



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.

Grants will be offered for cross-faculty partnerships to encourage multidisciplinary research engagement and collaboration.

Purpose

The Collaborative Grants Scheme is designed to engage researchers across the University to develop new, collaborative, multidisciplinary projects that contribute to SEI's vision of a just environmental transformation. We encourage applications from projects that will benefit from teaching relief or enable substantial research opportunities for early- or mid-career researchers (EMCRs).

Background and conditions of funding

Researchers can apply to the Collaborative Grant scheme for \$75,000 (including teaching relief*) to enable a multidisciplinary project to develop new ideas and methods or link existing individual projects with collaborators across campus. The funds can be used for items including teaching relief, postdoctoral researchers, travel, collaborative workshops, and research support including research assistants.

*Teaching relief is costed at 20% of the full-time salary including on-costs of the relevant academic level of the researcher. Where teaching relief is sought, SEI will provide funds to the School/Faculty of the successful applicants. Head(s) of School approval for the teaching relief using these funds must be provided in writing at the time of application. These funds must be fully directed to teaching relief, up to 0.2FTE during semester 2 of 2025.

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 grant. During the grant, SEI will support projects 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.

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. The project lead is responsible for ensuring the funds are fully expended before the University's 2025 finance deadlines.

Eligibility

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

Applications for Collaborative Funding:

- Should illustrate the transformative potential of the proposed research project,
- Should illustrate the potential to leverage further funding or how the project will lead to larger grants
- 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.

Application evaluation criteria

- Project alignment with SEI mission and strategic goals and faculty strategies
- Project potential for transformational impact
- Quality of the research/project plan
- Breadth of the multidisciplinary team and partners
- Academic outputs and grant potential
- Project feasibility.

Additional information:

- If you have an idea for a project but do not yet have a partner, please contact the SEI Program Manager who can assist in identifying potential partners.
- The Collaborative Grant scheme is open to academics at all levels. Preference will be given to applications in which at least one partner is an early or mid-career researcher (EMCR).

How to apply

Applications open Tuesday, 4 Feb 2025 and close at 11:30pm on **Sunday 23 February 2025** for projects to commence in either semester in 2025.

The [application form](#) questions are included below for reference.

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

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 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. **Project impact:** 500 words
Summarise the transformational impact of the project. What are the aspirations of 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:** Attach a project budget demonstrating how these funds and any additional funding or in-kind support will be used. SEI understands that some outputs and deliverables will occur after the initial 12-month timeline, but please note it is the project lead's responsibility to ensure the funds are fully expended before the University's 2025 finance deadlines.
7. **Contributors:** List potential additional contributors to project (both internal and external).
8. **Timeline:** Attach an initial timeline for the project (maximum 12-months)
9. **Letter of support:** If teaching relief is sought, attach a letter (or email) of support from Heads of School or Deans of applicants, including an explicit agreement for teaching relief (up to 0.2FTE) from annual workload if the fellowship application is successful.