

The University of Sydney Nano Institute Kickstarter

Terms and Conditions

1. Background

- a. The University of Sydney Nano Institute's Kickstarter is open to Sydney Nano researchers from diverse disciplines. The scheme seeds projects towards external opportunities that are aligned with [Sydney Nano Strategy 2024-2028](#).
- b. Projects should reflect Sydney Nano values, grow our five Strategic Pillars and be focussed in our high-priority areas. These can be found in our Sydney Nano Strategy 2024-2028.
- c. Projects will be prioritised with the objective to grow multi-disciplinary research, from idea through to collaboration, ultimately supported by external funding.
- d. Researchers from diverse disciplines can apply. The projects could explore scientific research or the multi-disciplinary application of a technology platform or new ways of thinking about research outcomes.
- e. To foster innovative collaborations across disciplines, a proportion of Kickstarters will be earmarked for projects led by Chief Investigators in Humanities and Social Sciences, Business, Music and Law.
- f. Applications involving multiple faculties are being viewed as favourable.
- g. The Kickstarter is valued at up to \$50,000 AUD.

2. Eligibility

- a. The project must be in line with the [Sydney Nano 2024-2028 Strategy](#).
- b. The applicant is a Member of Sydney Nano.
- c. The project must have the potential to drive transformative outcomes in critical and emerging technologies at the nanoscale.
- d. The project must promote multi-disciplinary research towards external opportunities.
- e. The project must support and grow Sydney Nano's five Strategic Pillars.
 - Research Excellence
 - Researcher Development
 - Translation & commercialisation
 - Teams & Partners
 - Infrastructure

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f. The project emulates and aspires to Sydney Nano values:

- Culture
- External engagement
- 10X, not 10% change
- Experimentation

3. Selection

- Kickstarter rounds will be open at specific times throughout the year, with additional applications considered at the discretion of the Director.
- The Member must submit their application via an online form, addressing the following criteria:
 - Name, title and email of the applicant.
 - A summary of the project. What will be achieved in the next 12 months? What does the project look like after the first 12 months? What external opportunities are identified?
 - Budgeting plan: How will the Kickstarter funds be expended and how will these funds accelerate the project towards the opportunities aspired to? Does the Kickstarter receive joint funding by participating Schools/Faculties? Are existing grants associated with the project?
 - List of the initial Kickstarter team members (and identify potential expansion of the team across other Faculties.)
- Preference will be given to projects that have the commitment of joint funding by their Faculty/ School.
- The final selection will be made by the Sydney Nano Director.
- Kickstarters are governed by the Sydney Nano Director.

4. Value

- The University of Sydney Nano Institute Kickstarter is valued at up to A \$50,000 for up to 12 months only, provided as seed funding towards the development of the designated project.
- The awarded funds are to be used specifically for the development of the designated project:
 - Appropriate expenditure includes, but is not limited to:
 - Hiring support staff (RA, Postdoc, Consultants)
 - Hosting workshops, conferences, seminars, lectures
 - Travel (economy flights, accommodation, transport)
 - Supplementary/secondary scholarships
 - Consumables

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- Commercially available studies, market reports,
- Non-approved expenditure includes:
 - Equipment (CAPEX)
 - General living expenses.
 - Primary Scholarships
 - Travel non-economy.
- c. The Kickstarter funds will be available to the Awardee via an auto reimbursement account.
- d. The Awardee will need to establish a new project code (PC) in IRMA using their award letter, via the [New PC Request – Internal Research webform](#) available on the Services Portal under Research Portfolio.
- e. Each month, funds matching actual expenditure from the previous month will be transferred into the Awardee's established account by Corporate Finance. The transfer of funds will cease when the awarded amount is reached or **30 November 2026**, whichever comes first.
- f. Any unspent funds will be assessed periodically by Corporate Finance and may be forfeited unless being used throughout the award period. Awardees are directed to commence spending in Q1 as large balances left unspent later in the year risk forfeit.
- g. Subsequent additional funding may be applied for to the Director and may be considered favourably if co-funded by the applicant's Faculty/School.

5. Expected Outcomes

- a. Funded projects need to demonstrate how they have met the objectives of Sydney Nano's strategic pillars:
 - Research Excellence
 - Researcher Development
 - Translation & commercialisation
 - Teams & Partners
 - Infrastructure
- b. Collaboration towards joint funding applications/ success.
- c. Other academic achievement such as relevant prizes, further collaborations, joint publications, media, research translation, industry engagement etc.
- d. Provide a case study summarising the project's impact, which may include visual representation, images, experience reports from the team and other materials as relevant. The Sydney Nano ASU can provide advice on relevant content.