



1. TIMETABLE

Closing date for receipt of applications to the Director of Research, UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science are as follows:

All grants to be submitted to the Director of Research, UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science by 5pm AEST on 1 November each year (if that falls on a weekend, then the first Monday after 1 November)

However, the inaugural grant in 2021 is to be submitted by **5pm AEST 18 June 2021**, thereafter 1 November 2021 and continuing.

2. OBJECTIVES

The Diabetes Research Grant from the Elizabeth O'Beirne and Robert and Emmy Mather Trust Fund (DRG-EOREMTF) is designed to meet the following objectives:

The purpose of the fund is to support UNSW research into the cause and treatment of diabetes particularly with regard to the effect causing blindness absolutely and is administered by the School of Optometry and Vision Science.

In line with the intended purpose, the funds may be used for, including, but not limited to, research activities, support the salaries and on-costs of UNSW research staff, travel, conferences and workshops and equipment for research. The funds provided for this purpose must comply with UNSW Policies and Procedures and must not present any conflicts of interest. The funds cannot be used to pay the salaries or stipends of those who have donated to this fund, or their affiliates/ family.

3. ELIGIBILITY OF RESEARCHERS

All applications must have at least one Chief Investigator.

The Chief Investigator may be a full time or part time member of staff of UNSW, or a visiting academic within the School. People who are on UNSW payroll that are affiliated with UNSW are also eligible to apply, but are encouraged to collaborate with full time or part time member of staff of UNSW.

The application may have other investigators, both internal and external to UNSW that are needed for the grant.

Postgraduate students at UNSW apply for the grant as Chief Investigators, but at least one member of their supervisory team (i.e. their supervisor, co-supervisor or joint supervisor) must also be named on the grant.

4. ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS

Applicants are required to report on the outcome of research that has been previously funded through this scheme as a part of their application.



Funding may not be used to supplement, or in any way duplicate, a project being funded in the same year through another competitive scheme.

5. NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS

Each staff member may be the Chief Investigator on only one application per year.

6. DURATION AND LEVEL OF FUNDING

The funding (maximum AUD\$23,000 each year until funds are expended or another amount is set by the Director of Research) is for one calendar year, and all monies must be expended within that calendar year. Any funds not spent by 31st December of that calendar year must be returned to the granting body.

7. APPLICATION PROCESS

The application form can be found on the UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science website or via The Director of Research, UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science.

8. CLOSING DATES

The closing date for applications is the date listed on the front page of these guidelines.

9. ASSESSMENT AND RANKING

9.1 Each application will be assessed. The assessors will be selected by the Director of Research (or appropriate nominee if they have a conflict of interest)

9.2 The ASSESSORS will assess both the quality of the proposed research and the research track record of the investigator(s), taking into account the objectives of the scheme and the category in which the applicant(s) have applied, and with regard to the applicants track record relative to opportunity. In assessing the quality of the research, the assessors will address the following questions:

- (i) if a research proposal, is the proposed research original and innovative?
- (ii) is the project soundly based in concept and planning?
- (iii) is the project feasible, bearing in mind the expertise of the applicants and the available time and infrastructure?
- (iv) will funding the project enhance the research output or scientific standing of the individual or team?
- (v) will funding of the project bring about a competitive advantage to UNSW in the discipline?
- (vi) is the budget justified and appropriate?
- (vii) the outcomes of previous DRG-EOREMTF grants, if applicable.

9.3 The assessors will supply assessments that will include written comments. These comments will be supplied to the applicants in an anonymous form at the time of the announcement of the successful application each year.



Projects should be rated as:

10	Within the top 2% of all projects within its field on an international scale (field defined broadly)
8-9.9	<i>Outstanding:</i> of outstanding quality very likely to produce an important And continuing contribution to the area
6-7.9	<i>Excellent:</i> likely to make an important and continuing contribution to the area
5-5.9	<i>Good:</i> likely to make a useful and sound contribution to the area
1-4.9	Not currently competitive

- 9.4 The Assessors are expected to return their scores and written assessments within three (3) weeks of receiving the grants to assess.
- 9.5 The Research Director will calculate, (after assessing both the project and the investigator(s)), an aggregate assessment. The weighting will be 60% on project and 40% for the investigator(s).

10. NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOMES

It is the responsibility of the Director of Research to advise both successful and unsuccessful applicants, and to provide written feedback on unsuccessful applications as soon as possible, once assessors comments have been received. **The School will publish the successful application(s) to the School website and outcomes will be published on the Faculty website.**

11. APPEALS PROCEDURE

An applicant dissatisfied with the outcome of a proposal must, in the first instance, contact the Head of School, School of Optometry and Vision Science. The Head of School should attempt to address any questions on the process that was followed.

If, after discussion with the Head of School, an applicant wishes to make an appeal, it should be lodged officially with the Head of School in writing outlining the grounds of the appeal. Appeals may be lodged on issues of process only.

12. ETHICS AND BIOSAFETY REQUIREMENTS

If the research proposal requires ethics and/or biosafety clearances, these clearances must be lodged and obtained before funding is released.

13. COMMENCEMENT OF FUNDING

The School of Optometry and Vision Science is responsible for the administration and allocation of funds. Funds are expected to be available for use in the January of the year following the grant application.



14. CARRY FORWARD OF FUNDS

All funds must be expended by 31st December in the year of the award. There can be no carry forward into the following year, and no exceptions.

15. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Investigators are required to submit a Final Report on their research by 31st December in the year of the award.

Failure to provide a satisfactory report on the most recent grant will render the investigator(s) ineligible to receive further funding from this scheme.

Estate Recognition: The grant must be recognised as the "Diabetes Research Grant from the Elizabeth O'Beirne and Robert and Emmy Mather Trust Fund" in any publications or advertisements concerning the funded research.

16. FUNDING OF THE SCHEME

It is expected that there will be one successful grant each year, until the disbursement limit of the fund of Elizabeth O'Beirne and Robert and Emmy Mather Trust Fund for this purpose have been expended.