



## **Sydney Environment Institute Collaborative Grants Scheme**

The Sydney Environment Institute (SEI) offers members and non-members the opportunity to apply for a grants scheme to develop a new collaborative, multidisciplinary project aligned with our research foci and strategic objectives on environment, sustainability, and climate.

The Collaborative Grants Scheme has two components:

1. Collaborative Fellowships: funds for a 20% secondment (teaching relief) to the School/Faculty of the successful applicants.
2. Collaborative Seed Funding: up to \$7,500 in seed funding for a multidisciplinary project.

### **Purpose**

The Collaborative Grants Scheme is designed to engage researchers across the University to develop new, collaborative, multidisciplinary projects with SEI support. We are looking for proposals to create sustainable, long-term areas of research and engagement that support SEI's objectives.

Grants will be offered primarily in pairs, in order to encourage multidisciplinary research engagement and collaboration. Single applicants welcome, but such project proposals must focus on building on existing multidisciplinary initiatives and/or involve a multidisciplinary team.

Recipients will contribute to the development of a new set of academic leaders in environmental and sustainability research and engagement at SEI and USyd, and will be proponents of SEI and the University, leading engagement with external partners and the public.

### **Background and conditions**

Recipients will design collaborative, multidisciplinary, and transformative research on core issues of sustainability and environment.

#### **1. Collaborative Fellowships:**

SEI will provide funds for a 20% secondment to the School/Faculty of the successful applicants, with Head of School approval. These funds will be fully directed specifically to teaching relief for one semester.

SEI Collaborative Fellows will work together and with the SEI team to:

- Develop and initiate projects that aim to evolve into large, externally funded collaborations, for example ARC Linkage Projects, state or federal grants, commissioned research, or work amenable to foundation or philanthropic support.
- Design strategic and management plans for projects and impact to continue after the end of the fellowship. During the fellowship, SEI will support Fellows in the development of longer term plans to sustain and build their projects.

- Contribute to the Institute's mission and impact, on campus, locally, domestically, and internationally.

## 2. Collaborative Seed Funding:

SEI will provide funds up to \$7,500 as seed funding for a multidisciplinary project to develop new ideas and methods, or link existing individual projects with collaborators across campus.

Projects must align with one of [SEI's research themes](#) and SEI's research strategy and show potential to develop into a long-term project or expand the scope of an existing research theme or cluster.

### Eligibility

Applications for this scheme must explore multidisciplinary approaches to a core research question aligned with SEI's strategy and foci, and are strongly preferred from collaborative, multidisciplinary teams.

Applications for both the Collaborative Fellowships and Collaborative Seed Funding:

- Should illustrate the transformative potential of the proposed research project,
- Consider ways to make links between SEI and faculty research strategies and priorities, and
- Illustrate diversity and inclusivity, including across subject areas and faculties.

Applicants are also encouraged to include external partners in project proposals; these could include academic, governmental, arts, or civil society partners or organisations.

Applicants should be, or be willing to become, members of SEI.

Additional information for Collaborative fellowships:

- Pairs of fellows can be in residence simultaneously during one semester, or subsequently over two. If you have an idea for a project but do not yet have a partner, please contact the SEI Director or Deputy Directors who can assist in identifying potential partners.
- Fellowships are open to academics at all levels, but teaching relief funding will only be available to Level Bs and Cs. Preference will be given to applications in which at least one partner is an early or mid-career researcher (EMCR).

### Selection

**Applications are open now and due on Friday 7 October 2022 for projects to launch in either semester in 2023.**

Please send applications with responses to the questions below to [Emma Bones](#), General Manager.

Applications for the Collaborative Fellowships must include the following:

1. **Applicant details:**  
Name, title, Faculty, and email of co-applicants (or if single applicant, indication of faculty you are working with)
2. **Project summary:** 200 words  
A brief summary of the proposed project
3. **Project description:** 500 words  
Describe the project foci, process, goals, and outputs. Illustrate how those align with the SEI mission, and potentially align the research strategies of SEI and home faculties.

4. **Project impact:** 500 words  
Summarise the transformational impact of the project. What are the aspirations of the Fellows and the project as a whole?
5. **Outputs:** 250 words  
Describe the plans for academic outputs and external funding opportunities, including grants, commissioned research, and/or foundation or philanthropic funding.
6. **Budget:** Describe potential budgetary needs beyond fellowship time
7. **Contributors:** List potential additional contributors to project – both Sydney-based and external
8. **Timeline:** Provide an initial 12-month timeline for the project
9. **Letter of support:** Attach a letter (or email) of support from Heads of School or Deans of applicants, including an explicit agreement for a secondment to be applied to 20% teaching relief from annual workload if the fellowship application is successful.

Applications for the Collaborative Seed Funding must include the following:

1. **Applicant details:**  
Name, title, Faculty, and email of co-applicants (or if single applicant, indication of faculty you are working with)
2. **Project summary:** 200 words  
A brief summary of the proposed project
3. **Project description:** 350 words  
Describe the project foci, process and goals. Illustrate how those align with the SEI mission, and potentially align the research strategies of SEI and home faculties.
4. **Outputs:** 250 words  
Describe the plans for academic outputs and external funding opportunities, including grants, commissioned research, and/or foundation or philanthropic funding.
5. **Budget:** Provide a description for how seeds funds will be used, including any additional funding or in-kind support that will be used to contribute to this project.
6. **Contributors:** List potential additional contributors to project – both Sydney-based and external.
7. **Timeline:** Provide an initial timeline for the project (maximum 12-months)

#### **Application evaluation criteria**

- Project alignment with SEI mission and strategy and faculty strategies
- Quality of the research/project plan
- Multidisciplinary team
- Broader team/contributors, including external contributors
- Project potential for transformational impact
- Academic outputs and grant potential
- Project feasibility

#### **Contact**

Please direct any questions about the fellowship and/or application process to [Emma Bones](#), SEI General Manager.