Report on IPDF Applications in 2015 for Funding 2016-2017
Office of Global Engagement

Introduction and Background
Since the inception of the International Program Development Fund (IPDF) in 2005, 802 applications have been submitted and 386 applications have been funded. The total investment in the IPDF to date is $4,284,762. Reports indicate a significant return on investment in the form of publications, leveraged funding and ongoing international research collaboration. This report seeks to provide an overview of the IPDF application and review processes and an analysis of the most recent round as well as recommendations for future IPDF funding rounds aimed at strengthening the program through continual improvement and increased alignment with University strategies.

Application and Review Process
The IPDF application and review processes continue to be managed through IRMA. The IPDF review and scoring procedure remained unchanged in 2015 with scoring comprising three separate stages of evaluation. The first stage involved applicants being automatically assigned up to 6 points for being an early career researcher (ECR), not having previously being awarded IPDF funding and for engaging with network partners and/or with the top 20 tertiary institutions globally. The second stage of scoring required the Faculty Dean (or a designated representative) to score each application from their faculty and award up to 8 points according to how well the application aligned with the Faculty’s strategic priorities. The third stage of the scoring process entailed each application being reviewed by two IPDF Selection Committee members who assigned a score based on four selection criteria: (1) academic quality and impact; (2) relevance; (3) innovation and (4) sustainability. In cases where the scores assigned by the two Review Committee members varied by more than 30 points, a third Selection Committee member provided an additional score for consideration. The average of the Selection Committee member scores was added to the scores generated in the other two stages of scoring resulting in a total combined score out of 24. The Selection Committee then met and allocated funding to applications based on their ranking by final score until all IPDF funding available for the round had been assigned.

Report on Applications in 2015
In 2015, 58 applications were submitted (Table 1) and eight applications were funded such that the overall success rate for applications submitted in 2015 was 14%. $126,930 worth of funding was allocated and the average funding request made by applicants was $17,312.69.

Table 1: Application Summary Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of applications received</th>
<th>Number of successful applications</th>
<th>Overall success rate (%)</th>
<th>Total funding awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$126,930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of applications in which the Chief Investigator was an early career researcher (PhD completed within the last 10 years)</th>
<th>Number of applications proposing collaborations with a Top 20 ranked tertiary institution¹</th>
<th>Number of applications proposing collaborations with network partner institutions</th>
<th>Number of applications in which the Chief Investigator had not previously been awarded IPDF funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Application Success Rate by Faculty
Applications were received from 11 out of the University’s 16 faculties (Figure 1). No applications were received from the Faculty of Dentistry, Architecture, Design and Planning, Veterinary Science or the Sydney College of the Arts and Sydney Conservatorium of Music. The largest number of applications were received from Sydney Medical School, followed by the Faculties of Engineering and IT and Health Sciences. Six out of the 12 faculties received funding for at least one application.

¹ According to either the Times Higher Education Supplement and/or the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking.
Applications by Region of Collaborating Institutions

Applications involved research collaborations across all regions, with the largest number of collaborating institutions being based in Europe, North America and Asia (Figure 2). Forty-three applications were bilateral and involved collaboration between University of Sydney and one overseas institution (except in three instances when the collaboration involved more than one institution in the same region). Thirteen applications involved collaboration between the University of Sydney and institutions in at least two other regions and in two applications, no international partner was specified. All regions except Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific (including New Zealand), received funding for at least one collaboration.

Figure 2: Applications by Region of Collaborating Institutions
Review Committee and Scoring
In 2015 the IPDF Selection Committee comprised 11 representatives, including eight senior members of academic divisions (one each from the Faculties of Engineering and IT, Health Sciences, Education and Social Work, Science, Arts and Social Sciences and Sydney Law School, Sydney Medical School and Sydney Business School) as well as one representative from the Research Office and two representatives from the Office of Global Engagement.

The Reviewer Score Average for each application ranged from 5.5 to 9.35 with a mean score of 7.38.

Final scores (the score comprising the round 1 total score, the faculty score and the reviewer average score) ranged from 1 to 22.35 out of a possible 24. The mean score of the 58 applications was 15.76 and the cut-off score for funding was above this mean at 19.65.

IPDF in 2016
The IPDF will be reviewed in 2016 and may or may not continue in its current form.

Conclusion
The IPDF is an important means by which the University of Sydney can continue to strengthen its international engagement and build its public profile. The scheme provides opportunities for our academics to engage in international collaboration in research and education that has the potential to leverage further funding and to foster long-term international partnerships. Drawing on analysis of the 2015 application data and the discussion of the IPDF Selection Committee, we will further refine and develop the application and review process to ensure the scheme continues to support projects that deliver high quality outcomes and contribute to the broader strategic goals of faculties and the University as a whole. We will also seek to ensure that the IPDF complements new opportunities for international collaborations as facilitated through Priority Partnership funding schemes.

Appendix A: The 2015 IPDF Selection Committee

- Sydney Business School
  - Professor Donnel Briley
- Faculty of Education & Social Work
  - Professor Murray Print
- Faculty of Engineering & IT
  - Professor Joseph Davis
- Faculty of Health Sciences
  - Professor Luis Salvador-Carulla
- Sydney Law School
  - Professor Chester Brown
- Sydney Medical School
  - Professor Kirsty Foster
- Faculty of Science
  - Professor Elaine Baker
- Research Portfolio
  - Dr Andrew Black
- Office of Global Engagement
  - Ms Sandra Meiras and Mr Thomas Soem