

# PartnershipInvest

## Internal Grant Scheme Funding Guidelines

### 1. Governing Policy

These guidelines are governed by the Australian Catholic University Research and Enterprise Funding Policy.

### 2. Overview

The PartnershipInvest Research and Enterprise internal grant scheme promotes the creation of sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships with Industry, business, and publicly funded organisations.

The program offers ACU staff an opportunity to access matched funds up to \$50,000 for cash-funding obtained from an external partner for a project aligned with ACU's mission and 2020-2023 Strategic Plan.

The matched funds are to be used towards the proposed project. This will enable staff to deliver greater value to industry and business partners.

### 3. Eligibility criteria:

The identified lead researcher must be an ACU staff member employed on a continuing or fixed-term basis at a minimum 0.4FTE. Where fixed-term, employment must extend to the end of the grant scheme reporting timeline.

### 4. Application Requirements and Submission

Applications must be submitted on the application form and should include:

- A short project brief (template provided), indicating:
  - How the project supports ACU's mission;
  - How the project aligns with the Research and Enterprise Plan;
  - How the project aligns to ACU domains of expertise (e.g high ERA or key teaching disciplines); and
  - How the project can produce tangible positive impact.
- A copy of the formalised partnership agreement, where available or, alternatively, a letter of intent from the Industry partner, with an explicit mention of intended funding;
- A high-level breakdown of project tasks, related effort and staff involved in delivering the project; and
- A support statement from the relevant line management senior executive (including workload compatibility).

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact [industry@acu.edu.au](mailto:industry@acu.edu.au) prior to applying.

To provide flexibility to staff in their negotiations with Industry Partners, applications will be considered on an ongoing basis and should be submitted to [industry@acu.edu.au](mailto:industry@acu.edu.au).

## 5. Use of Funds

Examples of eligible projects include:

- a. Industry-funded research projects conducted by ACU academics in their areas of expertise (e.g HERDC category 2/3/4 projects);
- b. PhD scholarships;
- c. PhD Internships (e.g towards top-up, fee waivers or equipment);
- d. New Work Integrated Learning programs or curriculum design projects involving industry partners; and
- e. Industry presence on ACU campus (e.g co-location with other benefits).

PartnershipInvest will **not** apply to:

- a. In-kind contributions from industry partners;
- b. UG Industry scholarships unless they are part of a broader collaboration;
- c. Partnerships with other Higher Education organisations, publicly funded research organisations or organisations that are affiliates or subsidiaries (such as Medical Research Institutes) of a higher education provider;
- d. UG Placements/Internships;
- e. Projects for which industry funding has already been secured (except if the grant can help increase the scope and total funding); and
- f. Collaborations that have already received ACU funding.

## 6. Selection Process

Proposals will be evaluated by the PartnershipInvest Selection Committee, chaired by the Dean, Innovation and Industry Engagement (DIIE), which will provide a recommendation to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise (DVCRE). The Selection Committee reserves the right to discuss applications with Executive Deans, Associate Deans (Research), or other senior colleagues, and reserves the right to seek further information from applicants before making a final recommendation.

Applications will be assessed on the basis of:

- i. alignment with ACU's mission and Research and Enterprise Plan;
- ii. the quality, merit, and proposed benefits of the project;
- iii. demonstrated capacity to produce tangible impact;
- iv. details of the partnership, including approvals and/or formal agreement, where available; and
- v. project feasibility including the timelines, and budget (justification and appropriateness).

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- i. Create new, valuable and mission-aligned partnerships for ACU;
- ii. Leverage ACU's domains of expertise;
- iii. Are innovative in nature; and
- iv. Create new revenue opportunities for ACU.

Proposals that are aligned current Federal or State funding for industry-academia collaborations (such as for instance the [Australia's Economic Accelerator](#), the [NSW 20-years R&D Roadmap](#), [Breakthrough Victoria](#), or the [QLD industry-academia fund](#)) are particularly encouraged.

Where a partnership agreement is not yet formalised, offers of funding may be conditional on first obtaining the necessary approvals.

In making its recommendation to the DVCRE, the Selection Committee will determine the final amount awarded to each successful project.

All offers of funding must be accepted in writing.

## **7. Reporting**

Funded research with a duration exceeding one year is subject to submission of an annual progress report against milestones and outcomes. The progress report is due 12 months after the project start date and should be submitted to [res.development@acu.edu.au](mailto:res.development@acu.edu.au).

All funding recipients must submit a final report within 30 days of the completion of the project. This includes research of one year duration.

Successful project applicants will be required to provide input for internal or public announcements and are expected to provide appropriate acknowledgement of University support when communicating project outcomes.