



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

—
**Sydney
Environment
Institute**

Sydney Environment Institute Collaborative Grants Scheme

The Sydney Environment Institute (SEI) offers University of Sydney academic staff the opportunity to apply for internal grants to develop new collaborative, multidisciplinary research projects. Projects must be aligned with SEI's research foci and have an objective to undertake excellent research that tackles the greatest challenges of the climate and biodiversity crises and contributes to the common good.

The Collaborative Grants Scheme provides seed funding up to \$25,000 for a new multidisciplinary project.

Grants will be offered for cross-faculty partnerships to encourage multidisciplinary research engagement and collaboration. Applications in biodiversity and conservation, the health and climate intersection, and disaster adaptation research will be prioritised.

Purpose

The Collaborative Grants Scheme is designed to engage researchers across the University to develop multidisciplinary projects that contribute to SEI's vision of a just environmental transformation. It is expected this seed funding will enable projects to produce enough outputs and impacts that additional external funding can be secured to extend or scale the projects after the first 12-months.

Background and conditions

SEI will provide grants up to a total of \$25,000 via auto-reimbursement for a multidisciplinary project to develop new ideas and methods or link existing individual projects with collaborators across campus.

SEI Collaborative Projects will work together 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 philanthropic support.
- Design 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 towards producing societal impact based on national/international priorities.
- Contribute to the Institute's mission and impact by engaging locally, domestically, and/or internationally.

The allocation for funding is limited and applications will be assessed based on a considered and realistic project plan and budget, alignment of the project focus and outcomes to SEI research themes and mission, and project's potential impact. Applicants are encouraged to seriously consider the funding required for a project, and not simply apply for the maximum amount.

Eligibility

Applications can only be accepted from academic staff members at the University of Sydney. Applications for this scheme must explore multidisciplinary approaches to a core research question aligned with SEI's strategy and foci, and be from collaborative, multidisciplinary teams.

Applications :

- Should illustrate the transformative potential of the proposed research project,
- Identify pathways to external funding,
- Consider ways to make links between SEI, Faculty and university 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.

How to apply

Applications open Thursday 24 July 2025 and close on **11:59pm on Thursday 18th September 2025** for projects to commence in 2026.

The application form questions are included below for reference.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in September 2025.

Application evaluation criteria

- Project alignment with SEI mission and strategic goals and Faculty strategies
- Project potential for transformational impact
- Potential to secure external funding
- Quality of the research/project plan
- Breadth of the multidisciplinary team and partners
- Academic outputs
- Project feasibility.

Contact

Please direct any questions about the fellowship and/or application process to sei.info@sydney.edu.au

Application form questions

Applications for the Collaborative Grants must include the following:

1. **Applicant details:**
Name, title, Faculty, and email of co-applicants.
2. **Project summary:** 200 words
A brief summary of the proposed project.
Please include ANZSRC codes (1-3 FoR codes with % breakdown, 1-3 SEO codes with % breakdown and TOA with % breakdown).
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:** 300 words
Describe how the project outputs (both academic and non-traditional) will be disseminated, include external funding applications you plan to apply to (please note relevant grant, commissioned research, philanthropic opportunities), and any strategy for the continuation and/or scaling of your research after 2026.
6. **Budget:** Attach a budget demonstrating how this grant funding and any additional funding or in-kind support will be used for this project.
Please include your RC (or your supervisor's if you do not have one), and note that all funds awarded must be spent by 31 December 2026.
7. **Contributors:** List potential additional contributors to project (both internal and external)
8. **Timeline:** Attach a timeline for the project.