2024

Social Impact Grants – Enabling change using SIF Dashboards

1. Introduction

The UTS Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion is offering **2024 Social Impact Grants – Enabling change using SIF Dashboards**:

- Small grants of up to $5,000, and
- Large grants of up to $10,000.

The UTS Social Impact Framework (SIF) is our social justice roadmap, guiding us in our efforts to be a leading public purpose institution with social impact.

The UTS Social Impact Dashboards are a series of online, interactive dashboards that measure and report on our social impact.

The Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion is providing project grants for faculties and university staff (both academic and professional) to use the dashboards:

- to conduct research to improve our understanding of metrics reported in the dashboards

- to help to fill gaps in evaluation of the SIF by providing new data for the dashboards

- to enact social change within UTS, in response to some of the data reported in the dashboards.

2. What is the Social Impact Framework?

At UTS, social justice is core to our DNA. We are committed to driving social change. This commitment is reflected in our diverse institution-wide social justice initiatives.

To formalise our social justice agenda, and map out our future work in this space, we created the UTS [Social Impact Framework](#) (SIF).

Through the SIF, UTS will:

- contribute to a healthy, sustainable, and socially just society

- contribute to increased public good, social mobility and equity

- support the creation of enabling environments for communities to thrive

- positively influence and impact the public, individual, and systemic forces that shape justice.

These are ambitious goals, but they reflect our belief in the power of universities to contribute to public good.

3. Social Impact Dashboards

The UTS [Social Impact Dashboards](#) are nine online, interactive Power BI dashboards that measure and report on our social impact. The dashboards collate and bring together data relating to the social impact and public good contribution of the university, and the enabling factors that support these. The dashboards are accessible to all UTS staff and stakeholders and allow the filtering of data by faculty, unit, and an array of demographic data. This enables contextually relevant interrogation of the data to inform planning at the faculty and division level.

Importantly, it means we are transparent and accountable in the social impact goals we set for ourselves. Three times a year, findings from the dashboards are reported to the Vice-Chancellor's Social Justice and Inclusion Committee (VCSJIC). The VCSJIC was established to monitor and track the university's performance in achieving its social justice objectives, including those outlined by the Social Impact Framework. The committee is chaired by the Provost and is made up of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Social Justice and Inclusion) and executives from Faculties and Divisions.

More information on how to use the Social Impact Dashboards can be found [here](#).

4. Social Impact Grants – Enabling change using SIF Dashboards

The **Social Impact Grants – Enabling change using SIF Dashboards** are for UTS internal projects, designed to support faculties and university staff to engage with and use the dashboards:

- to conduct research to improve our understanding of metrics reported in the dashboards
- to fill gaps in evaluation of the SIF by providing new data for the dashboards
- to enact social change within UTS, in response to some of the data reported in the dashboards.

5. Workshops

Workshops will be held for UTS staff to explain and demonstrate the dashboards, and to provide more information on the grants and to help interested participants in designing projects for grant applications.

The workshops will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday 28 February 2024, 10am to 12pm – [register here](#)
- Thursday 29 February 2024, from 10am to 12pm – [register here](#)
- Monday 4 March 2024, from 2pm to 3.45pm (Zoom only) – [register here](#)
- Wednesday 6 March 2024. from 10am to 12pm – [register here](#)

These sessions are open to all faculties and portfolio staff. Those considering applying for a grant are strongly encouraged to attend as the objective of the grants is to use the dashboard data as a springboard for further research or intervention.

For further information on the Social Impact Dashboards and workshops please contact: SIF@uts.edu.au.

6. Application process

6.1 When do applications open?

Applications open on **Monday 12 February 2024**.

6.2 When do applications close?

Applications close **COB Friday 12 April 2024**.

6.3 Funding

Each grant recipient will be awarded:

- up to $5,000 for small projects, and

- up to $10,000 for large projects or collaborative projects.

Faculties (and portfolios) can collaborate and pool funds for a project.

Funding will be transferred to the staff member's faculty or unit for disbursement. As part of the application process, all applications will need to include an indication of how the grant will be spent.

The grant can be used flexibly to fund an entire project, or for aspects of the initiative. For example, it could be used in the research, data evaluation, concept, pilot, or implementation phase. It could be used as a catalyst to progress a current project or for a new idea or project.

6.4 Summary of key dates

- **Faculty workshops**: 28 and 29 February and 4 and 6 March 2024

- **Applications open**: 12 February 2024

- **Applications close**: 12 April 2024

- **Successful applicants notified**: 8 May 2024

- **Funds expended and acquitted**: 6 December 2024

- **Post-grant workshop** for all grant recipients to share findings and lessons in week commencing 4 November 2024

- **Final report due**: 13 January 2025.

6.5 Application Criteria

6.5.1 Eligibility

UTS staff members, both academic or professional staff (permanent, sessional, or casual) or students based in a faculty, who has expertise or an interest in socially impactful work are eligible to apply.

As a condition of the grant, students must identify an academic or professional staff supervisor for their project. Funds will be allocated to the staff member(s) who will take responsibility for the financial acquittal of the grant.

Group applications and cross-faculty or portfolio projects are welcome.

6.5.1 Suitability of Project

To be deemed a suitable project for funding, the project or initiative:

i.   must be aligned to the Social Impact Framework and Dashboards.

ii.   aims and outcomes must be linked to one or more SIF domains / pre-conditions and must specify which dataset or measure is being addressed:

    1.   Domain 1: **Student equity**
    2.   Domain 2: **Student agency**
    3.   Domain 3: **Maximising our impact**
    4.   Domain 4: **Contributing to community**
    5.   Domain 5: **Advocacy and thought leadership**
    6.   Domain 6: **Business operations**
    7.   Precondition 1: **Leadership and culture**
    8.   Precondition 2: **Partnerships**
    9.   Precondition 3: **Social capital and trust**

iii.   must fall under one of the following categories:

- to conduct research to improve our understanding of metrics reported in the dashboards
- to fill gaps in evaluation of the SIF by providing new data for the dashboards
- to enact social change within UTS, in response to some of the data reported in the dashboards.

6.5.1 Project types

The grant funding can be used to fund UTS internal projects and initiatives:

    i.   research projects
    ii.   teaching and learning projects
    iii.   initiatives and events that build the culture of inclusion and social justice at UTS
    iv.   other projects that further the purpose and vision of the Social Impact Framework.

6.6   Are there any conditions for the grant?

Funds will be allocated in a single payment after **8 May 2024**.

Funds must be financially acquitted by **6 December 2024. Funding cannot be rolled over to 2025**.

Projects need to be near completion by mid-December. A final report must be submitted by **13 January 2025**.

Successful applicants will be required to attend a post-grant evaluations workshop – to share findings and lessons in the **week of 4 November 2024**.

The outcomes and successes of the awarded grants will be shared through UTS and the broader community in Social Impact Dashboard case studies.

6.7   How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted online through the Social Impact Grants – Enabling change using SIF Dashboard form.

6.8   When will successful applicants be notified?

Successful applicants will be notified by **8 May 2024**.

6.9   How will the applications be assessed?

7   Grant applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Project aligns with the purpose and vision of the Social Impact Dashboards.

Project will contribute to or respond to one or more domains / pre-conditions and clearly specifies which dataset or measure is being addressed in the Social Impact Dashboards.

Project must fall under one of the following categories:

    (a) to help to improve our understanding of the metrics reported in the dashboards;

    (b) to help fill gaps in evaluation of the SIF by providing new data for the dashboards;

    (c) to enact social change within UTS, in response to some of the data reported in the dashboards.

Project aims and outcomes to the UTS community are clear and linked to one or more SIF domain(s) / pre-condition(s). Project outcomes are achievable within the timeframe and resources.

Project activities and intended use of funding are detailed, clear and achievable within the project scope.

Potential risks and mitigation is clearly articulated.

Project is endorsed by the Faculty Dean/Unit Director/Supervisor.

7. Questions or more information?

If you have any questions, would like more information or need assistance with submitting your application, please email: SIF@uts.edu.au.

See the Social Impact Dashboards SharePoint site for more information.

8. Appendix A – Application form

Your application must be completed through the [Social Impact Grants – Enabling change using SIF Dashboards form](#).

Applicant details

1. Project Lead

    1.1   Name

    1.2   Position

    1.3   Email address

    1.4   Phone number

2. Faculty, Unit or Division of UTS

3. Staff or student? (please tick)

    - Academic staff or researcher
    - Early career researcher
    - Professional staff
    - Higher Degree Research student
    - Undergraduate or Postgraduate Coursework student
    - Other (please specify)

4. For team applications, please provide names, positions, and email addresses for all project team members.

5. For applications where the main applicant is a student, please identify the academic or professional staff mentor and supervisor.

6. If required, please use this box to clarify any of the details given above.

Project details

7. Project title

8. Group application or cross-faculty collaborative project? (yes/no)

9. Which category does project best fit in?

    (a) to help to improve our understanding of the metrics reported in the dashboards

    (b) to help fill gaps in evaluation of the SIF by providing new data for the dashboards

    (c) to enact social change within UTS, in response to some of the data reported in the dashboards

    (d) Combination.

10. Which of the following Social Impact Dashboard domains or pre-conditions does your project align with? You may select more than one.

    - Domain 1: **Student equity**
    - Domain 2: **Student agency**
    - Domain 3: **Maximising our impact**
    - Domain 4: **Contributing to community**

- Domain 5: **Advocacy and thought leadership**
- Domain 6: **Business operations**
- Precondition 1: **Leadership and culture**
- Precondition 2: **Partnerships**
- Precondition 3: **Social capital and trust**

Project description

11. What is the aim of your project? (150 words maximum)

12. What dataset(s) or measure(s) in the Social Impact Dashboards is your project investigating?

13. How will your project be delivered and by whom? Provide details of project activities (300 words maximum)

Funding

14. How much funding is being sought?

    (a) $5,000

    (b) $10,000

    (c) Other (please specify)

15. How will the grant funding be used?

Please note a requirement of this grant is that the UTS Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion be acknowledged as a funder in disseminated material.

Project impact

16. Who in the UTS community (students, staff, partners, communities etc.) will benefit from your project? How will the beneficiaries be consulted? (250 words maximum)

17. What are your project outcomes? How you will achieve these? (300 words maximum)

18. What expertise do you and/or the project team have in this area? Include examples of published work where possible.

Project risks and ethics

19. What are the risks associated with your project? How will this risk be mitigated/managed?

20. Have you applied for ethics approval? (yes/no)

Successful project applicants are encouraged to apply for ethics approval through the University's Research Ethics portal and to comply with any relevant university policies and procedures.

Approval

21.   Endorsement of application by the Faculty Dean/Unit Director/Supervisor.

- I verify that I have received the endorsement of my Faculty Dean/Unit Director/Supervisor for this application.
- Name of Faculty Dean/Unit Director/Supervisor:
- Position:

22.   Post-grant evaluation workshop will be held with successful applicants.

- I agree to attend the post-grant evaluation workshop in the week of 4 November 2024, if I'm successful in being awarded grant funding.

23.   How did you find out about the Social Impact Grants – Enabling change using SIF Dashboards?