

Guidelines and Selection Criteria
Deakin Science and Society Network (SSN)
Project Incubator Grant 2024

A. Goals of Scheme

The Deakin SSN Grants support proposals for activities by Deakin University early and mid-career academic researchers (EMCARs) aimed at incubating new interdisciplinary research collaborations. Project Incubator Grants are appropriate for interdisciplinary team projects and typically bring together multiple Chief Investigators from multiple disciplines.

Project activities should be targeted at one or more of the following:

- To support external grant success for Deakin EMCARs
- To provide Deakin EMCARs with resources, tools and training to conduct high quality and impactful interdisciplinary research
- To increase the feasibility and impact of new interdisciplinary research projects

The scheme specifically seeks to support collaborations between researchers in STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and the HASS disciplines (humanities and social sciences).

Projects that involve collaboration between only STEM disciplines or between only HASS disciplines are unlikely to be successful in their applications.

Successful applicants will be expected to attend an SSN grantee induction in November 2023 and give a presentation at an SSN Work-in-progress research day in 2024.

B. Selection criteria

Eligibility:

1. The first listed Chief Investigator must be an EMCAR employed at Deakin University. EMCAR researchers are defined as up to 15 years full-time equivalent (FTE) post PhD, including career interruptions. Level E researchers are not eligible to apply as first listed investigator. Investigators from outside Deakin University may be listed as collaborators.
2. The first Chief Investigator must be employed at Deakin for the expected duration of the project (i.e., throughout 2024). Certification from relevant business units will be requested from shortlisted projects.
3. The first Chief Investigator of an SSN Incubator Grant cannot be someone who was a first Chief Investigator of a previous successful SSN Incubator Grant.

Project evaluation criteria:

1. The project must address a significant problem of social importance.

2. The project must be designed to lead towards a Category 1-4 grant application or other commercial tender within 18 months of award.
3. The project's aims, methods and/or design must demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach to the problem. This may include:
 - Researchers from different disciplines working together in a team
 - Researchers collaborating to bring different perspectives to solve a problem
 - Researchers utilising methods normally associated with one or more disciplines to solve problems in another discipline
 - One or more researchers translating innovative 'blue-sky' or applied research outcomes from one discipline into an entirely different applied research discipline.
4. The project's outcomes and outputs must be feasible within the project's plans and budget.
5. The project must be aligned with at least one of the research themes of the Deakin Science and Society Network:
 - Environmental Challenges
 - Healthy Futures
 - Indigenous Knowledges
 - Data Cultures

For descriptions of the research themes visit the SSN [website](#).

C. Guidelines

The project application should address the following questions:

Significant problem addressed by project (max 500 words):

- Briefly describe the significant problem your interdisciplinary team seeks to address.
- Why is it important (including potential benefits and links to industry challenges where relevant)?
- Why does it require an interdisciplinary approach?

Interdisciplinary project proposed (max 500 words):

- Briefly explain the project aims, methods and design.
- What is new or innovative about this approach to the research problem?
- What is interdisciplinary about this approach to the research problem (i.e. what are the respective contributions of the HASS and STEM researchers)?
- Briefly outline any preliminary work, if any, that has been completed so far on this project (e.g. meetings with potential collaborators, lab work, etc.)

Expected grant outcomes (max 100 words):

- Briefly outline the expected external grant outcomes from the seed funding (i.e. applications for Category 1 or Category 2-4 grants and/or other funding schemes) as well as any expected peer review publication outcomes (i.e. Q1 journal articles, book chapters)

D. Availability of resources and distribution

The Deakin SSN Project Incubator Grant: applicants can apply for up to AUD\$12,500 per project. We will seek to fund a mix of EMCARs with up to six projects to be awarded in the 2024 round. To develop the project management skills of Deakin University EMCARs, any allocated funds will be held in a Deakin University account and managed by the first Chief Investigator (i.e., a Deakin University staff member) in accordance with relevant University policies and procedures.

E. Resource allocation

The allocated seed funding can be used in the following ways:

- Recruiting Research Assistants
- Acquiring project materials (surveys, transcription, lab materials, etc.)
- Domestic travel expenses (in line with government and university COVID-19 restrictions)
- Other approved expenses

Please list any contributions from other sources (School, Faculty, Institute, external) in the budget.

Funds should ideally be used to support the development of Deakin University staff members. Applications that require funds to be allocated to travel for external collaborators or items that will be used outside of Deakin University will require strong justification.

In addition to seed funding, the SSN will also offer support in the form of mentorship and feedback on project development. Where possible, it will broker collaborative relationships and assist in further developing the interdisciplinary dimensions of the project.

NOTE: resources allocated from this scheme cannot be used for conference attendance.

F. Application process

- Complete and submit the application form by **MONDAY 18 September 2023 5:30pm AEST**
- Include a one-page CV for each Chief Investigator as a single PDF in your submission. Please include a statement of the amount of FTE equivalent time elapsed since the conferral of your PhD taking into account periods of leave, time working in industry, etc. Email this as a single pdf to artsed-research-grants@deakin.edu.au

G. Application timeline

- Applications open: 20 July 2023
- Applications close: **MONDAY 18 September 2023 5:30pm AEST**
- Final decisions and notification of successful applications: 16 October 2023

For further information or enquiries, please contact ARTSED Research Grants at artsed-research-grants@deakin.edu.au

For a copy of the recording of the grants introduction workshop, please write to ssn-info@deakin.edu.au

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact relevant Deakin Science and Society Network [theme leaders](#) if they require guidance on appropriate collaborators and initiatives.