- **Does the Advisor have to be person in your area of research?**

  No. They are there as a more experienced researcher to support you in managing your research generally.

- **Can the Advisor be a co-author on any of the publications arising from the funding?**

  No. As per the guidelines, the advisor/mentor is not to be involved in the research itself and, therefore, not to be on publications arising from the research.

- **Will a budget item beyond a 12 month period be funded?**

  No. Projects (and their budgeted items) are to run to a term of one year. Some pieces of equipment may be used after the end of the grant, but at that time, equipment purchased using research grants is to be shared with all researchers in the host academic unit, as it is the property of the School or Centre. If the equipment is unique at the University or to a particular campus, then researchers from any academic unit should be able to use it.
• Does it work in your favour to be a registered graduate supervisor?

No. This information is for statistical purposes.

• How should I address item 17 of the application, as my project is not so directly related to teaching?

Even if the research results are mentioned or discussed in class, it can be considered related to teaching. Some projects will lend themselves more to this kind of teaching translation than others.

• Can we ask for funding to support participants in empirical research?

Yes. The UWS Human Research Ethics Committee supports the principal of reimbursing or compensating research participants. The Committee will allow the use of gift vouchers or cash for this purpose.

• Do we need to send information regarding PhD eligibility?

No, supporting documents are not required for this.

• If a student is working on the project, will funding contribute to student scholarship top up?

No. This funding is for a research project only, not for any stipend/scholarship top-ups. Nor must funding be used to support aspects of a student’s project; schools have RTS funds in their budget for this purpose and considerable discretion in the use of those RTS funds.

• Is it ok to include pilot data/work as part of the proposal?

If it has been previously completed, then only include as a background to the current project. This proposal should have a discrete research project that tests the possibility of a larger project for future funding.

• Can we add an H-index somewhere in the application to support publication experience?

Yes. Citations, H-indices and other measures can be included as part of the Applicant Background in your proposal. Contact your School Librarian: http://library.uws.edu.au/infoContacts.php?case=SL for more info.

• Where do I mention my career interruption(s) for the purposes of eligibility and an ECR?

This can be included as part of the Applicant Background in your proposal.

• If I want to change my research area, will the H-index in my previous research be considered?

It may be considered as a measure of impact of your previous research and your capacity as a researcher, but if you have changed research direction and have little published in your new area of enquiry, this may still weaken your track record presentation for the current project. The panel would take it all into consideration when making their assessment.

• Do publications under review count?

Only include those that have been accepted for publication. It is recommended that you note the acceptance date to make this clear to assessors.

• How many applicants do you get for this grant?

In the last three years, there’s been an average of 32 applications per round with an average success rate of nearly 40%.
• **Do I need to provide multiple quotes or estimates for budget items?**

  No. It is expected that the most reasonable cost is the one that has been included in your budget.

• **Do I need a support letter from my advisor or my supervisor?**

  No. Additional documentation is not required. The Advisor must sign the application to indicate they have agreed to be involved.

• **What budget items can I ask for?**

  Previous successful applications have included budget items such as:

  Salaries for some casual research assistance for data collection, surveys, focus group assistance, interviews, translations, project organisation. The professorial panel would normally expect an early career researcher with no previous funded grants to conduct the majority of the research themselves, including interviews.

  Transcription services.

  Survey costs, focus groups and interview costs.

  Travel assistance for participants and participant recruitment.

  Travel for fieldwork to locations external to the university (including airfares, car rental, hotel accommodation).

  Animals for laboratory work.

  Lab consumables and kits such as chemicals, knives, syringes, pipettes, electrodes, disposal equipment.

  Lab equipment – although standard equipment will not be funded as the School is funded to supply all necessary equipment and infrastructure for research.

  Memory cards, cameras, digital audio recorders. Typically there are a number of these commonplace items already in the school and, therefore, there should be a justification as to why the researcher needs ‘their own’.

  Advertising for study recruitment.

  Data license fees.

  Training for specialist research tools for the project (but not for NVivo and other similar training already available at UWS or which the researcher would already need to be proficient to conduct the research).

  As with all budget items, they will not be funded if they are not justified well enough as needed in order to successfully complete the research project. This may result in a successful application receiving less funding than requested.

• **Can an Office of Research Services Research Development Officer (RDO) look at my draft application?**

  Yes. RDOs play no part in the assessment process and can provide feedback on the clarity and robustness of your proposal and its associated budget, as well as help check your eligibility to apply.

• **How soon do you need draft applications?**

  At least 5 days before the scheme closes, preferably much sooner. The earlier RDOs receive a draft, the more time they can spend carefully reading it and providing feedback, giving you time to make changes and re-think some sections of your proposal.

  For further help in developing your application, please talk to your appropriate Research Development Officer: [http://www.uws.edu.au/research/researchers/preparing_a_grant_application](http://www.uws.edu.au/research/researchers/preparing_a_grant_application)