

Global Research & Impact Program (GRIP) Initiator Grant Guidelines

Application deadline for 2026 Initiator Round 1: Wednesday 13 May 2026.

1. Initiator Seed Grant Objective

To initiate high-impact collaborations in research and education with leading global institutions.

2. Assessment Criteria and Weighting

GRIP Initiator grants are intended to foster long-term, high-impact research or education collaborations.

Proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

Criterion	Description	Weighting
1. Project Design, Feasibility & Collaboration Quality	The proposal clearly articulates a well justified research need or opportunity, supported by an appropriate project design, realistic timeline, and feasible activities at Initiator scale. The collaboration demonstrates strong complementary or shared capabilities across partners, with clear mutual benefit and a credible collaboration model.	25%
2. EMCR Leadership & Capability Development	Priority is given to proposals led by UNSW Early to Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs), where participation strengthens international research leadership capability and future independence.	15%
3. Partner Strategic Fit & Quality	The proposal demonstrates a strong strategic rationale for the selected partner(s), aligned with UNSW priorities and international standing/reputation.	15%
4. Research Translation, Scalability & Sustainability	The proposal articulates credible and appropriate pathways for research translation (e.g. policy, industry, practice, education, or innovation), and demonstrates potential to grow beyond seed funding through joint funding, institutional embedment, or progression toward GRIP Accelerator level engagement.	25%
5. Social Progress & Impact Pathway Alignment	The collaboration aligns with UNSW's Progress for All strategy and articulates a credible pathway toward impact aligned to one of the four Impact Focus Areas .	20%
TOTAL		100%

Please note:

- 1) In line with the Australian Government's [recent announcement](#) to begin treaty negotiations on association to [Horizon Europe](#), research projects engaging with partners in Europe are encouraged.
- 2) All funded projects must comply with **Australian Defence Export Control** regulations, as well as **Foreign Arrangement** requirements. Applications that do not meet these requirements may be deemed ineligible for the GRIP Initiator grant.

3. Funding & Project Duration

- Maximum funding request: AUD \$20,000 (final awarded amount is subject to reviewer/panel decision).
- Maximum project duration: 12 months, with all funds expended by the project end date.
- Funding usage: Must align with the GRIP objectives and application budget. Funding will be released in line with grant application budgets and will not roll over.

Eligible Expenses

Mobility and Travel (Economy Class Only)

- Domestic and international travel for project research team members;
- Accommodation;
- Local transport (e.g., taxis, trains, car hire for project purposes);
- Reasonable visa costs (if required);

Ensure your costs align with the [UNSW Travel Expenses procedure](#).

Networking and Collaboration

- Hosting or participation in workshops, seminars, symposia, and planning meetings, including venue hire and catering (non-alcoholic);

Project Initiation, Feasibility & Research Support

- Small-scale pilot experiments or prototype development;
- Costs for developing collaborative research/teaching proposals;
- Expenses for conducting feasibility studies or exploratory fieldwork;

Consumables and Materials (Limited to 30% of overall budget)

- Project-specific consumables;
- Materials for prototyping or testing;
- Printing and publishing costs (if clearly tied to collaborative research outputs).

Ineligible Expenses

- Salaries or salary supplementation for academic or professional staff;
- Student bursaries or support for participation in collaborative visits;
- General-purpose equipment (e.g., laptops, phones, printers);
- Basic office supplies, software, or IT infrastructure;
- Entertainment, gifts, or alcohol;
- Indirect costs, bench fees, or institutional overheads;
- Stipends to individuals outside of UNSW or the funded institutions;
- Mobile/data allowances.

4. Application Process & Assessment Timeline

The GRIP Initiator grant application link can be found on the [GRIP website](#).

- Application deadline for Round 1: Wednesday 13 May 2026.

- Outcome Notification: All applicants will be notified of their application outcome (successful or unsuccessful) via email.

2026 Initiator Round	Applications Received by	Outcomes Announced
Round 1	Wednesday 13 th May 2026	June 2026

5. Reporting Requirements

Grant recipients must provide a final report within one month of the project end date reporting on progress against the original proposal objectives and financial expenditure.

A final report link will be provided to successful projects.

6. Questions & Contact

For additional enquiries, contact grip@unsw.edu.au.