2016 Strategic Education Grants

Information for applicants

9 May 2016

Professor Pip Pattison
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)
Overview

The 2016 Strategic Education Grants are a University-wide competitive scheme to fund curriculum development, educational innovation, and educational quality improvement proposals for units of study, modules, and other resources in line with the University Strategy 2016-2020.

Funding is available for three types of initiatives: Sydney Research Seminars; Open Learning Environment units; and Educational Innovation. The total available funding for allocation across these initiatives in this round is approximately $2 million; this funding is in addition to the 2016 compact-based funding for curriculum development of approximately $5 million.

Sydney Research Seminars
Funding of up to $12,000 is available to support the design and initial development of Sydney Research Seminars. These are seminar-based opportunities for staff and classes of 20-40 students to work on refining and commencing work on research questions in areas of significant and promising interdisciplinary challenge and opportunity. It is expected that staff will develop and offer the unit to either early or later year undergraduate students for at least three consecutive years and that the purpose and approach of the unit will evolve over time as research questions are refined and/or extended.

Open Learning Environment units
Funding of up to $12,000 or $35,000 is available to support the design and development of learning resources and activities for small (2 credit point) and large (6 credit point) modules, respectively, for the Open Learning Environment. There are three broad types of Open Learning Environment units:

- **Open Learning Environment – Project-based units**: Elective 3000- and 4000-level project-based units, for example, in innovation and entrepreneurship, or in areas of authentic industry or community interest or need. Proposals for interdisciplinary projects are welcome, as are proposals to pilot project-based units that may become third or fourth year units in a major or fourth year program of study. Preference will be given to those that can be trialed in existing courses in 2017 or 2018 and can be offered, in principle, as an elective to third or fourth year students with space in their course plan for an elective.

- **Open Learning Environment – Undergraduate**: Modules, learning resources and units of study that will allow students to acquire in flexible ways, tailored to their individual learning needs, foundational knowledge, concepts, skills and experiences in other disciplines and domains that are likely to be of broad interest and applicability. It is envisaged that these modules and resources will be available to all students on an on-demand basis, with satisfactory completion recognised on the academic transcript. A number of modules may also be offered at predetermined times with an accompanying workshop- or masterclass-style program and the opportunity to gain credit points and marks through a full assessment regime.

- **Open Learning Environment – HDR (also called HDR+ grants)**: Modules, learning resources and units of study for HDR students, with a particular focus on the development of knowledge and skills that will enhance successful PhD completion and support successful transition to post-PhD careers in research and innovation, including in universities, industry, community and government.

1 These are jointly funded and awarded with the DVC (Research) Portfolio.
2 In some cases, student entry to OLE units may be on a competitive or wait list basis.
Educational Innovation

Funding of up to $12,000 or $35,000 is available to support small and large educational innovation and quality improvement projects for continuing and new curriculum components, including and units of study, whose outcomes are that are aligned to the University’s 2016 - 2020 Strategic Plan, particularly Strategy 5 to ‘Transform the Learning Experience’.

Small (up to $12,000) and large (up to $35,000) grants are available to support work that will have a significant impact on learning and the learning experience in one or more units of study, for example through the adoption or creative application of existing approaches and technologies, or the development of novel approaches and technologies. In both cases, the impact may be in one or a collection of units of study; the difference between the two funding levels is intended to reflect the level of support required to complete the project and the impact to be achieved.

1. Strategic priorities

The 2016-2020 University Strategy outlines seven initiatives that are linked to two of the key educational strategies:

**Strategy 4. Transform the undergraduate curriculum**
- Initiative 1. Embed new graduate qualities and a new curriculum framework in all undergraduate degrees
- Initiative 2. Establish a unique undergraduate degree and vertically integrated degree pathways
- Initiative 3. Establish a Curriculum Development Fund to expand learning opportunities for our students
- Initiative 4. Develop a University-wide approach to assessing graduate qualities

**Strategy 5. Transform the learning experience**
- Initiative 5. Develop interactive and collaborative learning designs that foster excellence and innovation
- Initiative 6. Create contemporary environments that enable flexible and interactive learning
- Initiative 7. Build a new professional learning and support environment

For more information on the initiatives please see:
- And the earlier discussion papers:
2. Funding rounds

In 2016, applications for the Strategic Education Grants are invited from staff in all faculties.

2016 Round
- Applications open on Monday 9 May 2016.
- Application close on Thursday 30 June 2016.
- It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of the outcome in late July.
- Successful applications will be announced in Staff News on Monday 25 July 2016.
- Projects are expected to be completed successfully by 30 June 2017.

2017 Round
- This round is for projects commencing in January 2017.
- Applications close on Thursday 3 November 2016.
- It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of the outcome in late November.
- Successful applications will be announced in Staff News on Monday 29 November 2016.
- Projects are expected to be completed successfully by 10 December 2017.

3. Selection criteria

All applications for Strategic Education Grants will be assessed according to the following selection criteria:
- Compelling scholarly rationale, supported where possible by relevant evidence.
- Alignment of project outcomes with the strategies and initiatives of the University’s 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.
- Expected impact and reach (the significance of the impact on students’ learning experiences, outcomes and the numbers of students, units of study and degrees positively affected).
- A robust plan for initial evaluation and ongoing improvement.
- [For Educational Innovation Grants] The capacity for sustained delivery and impact of the project, beyond the grant period (project completion).

4. Application instructions

1. Eligibility: Applicants must be fixed term or continuing staff.
2. Each application must have a designated project leader or co-leaders.
3. Applicants must include evidence of support from the project lead’s Head of School/Department (an email to the project leader which is attached to the application is sufficient). Applicants will upload this when completing the online application.
4. Applicants must submit their application using the online Grants System. The system, which will allow applicants to submit their application online will be available on 1 June 2016.
5. A word document of the online form is available to applicants to assist with developing their application. Content drafted in the word doc will be able to be copied in the online application form. A 2000 word limit will apply to online applications. See Appendix A.
5. Seeking advice about projects

All applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss project design with the relevant member of the Educational Innovation team in the Education Portfolio. In this case it is the Educational Design Managers, as per the following faculty groupings. Contact details include:

- Arts & Social Science, Education & Social Work, College of the Arts, Conservatorium of Music (EI team contact: Sue Atkinson - susan.atkinson@sydney.edu.au);
- Agriculture & Environment, Science, Veterinary Science, Engineering and IT (EI team contact: Ricky Connor - ricky.connor@sydney.edu.au);
- Business, Law, Architecture, Design and Planning (EI team contact: Mary-Helen Ward - mary-helen.ward@sydney.edu.au); and
- Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Sciences (EI team contact: Marianna Koulias - marianna.koulias@sydney.edu.au).

6. Selection process

Selection will involve two stages:

1. Ranking stage

An initial ranking against selection criteria will be undertaken by one of four panels, chaired by an Associate Dean, and comprising the Associate Dean or nominee from each faculty covered by the panel and two members of the Educational Innovation team assigned to the faculty groupings, which includes:

- Panel 1: Faculty of Arts and Social Science; Faculty of Education and Social Work; Sydney College of the Arts; Sydney Conservatorium of Music
- Panel 2: Faculty of Agriculture and Environment; Faculty of Science; Faculty of Veterinary Science; Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology
- Panel 3: Sydney Business School; Sydney Law School; Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning
- Panel 4: Faculty of Health Sciences; Faculty of Dentistry; Faculty of Medicine; Faculty of Nursing; Faculty of Pharmacy

The panels, as endorsed by the SEG Education Committee will be asked to elect their chair as a first task.

Where a proposal has applicants from multiple faculties across multiple panels, it will be considered by all applicable panels. This information will be used to provide the Selection Panel with an initial cross-panel ranking.

Following the initial ranking stage, Education portfolio staff will work with ICT to assess the resource requirements for highly-ranked proposals. This information will be used to inform the deliberations of the Selection Panel in the second stage of the selection process.

2. Selection Panel stage

The final selection will be undertaken by the Strategic Education Grants Selection Panel comprising:

- DVC (Education) or nominee (Chair)
- The four panel chairs (as per faculty groupings above)
- Director, Digital Strategy (or nominee)
- Director, Educational Innovation
- Director, Education Strategy
- Director, Graduate Research (for OLE-HDR initiatives)
- Two Associate Deans nominated by SEG RTC (for OLE-HDR initiatives)
- Two nominees of the DVC (Research) (for OLE-SRS initiatives).
7. Successful applications

Announcement of successful applications

- All successful projects will be listed on the Education Portfolio website with details of the project teams and the amount awarded to each project.

- The Selection Panel will report outcomes and recommendations for each round to SEG Education, SEG RT, SEG and other relevant committees as appropriate.

- The Selection Panel will announce the outcomes for each round, in Staff News according to the timeline specified.

Reporting and evaluation requirements

For successful proposals in the 2016 round:

- A progress report will be due on 5 December 2016 and a final report on 30 June 2017.

Reports will take the form of a brief report that includes a financial report on expenditure and key project outcomes. A template will be provided. Completion of the project, expenditure of allocated funds and reporting is a condition of eligibility for future funding schemes. Funds will be drawn on as expenses are accrued, and funds that are unspent at the end of the project will become available for reallocation by the University for other purposes. A summary of project outcomes based on individual progress reports will be provided to SEG Education.

Successful applicants will be expected to participate in whole-of-University evaluations of the Strategic Evaluation Grants including an initial workshop and to work with the University, including the Media Office where relevant, to disseminate the report and outcomes of their projects.

8. Questions & contact details

Questions can be directed to:

- The Educational Design Managers as per faculty groupings listed under section 5.

- The relevant Associate Dean in your faculty, as follows for:
  - Sydney Research Seminars contact the Associate Dean Learning & Teaching;
  - Open Learning Environment – Project Based units contact the Associate Dean Learning & Teaching;
  - Open Learning Environment – Undergraduate units contact the Associate Dean Learning & Teaching;
  - Open Learning Environment – HDR units contact the Associate Dean Research Training;
  - Educational Innovation contact the Associate Dean Learning and Teaching.

- By email to dvc.education@sydney.edu.au.
Appendix A

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

2016 Strategic Education Grants

Application Form Template – to be completed online via the grants system at http://sydney.edu.au/education-portfolio/ei/strategic-education-grants/

SECTION 1

Grant type
Please select grant category from dropdown list:
- Sydney Research Seminar
- Open Learning Environment – Project-based
- Open Learning Environment – Undergraduate
- Open Learning Environment – HDR
- Educational Innovation Grant

Project title
Type project title here

Requested total budget
Enter here

RC for funding allocation, should the application be successful
Enter here

Project leader
Begin to type name, then select correct person from the predictive list that appears

Lead faculty
Please select project leader’s faculty from dropdown list

Endorsed by
Begin to type Head of School/Department name of project leader, then select correct person from the predictive list that appears
UPLOAD HoS/HoD letter of support here

Project team members
1. Begin to type name, then select correct person from the predictive list that appears
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
Appendix A

SECTION 2
This section is limited to 2,000 words in total. References are included in the word count.

Aim, rationale, and strategic alignment
The aim of the project: what is the project trying to achieve and why? A clear statement of the rationale for, and primary purpose of, the project, perhaps with appropriate evidence to demonstrate the need for the project. An explicit statement about how the project will support the achievement of the grant scheme’s strategic priorities.

Outcomes
Please list the expected outcomes of the project. These should be specific to the work of the project, and able to be reported against in your evaluation.

Approach and timeline
An outline of the project approach or design that is coherent, and will allow outcomes to be each achieved within the timeframe. It should include any project stages, major tasks or activities, methods, milestones, and deliverables.

It should also give a short rationale for why and how this design, activities, etc will facilitate the achievement of the project outcomes, with reference to knowledge, practices, and ideas in the educational research literature (and other relevant literatures).

Briefly outline the project timeline. Note that the grant period is July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

For Educational Innovation grants, please also include information about how the innovation will be sustained or embedded beyond project completion.

Reach of the project
Units of study (if known and applicable, please list units of study where the whole cohort will be impacted by the project)
1. Begin to type unit of study code or name, then select correct unit from the predictive list that appears
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...

Degrees (if known and applicable, please list degrees where the whole cohort will be impacted by the project)
1. Begin to type degree code or name, then select correct unit from the predictive list that appears
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...

Other
If specific students will be selected for involvement in the project, rather than whole unit or degree cohorts, please give a description of the student sample, and the number expected to be involved.

If your project will involve the participation of academic and/or professional staff (other than the project team), please give a description of participants, and the number expected to be involved.
Appendix A

Project outputs (or deliverables)
(If relevant, otherwise leave this section blank.) What project outputs will be produced during the course of the project that could be used by others at the University? Examples include: software, a video describing the innovation, an online resource for students or staff, survey instrument, interview schedule, etc.

These outputs should be realistic in respect of the grant period and the proposed project budget. Applicants are advised to build sustainability of the outputs into the project design, without the need for further Education Portfolio funding after the grant period.

Evaluation plan
An evaluation plan may consider the following:
- What evidence will you collect throughout the grant period that will allow you to demonstrate that project outcomes have been achieved? When and how?
- What evidence will you collect that will allow you to assess whether or not students’ learning experiences and/or outcomes have either been improved and/or reached an excellent standard? What interim measures can you use to track progress?
- What evidence will you collect about the impact of the project on: Teachers? Curriculum? A faculty/school/department’s processes? What interim measures can you use to track progress?
- What monitoring mechanisms will you set in place to ensure that you are on track to achieve your outcomes?
- How will you build peer feedback and engagement on the project work into the design of the project?

Budget
Include a justification to explain the expenditure requested. The budget should reflect the actual amount you need to support the project in each of 2016 and 2017 and you should distinguish proposed expenditure in 2016 and 2017. Please note that funding cannot be provided for travel, attendance at conferences, or equipment.

Suggest using a table, example below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure item description</th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2017 $</th>
</tr>
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<td>xxx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 4…</td>
<td>xxx</td>
<td>xxx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>xx,xxx</td>
<td>xx,xxx</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 3

Project leader declaration
I agree to provide brief progress and final reports by the required due dates, including a financial acquittal, and to participate in any whole-of-University evaluation of the Strategic Education Grants.

CLICK I agree