# Seed funding opportunity

Melbourne Indigenous Knowledge Institute

The [Indigenous Knowledge Institute](https://indigenousknowledge.unimelb.edu.au/) (IKI) aims to advance research and engagement in Indigenous knowledge systems. The IKI is one of five current Melbourne Interdisciplinary Research Institutes, which aim to promote research linkages and collaboration across the University and play a lead role in articulating University research to external audiences.

The IKI invites proposals for innovative and interdisciplinary research projects with a focus on Indigenous knowledges. Indigenous knowledge, sometimes 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 characteristically holistic, relational, and rooted in a strong and continuing connection with the land, sky and waters. The research project should address an identified need or gap in the field of Indigenous knowledge research.

All University of Melbourne researchers are eligible to apply for this seed funding opportunity for projects up to a **maximum of $20,000**. Proposals will be assessed against five selection criteria:

1. Advances research in Indigenous knowledges
2. Commitment to partnership
3. Feasibility and impact
4. Interdisciplinarity
5. ECR development

Key dates for this seed funding opportunity are set out in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applications open** | Monday, 12 October 2020 |
| **Information/drop in sessions** | Wednesday, 14 October; Tuesday, 20 October; Wednesday, 28 October |
| **Applications close** | **Wednesday, 11 November 2020 (COB)** |
| **Shortlisting and interviews** | 11 November to 2 December 2020 |
| **Successful candidates notified** | Tuesday, 8 December 2020 |
| **Funding commences** | January 2021 |

Further details including guidelines, terms and conditions and the application form are set out at the back of this document.

## Seed 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, 12 October 2020**. IKI staff are available to assist you in your application and encourage you to contact [Indigenous-knowledge@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:Indigenous-knowledge@unimelb.edu.au) to discuss your proposal before submitting an application.

**Applications close COB, Wednesday, 11 November 2020** and will need to be submitted by emailing a completed Application Form to [Indigenous-knowledge@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:Indigenous-knowledge@unimelb.edu.au). Please contact the IKI if you have any questions about submission.

### Selection criteria

The IKI will evaluate submissions against five selection criteria:

1. **Advances research in Indigenous Knowledges:** Does the project aim to advance research in Indigenous knowledge systems? To what extent does the project address an identified gap or need in this field?
2. **Commitment to partnership**: To what extent does the project team demonstrate existing capacity to engage with Indigenous community partners or incorporate relationship development as part of the project? To what extent does the project demonstrate benefit for Indigenous communities, community support for the project, remuneration and recognition for community partners, and opportunities for communities to co-develop the research and outputs?
3. **Feasibility & impact:** To what extent are the project scope, submitted budget, and project claims feasible? What is the expected reach and impact of the project? How will the project benefit Indigenous people and communities?
4. **Interdisciplinarity:** To what extent does the project topic and project team promote interdisciplinary research practice?
5. **ECR development:** To what extent does the project provide opportunities to develop early career researchers, particularly researchers who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

### Review process

A Review Panel consisting of the IKI Director, the Director of Research Capability and three invited academics will evaluate the applications. Applications will be assessed against each of the selection criteria. Applications that meet the selection criteria and are considered high quality and likely to achieve the intended outcomes of this scheme will be funded.

A funding outcome will be communicated to applicants by **1 December 2020**. Applicants who wish to receive feedback on their application can contact the IKI ([Indigenous-knowledge@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:aurora.milroy@unimelb.edu.au)).

### Acceptance of granted funds

If you have been successful in the funding round, you will be provided with an IKI acceptance form, which requires you to accept the Funding Terms and Conditions, provide Head of Department approval, and provide a valid Themis Account String.

## IKI Funding Terms and Conditions

1. **Indigenous Knowledge Institute**
   1. The Indigenous Knowledge Institute (IKI) is an interdisciplinary research institute at the University of Melbourne.
   2. The IKI aims to advance research and education in Indigenous knowledge systems and was established to support innovative interdisciplinary research activity.
   3. The IKI receives funding through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).
   4. IKI Seed Funding is administered in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.
   5. The IKI staff will provide appropriate guidance, support and assistance to researchers to facilitate the successful completion of projects
2. **Project selection**
   1. Project selection is administered by the IKI.
   2. To be eligible for consideration, Researchers must submit a compliant Expression of Interest by the applicable closing date and time specified in the funding guidelines.
   3. Applications will be evaluated by the IKI Review Panel.
   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.
   5. Funding decisions are at the sole discretion of the IKI Review Panel.
3. **Funding**
   1. Funding amounts are at the discretion of the IKI.
   2. Funding can be requested for Researchers, Research Translation costs, External Collaborators (including community organisations who are partners on the research project), equipment, access to data, consumables, communications and travel costs. It is expected that community partners and Indigenous knowledge holders are remunerated for their time and expertise.
   3. This is an internal University of Melbourne fund. Budgets may include on-costs (annual leave, superannuation) but are not subject to overhead charges.
   4. Any assets purchased and unused funds remaining at project completion will be returned to the IKI.
4. **Researchers**
   1. Researchers are University of Melbourne staff working on the project.
   2. All projects must nominate a Coordinating Investigator who has a salaried academic position of at least 0.4FTE at the University of Melbourne.
   3. Researchers associated with the project are part of the IKI’s research community and are:
      1. Invited to participate in research activities associated with the IKI; and
      2. Entitled to refer to themselves as an IKI researcher while they remain active on the project.
   4. All researchers must disclose any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest.
   5. Researchers must provide timely responses to requests from IKI staff.
   6. Researchers are encouraged to actively participate in the IKI’s engagement activities, such as events, lectures, seminars and workshops.
   7. In submitting an Expression of Interest, it is assumed that all Researchers have consulted with their Head of Department and have the capacity to undertake the project.
   8. Intellectual property is governed in accordance with University of Melbourne’s policies and procedures.
5. **External Collaborators**
   1. Staff working on the project who are not affiliated with the University of Melbourne are External Collaborators.
   2. All External Collaborators must disclose any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the project.
   3. Governance of external relationships and intellectual property is in accordance with University of Melbourne’s policies and procedures, including the IKI’s [Charter for Research with Indigenous Knowledge Holders](https://indigenousknowledge.unimelb.edu.au/support/charter-for-research-with-indigenous-knowledge-holders).
6. **Reporting**
   1. Researchers will provide occasional updates on project performance to the IKI team as requested.
   2. Researchers will acknowledge the IKI in all publications, presentations and media arising directly from the project. All outputs should be lodged with the IKI for our records.
   3. Researchers will provide the IKI with details of any publications, conference papers and seminars, media coverage or additional grants arising from the project and for three years following the completion of the project.
7. **Communication**
   1. Researchers may be asked to present their work at IKI events and forums.
   2. Researchers will provide project materials and updates to support the IKI’s marketing and communications as activities.
   3. Researchers are asked to reference the IKI on all academic, general and media publications and work relating to or arising from the project.
8. **Revocation**

IKI Funding can be revoked by for:

* 1. Failure to adhere to any of these terms and conditions.
  2. Failure to commence within three weeks of receipt of funding. Evidence required.
  3. Provision of false or misleading information in the Funding Application form.