



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

Educational Strategies Development Fund (ESDF)

2020 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Teaching Grants and Awards grants-awards@uow.edu.au

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CLOSE AT NOON ON MONDAY 12 AUGUST 2019
PLEASE COMPLETE THE EOI FORM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THESE
2020 ESDF GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Educational Strategies Development Fund

ESDF Grants are awarded to projects that involve a scholarly investigation of an issue or innovation in teaching and learning that furthers the University's Strategic Goals in specific priority areas. Funded projects are expected to have a positive impact on student learning or the student experience and visibly contribute to the University community's knowledge and practice in the specified area. Projects responding to issues beyond a single subject or discipline are strongly encouraged. The funding program maintains a strong emphasis on assessing the strategic value of nominated proposals, and funding is awarded on this basis.

For the 2020 round currently being advertised, a number of changes from previous years have been made to the process. Based on the findings of a review of the ESDF Grants Program in 2017, the process now requires a much stronger alignment to UOW's strategic initiatives, a two-phase application process, and more support provided to project teams. Of note,

- The **Strategic Priorities** for 2020 were decided by a Panel that included the DVCA, PVC Students, the Faculty Associate Deans (Education), and LTC.
- The **Application Process** now requires applicants to submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI) form** that is collected by LTC but vetted and ranked by Faculty/Division before selected applicants are invited to submit a full application. This application will be reviewed by the Internal Teaching Review Panel as in previous years.
- Successful funding recipients will be expected to engage in the **ESDF Action Learning Program**, which provides participants with the opportunity to connect with a network of peers who are facing similar challenges, and reflect on, document and share their learning experiences.

Who can apply?

The ESDF scheme is open to all academic and professional staff involved in learning and teaching at all onshore UOW Campuses and Education Centres. (UOWE will administer their own teaching and learning grants program for 2019 onwards.) Applications may be made by individuals or teams, although teams are strongly encouraged. Sessional staff are encouraged to apply, however, a Chief Investigator for each project must hold a continuing contract.

Applications

For the initial application:

- Discuss your project with key stakeholders, your Head and the Faculty Associate Dean (Education)
- Complete all parts of the **2020 ESDF Expression of Interest (EOI) Form** and save it as a PDF file
- Email one electronic copy to grants-awards@uow.edu.au no later than **Noon on Monday 12 August 2019**.

Late and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Applicants should direct questions to Learning, Teaching and Curriculum at grants-awards@uow.edu.au

Projects selected to submit a full application will be sent an additional Form and further details when notified.

Funds Available

In this round, \$150,000 will be available for distribution across projects that align with the following priority areas.

Priority areas

1. Digitally enhanced learning / Hybrid/Blended learning
2. Learning spaces / Active Pedagogy / Collaboration
3. Work-integrated learning
4. Successful Transition (Student Entry and First Year)
5. Student Feedback including Scalability
6. Other leading innovation in learning and teaching

Funds are awarded to meet the costs of the project. This can include:

- Research, design, consultation, collaboration and production of project materials
- Technical or research assistance for projects or to enable full or part-time release from teaching for an academic staff member (for up to 14 weeks)
- Implementation of an evidence-based educational innovation (for example, a nationally funded project completed elsewhere) at the University of Wollongong

The following items will not be funded

- Room upgrades and major equipment
- Conference travel (unless it is demonstrated that this is a critical part of the project's broader dissemination strategy – see below section on Project Impact and Dissemination)
- Catering (unless it is demonstrated that this is a critical part of the project)
- Literature review - it is expected that this is already complete and will not be funded

Assessment Criteria

Projects will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. The project's alignment to the University and Faculty strategic directions and the above mentioned priority areas.
2. The clarity of focus for the project and the appropriateness of the planned activities.
3. The financial plan:
 - The relationship between the request for funds and the planned activities is clear
 - Financial calculations are clearly explained (for example, in terms of costs and quantities; rates of pay including on-costs for personnel). Refer to [UOW salary scales](#) for reference.
4. The benefit to the wider academic community
 - Potential for collaboration and/or sharing outcomes across courses or faculties (innovation or improvement)
 - Potential for expansion beyond the university

Collaboration

Internal, external and international collaboration is encouraged, particularly if applicants are planning on developing the project into an application for external funding. For example:

- Internal collaboration with colleagues (within and/or across faculties, schools and units)
- External collaboration with relevant disciplinary bodies (such as industry organisations)
- External collaboration with other institutions
- International collaboration



Project Impact and Dissemination

It is important to demonstrate the impact the proposed project will make in its sphere of influence, both during and after the funding period. Consider the [Impact Management Planning and Evaluation Ladder \(IMPEL\) Model](#) as you prepare your submission.

A strong and wide dissemination strategy is essential for project impact and ensures that your project will contribute to positive change within the course, discipline, faculty, UOW or beyond. This will be requested in the invitation to submit a full application. Consider the national [Dissemination Framework](#) and how you might take an evidence-based approach to building dissemination into your project design.

Engagement Requirements for Successful Funding Recipients

Successful project teams are expected to engage in the *ESDF Action Learning Program* throughout the course of the project. Project teams are also expected to develop an **online case study** for showcasing on the LTC Website, along with participation of the team in dissemination of results including a Showcase presentation.

There is also an expectation that grant recipients will evaluate the impact of their educational innovation, leading to submission of an article or articles to good quality journals. Some projects may also lead to a conference presentation or other competitive grants funding.

Decision Process and Notification

All EOI's received by the closing date will be collated by LTC and sent to the appropriate Associate Dean (Education) or Head of Division for assessment and ranking prior to returning to LTC. Selected projects will then be invited to submit a full application to be considered by the Internal Teaching Grants Review Panel. Following assessment, the panel will make recommendations to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

LTC reserves the right to suggest a joint venture for applicants where Expressions of Interest are seen to complement each other and where collaboration could result in greater benefit for the University.

All applicants submitting an Expression of Interest will be notified by LTC by October 2019. This notification may include an invitation to submit a full application. All projects invited to submit a full application will be advised of the final decision in writing by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) by December 2019.

Timeframes for projects

It is expected that all projects will commence in early 2020 and will be completed within 18 months of funding. Final reports are due in June 2021. Extensions will not be granted for any reason and unspent funds remaining after this time will be withdrawn.

Key Dates

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| 23 July 2019 | Q & A Session |
| 12 August 2019 (by Noon) | Expressions of Interest due to LTC |
| Week of 23 September 2019 | Applicants notified of outcome of EOI Selected proposals invited to submit full application |
| 14 October 2019 | Full Applications due to LTC |
| By end of December 2019 | Applicants advised of outcome of full applications |
| January 2020 onwards | Projects commence |
| June 2021 | Case Study due |

