India Development Fund
Guidelines for Applicants

Purpose

The University of Sydney - India Development Fund (IDF) provides funding to support initiatives that foster partnerships in research, teaching and learning, capacity building and other areas with institutions in India.

Applicants must also demonstrate that their projects are sustainable in the long-term, preferably by including a plan for engagement that includes leveraging external funding and publication outputs.

Preference will be given to teams which include Higher Degree Research (HDR) students\(^1\), postdocs, Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR) and researchers on Sabbatical Leave rather than simply one-to-one research projects. Projects which are multidisciplinary in nature are encouraged.

In 2018 up to six projects will be selected for funding. Each grant is designed to principally seed new projects or boost existing projects. Approved projects may receive up to AU $15,000 from the University, to be spent over a 12-month period.

1. **Eligibility**

1.1. Proposals are invited from academic staff from all disciplines at USyd and its affiliated Research Centres and Institutes.

1.2. Chief Investigators from must be employed on a full-time, part-time (appointed at least 0.5 FTE), fixed term or continuing basis. If on a fixed term contract, the end date must be beyond the funding period.

1.3. Higher Degree Research students, post-docs, and research assistants/associates are not eligible to apply as Chief Investigators but they are welcome to join the applications.

2. **Duration**

Funding is available for 12 months from the date of the award.

3. **Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications open</td>
<td>8 October 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications close</td>
<td>19 November 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful applicants notified</td>
<td>21 December 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **Eligible Grant Activities**

4.1. Activities that will be considered for funding include:
   - Airfares: Travel should be economy class between Sydney and India;
   - Other travel expenses (e.g. train, rental car);

---

\(^1\) Higher Degree Research students refer to students pursuing PhD or master’s by research.
- Costs for hosting a seminar/conference or workshop (should not exceed 50% of total budget);
- Accommodation and subsistence in India and Sydney (for visiting researchers);
- Consumables; and
- Publications and printing costs of up to AUD 2,000.

All travel activities must comply with the [Travel Policy 2018](#).

4.2. Activities that will not be considered for funding:
- General teaching;
- An individual staff member’s research projects, unless as catalytic funding for the establishment of an international research collaboration with the prospect of external funding;
- Event registration fees;
- Website development;
- Venue hire on campus;
- Salaries or salary supplementation, and honoraria (Research assistants may be possible with the approval of Finance Manager and Head of School);
- Scholarships for students;
- Course fees for international students;
- Bench fees;
- Mobile phone cards;
- Entertainment costs; and
- Computers, including laptops (excluding access to high-performance computers or other specialised applications that are justified by the project) and basic computing facilities such as printers, word processing and other standard software.

5. Submission Requirements

The proposal must address the selection criteria (see point 6) and include the following elements:
- Project timeline (a timeline form is built into the online application)
- Project budget (a budget form is built into the online application)
- CV of the Chief Investigators (maximum two pages in length) which should include:
  - Qualifications, current position and employment history
  - 10 career-best publications
  - Awards and relevant presentations
  - Current grant income
  - Collaborative track record (limited to 200 words)
- A brief letter of support in English on official letterhead from any additional institution/organisation that intends to formally collaborate.

6. Scoring and Selection Criteria

6.1. Priority is given to applications that align with the Faculty and University strategic priorities.

6.2. Criteria do not have weightings; proposals are assessed holistically. Each proposal will be assessed according to the selection criteria described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection Criteria</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Quality & Relevance | • Clearly describe the objectives and methodology to be employed with the project. The alignment with strategic priorities and the objectives of the funding scheme will be considered in combination with the soundness of the concept and credibility of the proposed methodology.  
• Explain how the participants in the research team will bring together the necessary expertise to carry out the project. The 2-page CVs of the Chief Investigators will be taken into consideration. |
| Execution | • Elaborate on the workplan and milestones outlined in the timeframe (there are separate sections in the application form for an outline of activities in the Timeline and Budget). Proposed timeframes and budget estimates should be realistic and appropriate.  
• The long-term plan for engagement to attract research funding and produce publications will be taken into consideration.  
• This section should also address the appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants [including PhD students, postdocs, Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR)\(^2\), and any researchers on Sabbatical Leave] have a valid role and there are adequate resources in the project to enable them to fulfil that role. |
| Impact | • Outline what the participants will gain from the project and how it will contribute to the discipline and field of research.  
• Explain how the project will establish or strengthen a durable cooperation between the universities and participants.  
• Explain how the project will impact beyond the academic sphere (i.e. benefit society and address global challenges).  
• Explain how the project activities and results will be communicated to different target audiences. |

7. Assessment Process

Award selection will be made by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) who reserves final authority over the selection of projects taking into account university and faculty strategic priorities, and the availability of funds.

8. Application Submission

8.1. All applications must be submitted by a Chief Investigator from USyd.


8.3. Applications can only be initiated by the Chief Investigator from USyd using their UniKey and password.

8.4. All applications require the endorsement by the relevant USyd Head of School. The USyd Chief Investigator must complete the Endorsement Coversheet and upload it to USyd Funding Schemes Site before final submission.

8.5. Only complete submissions will be considered.

---

\(^2\) Early-Career Researchers are defined as those within 10 years of award of PhD and Mid-Career Researchers are defined as those between 10-15 years of award of PhD.
8.6. Late applications will not be considered.

9. Notification of Application Outcomes
Successful applicants will receive a letter of award outlining the process to accept the award including payment.

10. Change of Investigator
Applicants should contact the Program Coordinator at each institution. Such changes will need to be approved and documented.

11. Extensions
Under exceptional circumstances extensions will be approved for a maximum period of six months. Applicants seeking an extension must submit an Amendment Request Form along with a revised budget and timeline of activities to the Program Coordinator for approval. Amendment Request Forms are available upon request from the Program Coordinator.

12. Forfeiture of Grants
Grants not spent by the due date must be returned so that unspent balances can be re-allocated.

13. Financial and Reporting Obligations
The funding should only be used for the approved project and in accordance with the proposal and the budget plan. It must not be used for any other purposes and prior approval is needed for any variation in the budget items. Request for variations from original proposals must be submitted using an Amendment Request Form. Amendment Request Forms are available upon request from the Program Coordinator.

Awardees should adhere to the purchasing guidelines of the respective universities to which reimbursement is to be sought. Reimbursement of each expenditure item will be capped at the approved amount.

Recipients will be required to submit a final report within three months of completion of the project. A report pro-forma is available online. Recipients who fail to submit a final report will not be eligible to submit future applications.

14. Publications
Any publications (e.g. abstracts, articles) or dissemination (e.g. public presentations) arising from activities supported by the IDF should acknowledge assistance received from the IDF and copies or notification should be submitted to the Office of Global Engagement. The standard acknowledgment is “University of Sydney - India Development Fund”.

Further Information
For further information please contact:

Office of Global Engagement
Email: ip.ipdf@sydney.edu.au
Phone: +61 2 9351 4832