



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

—  
**Sydney  
Environment  
Institute**

## Sydney Environment Institute Collaborative Grants Scheme

The Sydney Environment Institute (SEI) offers University of Sydney academic staff the opportunity to apply for internal grants to develop new collaborative, multidisciplinary research projects. Projects must be aligned with SEI's research foci and have an objective to undertake excellent research that tackles the greatest challenges of the climate and biodiversity crises and contributes to the common good.

The Collaborative Grants Scheme has two components:

1. Collaborative Fellowships: funds for the equivalent of an 0.2 FTE buy-out (teaching relief) to the School/Faculty of the successful applicants, plus \$7,500 project seed funding
2. Collaborative Funding only: up to \$25,000 in grant funding for a multidisciplinary project.

These are two distinct funding opportunities. Applicants may apply for both, but will only receive one award.

Grants will be offered for cross-faculty partnerships to encourage multidisciplinary research engagement and collaboration. Applications in biodiversity research will be prioritised.

### **Purpose**

The Collaborative Grants Scheme is designed to engage researchers across the University to develop new, collaborative, multidisciplinary projects that contribute to SEI's vision of a just environmental transformation.

### **Background and conditions**

#### **1. Collaborative Fellowships:**

SEI will provide funds to the School/Faculty of the successful applicants. Head(s) of School approval for the fellowship must be provided in writing at the time of application. These funds must be fully directed to teaching relief, up to 0.2FTE during 2025.

Each Collaborative Fellowship project will be provided with \$7,500 of seed funding in addition to their fellowship.

#### **2. Collaborative Funding:**

SEI will provide grants up to a total of \$25,000 as funding for a multidisciplinary project to develop new ideas and methods or link existing individual projects with collaborators across campus.

SEI Collaborative Projects (both Fellowships and Funding) will work together with the SEI team to:

- Develop and initiate projects that aim to evolve into large, externally funded collaborations, for example ARC Linkage Projects, state or federal grants, commissioned research, or work amenable to philanthropic support.
- Design plans for projects and impact to continue after the end of the fellowship. During the fellowship, SEI will support Fellows in the development of longer-term plans to sustain and build their projects towards producing societal impact based on national/international priorities.
- Contribute to the Institute's mission and impact by engaging locally, domestically, and/or internationally.

The allocation for funding is limited and applications will be assessed based on a considered and realistic project plan and budget, alignment of the project focus and outcomes to SEI research themes and mission, and project's potential impact. Applicants are encouraged to seriously consider the funding required for a project, and not simply apply for the maximum amount.

### Eligibility

Applications can only be accepted from academic staff members at the University of Sydney. Applications for this scheme must explore multidisciplinary approaches to a core research question aligned with SEI's strategy and foci, and be from collaborative, multidisciplinary teams.

Applications for both the Collaborative Fellowships and Collaborative Funding:

- Should illustrate the transformative potential of the proposed research project,
- Consider ways to make links between SEI, faculty and university research strategies and priorities, and
- Illustrate diversity and inclusivity, including across subject areas and faculties.

Applicants are also encouraged to include external partners in project proposals; these could include academic, governmental, arts, or civil society partners or organisations.

Additional information for Collaborative Fellowships:

- This scheme includes two distinct funding opportunities. Applicants have the option to apply for either the Fellowship or Collaborative Funding, with eligibility to receive only one award.
- Fellows can be in residence simultaneously during one semester, or subsequently over two. If you have an idea for a project but do not yet have a partner, please contact the SEI Director or Deputy Directors who can assist in identifying potential partners.
- Fellowships are open to academics at all levels, but teaching relief funding will only be available to Level Bs and Cs. Preference will be given to applications in which at least one partner is an early or mid-career researcher (EMCR).

### How to apply

Applications open Tuesday, 4 June 2024 and close on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024** for projects to commence in either semester in 2025.

The application form questions are included below for reference.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by the end of **August 2024**.

### Application evaluation criteria

- Project alignment with SEI mission and strategic goals and faculty strategies
- Project potential for transformational impact
- Quality of the research/project plan
- Breadth of the multidisciplinary team and partners
- Academic outputs and grant potential
- Project feasibility.

**Contact**

Please direct any questions about the fellowship and/or application process to [sei.info@sydney.edu.au](mailto:sei.info@sydney.edu.au)

## Application form questions

### Applications for the Collaborative Fellowships must include the following:

1. **Applicant details:**  
Name, title, Faculty, and email of co-applicants
2. **Project summary:** 200 words  
A brief summary of the proposed project
3. **Project description:** 500 words  
Describe the project foci, process, goals, and outputs. Illustrate how those align with the SEI mission, and potentially align the research strategies of SEI and home faculties.
4. **Project impact:** 500 words  
Summarise the transformational impact of the project. What are the aspirations of the Fellows and the project as a whole?
5. **Outputs:** 250 words  
Describe the plans for academic outputs and external funding opportunities, including grants, commissioned research, and/or foundation or philanthropic funding.
6. **Budget:** Attach a budget demonstrating how the \$7,500 seed funding and any additional funding or in-kind support will be used for this project.
7. **Contributors:** List potential additional contributors to project (both internal and external)
8. **Timeline:** Attach an initial 12-month timeline for the project
9. **Letter of support:** Attach a letter (or email) of support from Heads of School or Deans of applicants, including an explicit agreement for teaching relief (up to 0.2FTE) from annual workload if the fellowship application is successful.

### Applications for the Collaborative Funding must include the following:

1. **Applicant details:**  
Name, title, Faculty, and email of co-applicants (or if single applicant, indication of faculty you are working with)
2. **Project summary:** 200 words  
A brief summary of the proposed project
3. **Project description:** 350 words  
Describe the project foci, process and goals. Illustrate how those align with the SEI mission, and potentially align the research strategies of SEI and home faculties.
4. **Project impact:** 500 words  
Summarise the transformational impact of the project. What are the aspirations of the project as a whole?
5. **Outputs:** 250 words  
Describe the plans for academic outputs and external funding opportunities, including grants, commissioned research, and/or foundation or philanthropic funding.
6. **Budget:** Attach a project budget demonstrating how these funds and any additional funding or in-kind support will be used.
7. **Contributors:** List potential additional contributors to project (both internal and external).
8. **Timeline:** Attach an initial timeline for the project (maximum 12-months)