

Social Impact Grants **2025**

Applicant Guidelines

Introduction

The Social Impact Grants are the Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion's annual grant program.

These grants support projects that aim to create social change at UTS and in the broader community. They also encourage collaboration across different university disciplines and partnerships between the university and the community.

The 2025 Social Impact Grants are open to all UTS staff and students, regardless of their career or study stage.

Individual grants of either \$5,000 or \$10,000 (for larger or cross-faculty projects) are available.

These guidelines explain how the grant program works, who can apply, how to apply, the selection process, and other important details. Please read them carefully before applying, as the grants are competitive. We also recommend attending the [Social Impact Grants information session](#).

For more information or any other inquiries, please contact socialimpactgrants@uts.edu.au.

Grant Guidelines

Themes

The Social Impact Grants support research projects and practical initiatives aimed at making a positive change on campus and/or in the wider community. To apply, your project must align to one of the following key UTS priorities:

Safe and Inclusive UTS

Projects aligning to this theme will aim to support UTS students and staff from various equity groups and focus on creating a more welcoming campus. Such equity groups might include:

- Students from low-SES backgrounds
- Students from rural, regional, and remote areas
- First Nations students & staff
- Culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) communities
- People with disability
- LGBTIQ+ communities
- Women

Thriving Communities

Projects aligning to this theme will aim to address social, health, or environmental challenges in the wider community, and **must involve a partnership between the university and external community.**

Community partners may include:

- An NGO or charity
- A peak body organisation or activist/advocacy group
- An individual community member
- A grassroots community organisation
- Traditional Owners or Elders
- A local health district

We will not accept commercial partners, industry partners, or other academics as community partners.



Eligibility

Who can apply;

- UTS staff members (academic and professional, full time, part time, casual or sessional).
- UTS students (undergraduate or higher degree research). *Note, students must identify an academic or professional staff supervisor for their project. Funds will be dispersed to the staff members involved who will take joint responsibility.*

We encourage applications from;

- Project teams with collaboration across disciplines or faculties
- Researchers and practitioners at all career stages, including early career researchers and HDR students
- Partnerships between UTS & external community organisations

Further notes on eligibility;

All applications must have a UTS staff member as the project lead.

While each application must have a project lead from UTS, we encourage project teams made up of people from different faculties, fellow universities, community organisations or industry. For student applications, the nominated staff supervisor will take joint responsibility.

Projects and staff from Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion will not be considered for funding.

For partnered projects, applicants can either be active members or involved with the partnering group.

Previous Social Impact Grant recipients may apply but will not be considered for a similar or related project in the 2025 round.



For projects applying to the *Thriving Communities* theme, a community partner is **mandatory**. A **short letter of endorsement** from your community partner is required as part of your application. **Industry partners, commercial entities, or other university academics are not counted as community partners.**

Funding

Each grant application must be for either:

- \$5,000 (small projects)
- \$10,000 (large projects/collaborative projects)

There are no restrictions or requirements on how the grant funding should be used. However, you must provide a clear description detailing how you plan to allocate the funds with estimated costings.

The grant can be used flexibly to fund entire projects or specific aspects of initiatives. For example, it could support a project from the ideation phase to the delivery phase. It can also act as a catalyst to advance a current project or assist in evaluating a project.

Grant recipient requirements

Successful applicants will be required to attend a two-hour evaluation workshop in early 2025.

All grants must be financially acquitted by early December 2025, with project outcomes completed or near completion by January 2026.

All grant recipients must also complete a final project report and work with the Centre for Social Justice's communications team on a case study of their work.

Selection Criteria

Grant applications will be assessed based on the following criteria. All applications must also align with one of the themes listed on page 4.

1. **Social Impact:** The project should have the potential to positively transform communities, either within UTS, outside UTS, or both.
2. **Engagement:** The project lead/team should show active involvement with the intended beneficiaries and/or stakeholders.
3. **Clear Outcomes:** The intended outcomes should be clear and achievable within the given timeframe and resources, with a detailed plan to demonstrate these outcomes.
4. **Project Feasibility:** The project activities and use of funding should be detailed, clear, and achievable within the given timeframe and resources.
5. **Dissemination:** There should be a clear plan for how the project findings will be shared.
6. **Expertise:** The project lead/team should have existing expertise in the subject area.
7. **Risk Management:** Potential risks and mitigation strategies should be clearly identified.
8. **Endorsement:** The project should be endorsed by the faculty Dean/Unit Director.
9. **Community Engagement (Thriving Communities theme only):** The project lead/team should show significant engagement with their community partner, demonstrating how they worked together to identify the need and design of the project, and how they will be involved ongoingly. A brief letter of endorsement from their chosen partner must also be provided.

How to apply

Applications open on 1 October and close 26 November 2024.

All applications must be submitted online, through the [Good Grants platform](#).

The Good Grants platform will allow you to save your application progress as you go. Late and incomplete applications will not be accepted for review.

If you wish to prepare your responses to the application questions prior to completing the online application form, you can access blank forms for each theme below:

- [Thriving Communities](#) blank application form
- [Safe and Inclusive UTS](#) blank application form

If you require more information or have any issues with GoodGrants, we encourage you to email us at socialimpactgrants@uts.edu.au

Selection process

All completed applications received will be shortlisted to confirm they meet eligibility requirements.

Shortlisted applications will then be reviewed and selected for funding by a panel comprised of:

- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Social Justice & Inclusion) (Chair)
- A faculty Dean
- Two representatives from faculties at various stages of career

Successful applications will be notified mid-December 2024, via email. The Social Impact Grants Team will then work with all successful recipients in 2025 to release the funds and commence the project.

Contact us

If you require any more information, or would like to speak to someone about your application, please email socialimpactgrants@uts.edu.au