IKI Research Theme Grants

The Indigenous Knowledge Institute (IKI) aims to advance interdisciplinary research and engagement in Indigenous knowledge systems. IKI is a Melbourne Interdisciplinary Research Institute, which aims to promote research linkages and collaboration across the University and play a lead role in translating University research to external audiences.

The IKI **Research Theme grant scheme** supports integrated two-year programs of interdisciplinary research that focus on new proposed Themes in Indigenous knowledge. Each Theme will be directed with a Theme Leader at 0.1 FTE, who will be selected for appointment through this application process.

IKI invites proposals for innovative, interdisciplinary research programs with a focus on specific Themes in Indigenous knowledge. Indigenous knowledge, sometimes also called traditional or local knowledge, refers to the understandings and practices developed by Indigenous peoples through thousands of years of experience. Indigenous knowledge systems are typically holistic, relational, and rooted in a strong and continuing connection with the waters, land, and sky. The Theme's research program should address an identified need or gap in the field of Indigenous knowledge research.

There are two Theme Leader roles available this round. IKI invites proposals from prospective Theme Leaders for innovative and interdisciplinary research Theme programs that address an identified need or gap in Indigenous knowledge research. Proposed Themes should align with one or more IKI research priority areas:

- Country — Indigenous knowledge of sustaining environments and living ecologies
- Law — Indigenous knowledge in maintaining law, governance, and social cohesion
- Culture — Indigenous knowledge as applied through culture and creative expressions
- Futures — translating Indigenous knowledge for new applications

Successful applications under this scheme will include a 0.1 FTE salary contribution for the Theme Leader and additional Theme program funding of up to $50,000 per year for two years. Theme Leaders will have central IKI support in delivering agreed activities aligned with IKI research and events priorities. Applications must also include a minimum of three additional CIs from the University of Melbourne who provide interdisciplinary expertise, and one Partner Organisation.

All University of Melbourne academic staff employed at no less than 0.2 FTE are eligible to apply for this funding for programs up to a **maximum of $100,000**. Proposals will be assessed against these five selection criteria:

1. Indigenous Knowledge Research Advancement
2. Commitment to Partnership

Installation photography of Maree Clarke's *Ancestral Memory* exhibition, Old Quad, 2019. Photograph: Christian Capurro. Image © the artists.

3. Interdisciplinarity and Approach
4. Impact and Researcher Development
5. Feasibility and Budget

Key dates for the IKI **Research Theme grant scheme** are set out in the table below:

Applications open	Monday 30 August 2021
Information/drop in sessions	• Thursday 2 September 2021 *(12.30pm – 1.30pm)* • Thursday 9 September 2021 *(12.30pm – 1.30pm)* One-on-one discussion with IKI Director on request
Applications close	Monday, 1 November 2021 (COB)
Assessor reviews	Week 8-12 November 2021
Outcomes	Week commencing 22 November 2021
Funding commences	December 2021

As key Research Associates of the IKI, appointed Theme Leaders and their research teams may be invited to present about their research at IKI events and meetings, which may include:

- January — IKI Colloquium
- July — IKI NAIDOC Week Panel
- August — IKI Symposium for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- December — Symposium on Indigenous Music and Dance (National/International in alternating years)

Additional information on this funding scheme, including guidelines, terms and conditions, and the application form are included in the remainder of this document.

Research Theme grant scheme Funding guidelines

Eligibility

Researchers from all disciplines across the University of Melbourne are eligible to apply. Further guidance on Researcher eligibility is detailed below in the **Funding Terms & Conditions**.

Application process

Applications open on **Monday, 30 August 2021**. IKI staff are available to assist you in your application and encourage you to contact Indigenous-knowledge@unimelb.edu.au to discuss your proposal before submitting an application.

Applications close CoB Monday, 1 November 2021, and will need to be submitted by emailing a completed Application Form to Indigenous-knowledge@unimelb.edu.au. Please contact IKI if you have any questions about submission.

Selection criteria

IKI will evaluate submissions against five selection criteria:

1. **Indigenous Knowledge Research Advancement**
   Does the program aim to advance research into Indigenous knowledge? To what extent does the program address an identified gap or need in this field?

2. **Commitment to Partnership**
   To what extent does the program research team demonstrate existing capacity to engage with Indigenous partners or incorporate relationship development as part of the program? To what extent does the program demonstrate benefit for Indigenous Partner Investigators and/or Partner Organisations, Partner commitment to the program, research engagements with Indigenous knowledge holders, and opportunities for Indigenous knowledge holders to co-develop the program and its research outputs?

3. **Interdisciplinarity and Approach**
   To what extent will the program and participants engage in interdisciplinary research and advance interdisciplinary research approaches?

4. **Impact and Researcher Development**
   How will the program benefit end-users, including Indigenous people in Australia and/or elsewhere? What is its expected reach and impact? To what extent does the program provide opportunities to develop Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and Higher Degree by

Research (HDR) students, particularly those who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

5. **Feasibility and Budget**
   To what extent are the program's scope, budget, and aims feasible? Are all requested budget items well justified?

Review process

A Review Panel comprising the IKI Director, IKI Director of Research Capability, and three invited academics will evaluate all applications. This is a highly competitive scheme and applications will be rigorously assessed against the selection criteria.

All applications must meet the selection criteria and demonstrate how they can achieve their intended outcomes. Applications that are not primarily orientated towards research will not be considered. Incomplete and overdue applications will not be considered.

The following are not supported by the Scheme:
- Scholarly investigations that are not anticipated to lead to conceptual advances or discoveries or to novel practical outcomes and applications, such as uncritical bibliographical compilations, purely descriptive catalogues, and editions that do not involve original research.
- Activities that lead solely to the creation or performance of a work of art without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.
- Activities that lead solely to the creation of teaching materials without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.
- Activities that lead solely to the creation or development of research aids and tools, including computer programs, without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.

A funding outcome will be communicated to applicants in the week commencing **22 November 2021**. Applicants who wish to receive feedback on their application are invited to contact IKI at Indigenous-knowledge@unimelb.edu.au.

Acceptance of granted funds

If you are successful in this funding round, you will be provided with an IKI acceptance form, requiring you to accept the Funding Terms and Conditions, obtain Head of School approval, and provide a valid Themis Account String.

The Theme Leader, as lead Chief Investigator, is required to provide a financial acquittal report outlining all program spending 12 months after the commencement of the grant and again at the completion of the 24-month funding period. Any unspent funds remaining at the conclusion of the 24-month grant period must be returned to the IKI.

IKI Funding Terms and Conditions

1. Indigenous Knowledge Institute

1.1. The Indigenous Knowledge Institute (IKI) is an interdisciplinary research institute at the University of Melbourne.

1.2. IKI aims to advance research into Indigenous knowledge and supports innovative interdisciplinary research activity in this field.

1.3. IKI receives funding through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

1.4. IKI Research Theme funding is administrated in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.

1.5. IKI staff will provide appropriate guidance, support, and assistance to researchers to facilitate the successful completion of Theme programs.

1.6. All named participants, including all Chief Investigators, Research Associates, Research Assistants, Partner Investigators, and Partner Organisations, must disclose to IKI any real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the Theme programs.

1.7. All Chief Investigators, Research Associates, and Research Assistants named on the Theme Program will be Members of the IKI Network and are:

    1.7.1. Encouraged to participate in IKI's events and engagement activities, including lectures, seminars, workshops, and conferences; and

    1.7.2. May refer to themselves as an IKI Research Associate while they remain active on the program.

1.8. Intellectual property is governed in accordance with University of Melbourne policies and procedures.

2. Program selection

2.1. Theme program selection is administrated by the IKI.

2.2. To be eligible for consideration, Researchers must submit a compliant application by the applicable closing date and time specified in the funding guidelines.

2.3. Applications will be evaluated by an IKI Review Panel comprising the IKI Director, the Director of Research Capability, and three invited academics.

2.4. Following evaluation, the IKI Review Panel will provide one of the following outcomes: Approved; Rejected; Conditional Approval; Seek Additional Information; or Request Resubmission of an application in another funding round.

2.5. Funding decisions are at the sole discretion of the IKI Review Panel.

3. Funding

3.1. Funding amounts are allocated at the discretion of the IKI.

3.2. Funding can be requested for:

    3.2.1. Theme research workshops,

    3.2.2. Theme research seed funding schemes,

    3.2.3. Internal teaching and marking relief for existing academic staff named as Chief Investigators,

    3.2.4. Hiring casual or fixed-term Research Associates or Research Assistants,

    3.2.5. Buying in the expertise services of external providers (including Partner Investigators and Partner Organisations),

    3.2.6. Equipment,

    3.2.7. Access to data,

    3.2.8. Consumables,

3.2.9. Research translation and publication costs,

3.2.10. Travel costs.

3.3. This is an internal University of Melbourne fund. Budgets may include annual leave and superannuation on-costs but are not subject to overhead charges.

3.4. Any assets purchased and unused funds remaining at program completion will be returned to IKI.

3.5. Applications that are not primarily orientated towards research will not be considered. The following are not supported by the Scheme:

3.5.1. Scholarly investigations that are not anticipated to lead to conceptual advances or discoveries or to novel practical outcomes and applications, such as uncritical bibliographical compilations, purely descriptive catalogues, and editions that do not involve original research.

3.5.2. Activities that lead solely to the creation or performance of a work of art without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.

3.5.3. Activities that lead solely to the creation of teaching materials without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.

3.5.4. Activities that lead solely to the creation or development of research aids and tools, including computer programs, without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.

4. Participants

4.1. Chief Investigators

4.1.1. Chief Investigators are existing University of Melbourne academic staff named on the program employed at no less than 0.2 FTE.

4.1.2. All programs must nominate a lead Chief Investigator with a salaried academic position of at least 0.2 FTE at the University of Melbourne.

4.1.3. The lead Chief Investigator will be the program's Theme Leader supported by the IKI at 0.1 FTE in addition to core funding of up to $50,000 per year for two years.

4.1.4. Theme Leaders will have a key role delivering agreed activities aligned with IKI research and events priorities.

4.1.5. Applications must include a minimum of three additional Chief Investigators from the University of Melbourne who provide interdisciplinary expertise.

4.1.6. All Chief Investigators must disclose any real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.

4.1.7. Chief Investigators must provide timely responses to requests from IKI staff.

4.1.8. In submitting an application, it is assumed that all Chief Investigators have consulted with their Heads of School and have the capacity to undertake the program.

4.2. Research Associates and Research Assistants

4.2.1. Research Associates are new or existing casual or fixed-term academic staff at the University of Melbourne to be paid from program funds.

4.2.2. Research Assistants are new or existing casual or fixed-term academic or professional staff at the University of Melbourne to be paid from program funds.

4.3. Partner Investigators and Partner Organisations

4.3.1. Applications must include one Partner Organisation.

4.3.2.   Partner Investigators and Partner Organisations are external participants and organisations named on the program who are not employees or companies of the University of Melbourne.

4.3.3.   External relationships and intellectual property arrangements with Partner Investigators and Partner Organisations are governed by University of Melbourne policies and procedures, including the IKI Charter for Research with Indigenous Knowledge Holders.

5. Reporting

5.1. Chief Investigators will provide both annual reports and interim updates on the program upon IKI's request.

5.2. Chief Investigators will provide IKI with details of all publications, presentations, media coverage, and additional grants arising from the program by the end of February every year for the program's duration and for three years following its completion.

6. Communication

6.1. Participants may be asked to present their work at IKI events and forums.

6.2. Participants will provide program materials and updates to support IKI marketing and communications activities.

6.3. All participants will acknowledge IKI in all publications, presentations, and media coverage directly arising from the program.

7. Revocation

7.1. Any IKI funding can be revoked for:

7.1.1.   Provision of false or misleading information in the Funding Application form.

7.1.2.   Failure to adhere to any of these terms and conditions.

7.1.3.   Failure to commence the program within four weeks of receipt of funding without supporting evidence.

7.1.4.   Failure to have sufficiently advanced the program without supporting evidence at the time of the first annual report.