2019 Postgraduate Strategic Funding Program

Information Pack – Semester 2

Purpose & Alignment to 2027 Strategy

2027 Strategy
Learning for a Lifetime

The Postgraduate Strategic Funding Program seeks to support innovative and exciting projects that align with individual faculty strategies, as well as the broader UTS 2027 vision.

With the development of new forms of teaching and learning as a key priority for Postgraduate Education, this round of funding provides an opportunity to develop your ideas for Microcredentials.

Previous grants have led to extremely exciting projects including development of entirely new subject areas, creation of video/ animation and other visual content, delivery of on-campus short courses, online tasters and more.

Project Timeline

Semester 2, 2019

Project Timeline
Semester 2

19th August – Applications Open

23rd August – Information Session led by Peter Scott

2nd September – Applications Close

16th September – Successful Applicants Awarded Grants/ Project Kick-Off

16th – 30th September – Initial Project Meeting with Learning Designer + Project Team

6th December – Project Delivered

31st December – Project Expenses Finalised + Final Report Complete

Microcredentials

Definition & Examples

Microcredentials
Definition

A credential granted following successful completion of a short form of learning including assessment requirements and meeting learning outcomes of the course and may be recognised as prior learning or articulate into an award course.

In order for a short form of learning to be considered a microcredential, it must align to the Australian Qualifications Framework.
https://www.aqf.edu.au/

Microcredentials are designed to provide a flexible mechanism for recognising the achievement of learning outcomes and are a key priority for the 'Lifetime of Learning' 2027 Strategic Priority.

Microcredentials
Examples

UTS microcredentials may be awarded for short forms of learning that include any of the following where the course is assessed and either is part of an approved course structure, articulates into an award course, or can be recognised for credit toward an award course:

Examples include:

- *Courses made up of less credit points than a normal UTS award course [though usually between 2 – 4CP]*

- *Parts of existing subject in award courses which have been developed into a short form of learning*

- *Professional development, executive education or staff development courses*

- *Enterprise learning courses*

Course Design Tips

Microcredentials
Design & Development

Microcredentials may be reworked from either current course offerings or by developing completely new course designs.

The purpose is to target those who wish to engage in flexible higher education formats of learning, and are awarded formal recognition of course completion. Attainment of these smaller credentials may eventually contribute to a higher level of degree completion such as a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma or Masters Degree.

When creating new microcredential course designs, it's important to consider how these may tie into recognised postgraduate degree offerings.

Resources

Resources
Examples

Casual Academic *– Make time to deliver you project with the hire of a casual academic to allow for teacher buy-out time, or to support you in developing this project including through research and development of coursework.*

Project Manager/ Coordinator *– Receive project support through hiring a resource to help you manage project teams, budget and timelines. This can be particularly useful if multiple stakeholders are involved in delivering this project.*

External Designers *– Recruit animators, videographers, graphic designers or other teams to develop your ideas into engaging visual content.*

* Please note this is a guide only, and applicants are welcome to propose alternate ways to utilise funds

Resources
Recruitment Process

Prior to submitting your application, please consult with your Head of School regarding the recruitment of casual staff.

Ensure staffing costs and on-costs are included in the application budget. Further information can be obtained from HR, Faculty Administration or Finance Staff.

Factor into your project timeline the recruitment of staff, which can take between 2 – 4 weeks. Due to the restricted timeframe for Semester 2 grants, its recommended potential candidates are considered at the time of application.

Budgeting

Budgeting

Budgets must be managed by the Grant Holder with the support of their Faculty Finance Officer.

It's important to ensure all expenditure is tracked accurately and that you remain within your proposed budget. Any amendments to your original proposal must be approved by the PVC.

A final finance report will be submitted upon finalising the project. Any overspend which has not been approved will need to be reimbursed.

Note: Please submit budget requests to Charlie Hock [charlotte.hock@uts.edu.au]

Budgeting
Overview + Example

Development of a 6 Credit Point subject is estimated to require up to 120 hours of academic time. Please keep this in mind to guide your time allocation as well as your budgets.

To assist you in developing an accurate budget, please consult with your Faculty Coordinator and/ or Faculty Finance Team

Please Refer to the Below Enterprise Agreements for Salary Guides:

Academic Staff Agreement

Professional Staff Agreement

*For recruitment of external designers, please consult with the Learning Design team and ensure quotes are accurate prior to submitting application

Consulting With Your Learning Designer

New Course Development
Learning Designer Support

The Learning Design Team will play a pivotal role in your course development, providing guidance and expertise on delivering subjects in an engaging and well-structured manner.

While this resource allocation is complementary and does not require funding from your budget allocation, you must consider the amount of time required from your Learning Designer in order to deliver your project goals. This can be determined during your initial consultation and should be specified in your proposal.

Finally, please ensure your proposed timeline is accurate and aligned with your allocated Learning Designer's project pipeline.

* For external resourcing, to ensure consistency in design, please ensure you have consulted with your Learning Designer and that procedure is followed.

Submitting an Application

Prior to Submitting Your Proposal

- *Ensure you have informed your Faculty Coordinator and have approval for your proposal*

- *Have consulted with your Senior Learning Designer and included estimated time allocation in your proposal*

- *If recruiting casual staff, have identified potential candidates/ factored in recruitment time into your proposed timeline*

- *Have ensured project deliverables are feasible within set timeframe and budget.*

Please submit your proposal by 5pm, Monday 2nd September to Charlie Hock [charlotte.hock@uts.edu.au]

* Note project deadline is 6th December and all funds must be expended by 31st of December 2019

Further Enquires

Contact Charlie Hock [charlotte.hock@uts.edu.au]