



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# The University of Melbourne Equity Innovation Grants 2021

## *Grant Guidelines*

The Federal Government's Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Programme (HEPPP) aims to increase access to and participation in higher education by domestic undergraduate students from a Rural, Regional and Remote, Indigenous and [low socio-economic status \(low SES\)](#) backgrounds, and to support the retention, success and attainment of those students. It provides funding to assist universities to encourage initiatives that focus on undergraduate low-SES, regional, rural and remote and indigenous students, either encouraging their entry to University or supporting their retention, success and completion.

In 2021, the Deputy Provost has allocated up to \$400,000 of HEPPP funding for Equity Innovation Grants to seed University initiatives that focus on activities and strategies aligned with HEPPP.

### 1. Objectives

The Equity Innovation Grant objectives include:

- raising the profile of, and encouraging recognition of the fundamental importance of HEPPP related activity in higher education institutions and in the general community; and
- developing effective mechanisms for the identification, development, dissemination and embedding of best practice individual and institutional activity.

Priority will be given to:

- initiatives addressing one or more of the priority areas: Low SES, rural, regional remote and indigenous backgrounds
- initiatives that can specifically demonstrate positive influence upon the aspiration, engagement and attainment patterns of low SES prospective students who may not otherwise consider university as a viable choice;
- initiatives to enhance the embedding of support for low SES students within University of Melbourne Undergraduate Degrees, particularly where evidence of opportunities for improvement exists;
- initiatives to enhance success rate of priority low SES cohorts particularly where outcomes will be quantitatively evaluated

### 2. Funding

Projects may request funding of up to \$40,000

Equity Innovation Grant funds may not be used to fund research programs, nor for projects aimed at low SES graduate students, nor to finance existing core functions of University departments and business units.

Please note that the Equity Innovation Grant Scheme should be viewed as providing seed funding for new initiatives for one year only and a progress report will be required to be submitted in April 2022.

### 3. Application and Selection Procedure

Applicants must complete the online 2021 EIG Application form. <http://provost.unimelb.edu.au/awards-grants-initiatives/EIG>

In making its decision, the Selection Committee will consider:

- the clarity of the project objectives and their alignment with HEPPP Guidelines: <https://www.dese.gov.au/heppp>
- how the proposed project addresses one or more priority areas for funding;
  1. Regional, Rural and Remote
  2. Indigenous
  3. [Low SES background](#)
- The clarity of the intended project outcomes (including the project's capacity to provide new approaches, build on existing understandings and/or focus on changed understandings of low SES participation);
- the extent to which low SES student-oriented project outcomes can be clearly evaluated according to predefined and measurable goals or behaviour change;
- opportunities for sustainable institution or sector wide adoption of the project method and/or outcomes;
- if the initiative involves collaboration between Faculties or Divisions (strongly encouraged);
- the level of consultation with relevant units/divisions within the University to ensure the project is strategic and coordinated in the University-wide context
- the budget presented in reference to HEPPP budgetary guidelines, and faculty or other financial contributions (which may include in-kind salary costs);
- the extent to which the project will raise the visibility and profile of the University in matters relating to social inclusion (projects should aim to meaningfully engage with more than a small group of students or a single school).

Chancellery (Academic) is responsible for the administration of applications and funding for these projects. These guidelines are provided to ensure that the process of applying for an Equity Innovation Grant is clear and transparent and that Government reporting requirements can be satisfied. Information on successful grant recipients will be published online and reported through Senior Executive.

### 4. Further Assistance

For queries and application assistance please contact Illy Paumolevuka, Chancellery (Academic), at [ip@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ip@unimelb.edu.au) or 8344 9335

**Applications will be acknowledged via email within five working days.**