



Australian  
National  
University

# ANU Strategic Learning and Teaching Grants

## Guidelines

Supported by National Priorities and Industry Linkage  
Fund (NPILF), Department of Education

Academic Portfolio

Version 1.2

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Academic Portfolio

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## ANU Strategic Initiatives in Education

In response to the vision set out in the ANU by 2025 Strategic Plan and the recent challenges and opportunities for the Higher Education sector in general, the Academic Portfolio has worked in consultation with the University community to establish a number of important strategic initiatives to realise the ambitions of the ANU by 2025 Strategic Plan through a process of educational renewal that will enable us to deliver a student experience equal to the world's best.

The goals and actions outlined in the [ANU Learning and Teaching Strategy](#), including the development of an ANU Employability Framework and our Future of Curriculum process, guide this program of educational renewal and will, amongst other initiatives, see our ANU Graduate Attributes embedded into our program offerings.

These initiatives have been approved by Council and the Academic Board and are currently being implemented.

The aim for this program of funding is to help the University accelerate these initiatives through creating the space for academic and professional staff to develop, test, share and grow innovative concepts and applications to drive educational renewal.

## ANU Strategic Learning and Teaching Grants

With approximately \$1 million of total funding being made available through the National Priorities and Industry Linkage Fund (NPILF), the Strategic Learning and Teaching Grants have been created to accelerate the important work that has been outlined by our Strategic Initiatives in Education. The NPILF program of funding and pilot launched in 2021 by the federal government was designed to produce job-ready graduates by encouraging innovation and enhancing engagement with industry. Specifically, the three main objectives of NPILF are to:

- Increase the number of internships, practicums, and other innovative approaches to work-integrated learning
- Increase the number of STEM-skilled graduates and improve their employment outcomes
- Support universities to develop and strengthen partnership and collaborations with industry.

These objectives are closely aligned and connected to the work outlined and underway through the ANU Strategic Initiatives in Education and the process of educational renewal.

### Alignment to strategic work

The intent of this funding program is to accelerate genuine innovation and collaboration across the University. It is guided by the principles that reflect the strategic direction of educational renewal at ANU and successful applications will demonstrate how they contribute effectively to one or more of these principles.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review and reference the relevant strategic initiatives, including the [ANU Learning & Teaching Strategy](#), and the [Curriculum Framework and ANU Graduate Attributes](#). Links to the relevant documents will be made available on the ANU Strategic Learning and Teaching Grants website.

## Grant priorities

Applicants are encouraged to consider alignment to the following priority areas, including proposals for projects addressing specific topics as outlined below.

### Phase 2 Priority areas:

- Strengthening authentic learning & assessment
- Strengthening formative assessment for learning
- Strengthening Industry engagement in learning & teaching
- Strengthening Graduate Attributes in curriculum and through non-curricular activities
- Enhancing First Year pedagogy
- Growing STEM skills development
- Growing Research skills development

### Specific projects are sought to address:

- Alternatives to exams
- Reimagining large course delivery
- Program-level auditing and implementation of WIL
- Program-level approaches to assessment in response to AI adoption
- [Creation of modules to operate within the new Transdisciplinary courses](#)

We are seeking applications that can ultimately lead to transformation and impact at scale. While proposals focusing on individual courses may be submitted, they should demonstrate how the work proposed can ultimately lead to models or exemplars that can be shared and successfully scaled up. Transformative proposals focused on first year learning and assessment experiences are particularly welcome. Individual and team-based proposals for work at the discipline or program level are encouraged.

Scale and impact can be generated by building on and/or extending work undertaken in previous grants, and applicants are strongly encouraged to engage with recipients from Phase 1 to discuss the potential for collaboration and further work.

Applicants need not necessarily present fully articulated solutions to the issues identified; applications can be exploratory and designed to develop and share innovative solutions to common issues.

# Structure and Design

## Eligibility

To be eligible for a Strategic Learning and Teaching Grant, applications must meet the following requirements:

- Applicants and all project team members must be current ANU staff members with their employment contract covering the full length of the proposed project. Collaborations between academic and professional staff are actively encouraged.
- The application must be endorsed by the lead applicant's College Associate Dean in Education or equivalent.

## Duration

Grants are expected to run for up to 12 months, however shorter periods are possible.

## Funding tiers

The grants are structured into three tiers to reflect different scale of impact that can be generated through each level of funding.

This design is guided by the Impact Management Planning and Evaluation Ladder (IMPEL) framework, a copy of which is available from the Strategic Learning and Teaching Grants website.

Funding Tier	Amount	Possible reach of Impact
Tier 1	Up to \$15,000	Positioning for Future Success ( <b>Immediate</b> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This funding would ideally be used to kick-start or complete pre-determined ideas and activities that don't require significant investment for immediate success.</li></ul>
Tier 2	Up to \$25,000	Building capacity ( <b>Localised</b> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This funding would ideally be used to support transformations and renewal that require more investment for sustainable outcomes</li></ul>
Tier 3	Greater than \$25,000	Innovating for Impact ( <b>Scale</b> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This level of funding is expected to enable Colleges and Schools at the programs or discipline level to achieve transformations that enable transdisciplinarity and cross-collaboration between areas, to embed creative practices, and/or to drive innovation and change at scale. Grants at this tier should facilitate good practice and knowledge sharing at an institutional level (University-wide embedding of impact).</li></ul>

## Budget

The following table demonstrates examples of approved and permitted expenses for funding:

Approved expense examples	Un-approved expense examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities supporting impact and collaboration (i.e. engaging stakeholders; collaborating across systems);</li> <li>• Employment expenses directly related to the grant (e.g. Research Assistants, interview partners). Please note that <b>all</b> recruitment requests, other than casual sessional academics will need to be approved by the recently established <a href="#">Recruitment Approval Committee</a> (RAC)</li> <li>• Employment expenses related to providing teaching or marking relief where direct benefits to the program of work must be demonstrated</li> <li>• In-kind funding from Schools/Colleges/CLT (see below)</li> <li>• Event logistics and catering</li> <li>• Travel to conferences where you are an invited guest or speaker/presenter directly related to your grant and its outcomes/impact</li> <li>• Technology not readily available elsewhere across the University where this aligns with strategic work in Learning Space Technologies and under the Digital Master Plan.</li> <li>• Production of high-quality collateral (e.g. guides, classroom materials) supporting the implementation and sharing of findings and models</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel to conferences where you are an attendee (registration, travel, accommodation etc.).</li> <li>• Technology already available within the University or not consistent with strategic work in Learning Space Technologies or under the Digital Master Plan.</li> <li>• Student Stipends and Scholarships;</li> <li>• Salary loadings</li> <li>• Capital/building works</li> <li>• Supporting/topping up other projects currently funded by other organisations (internal and external).</li> </ul>

## In-kind funding

This funding program is managed by the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT). Resources to support applicants and grant holders throughout their program of work such as pre-application information sessions, administrative support for the Grants Network or media production to showcase outputs will be provided by CLT as part of this funding program.

Where staff anticipate that their proposal will require specific and substantial input from core CLT resources such as Educational Design, the scope of the work needs to be discussed with CLT staff prior to submitting the application, and agreed costings listed in the budget proposal as an in-kind expense.

## Reporting and engagement expectations

Grant holders will become part of a community of education innovators and will be expected as a condition of their funding to engage actively with their peers and the University community through a number of events, networking, and professional development sessions. Applicants need to ensure their availability to participate in these activities.

Grant holders will need to prepare a mid-term progress report and a final report on the outcomes and impact of their grant outcomes. Please refer to the templates in the application information pack on the ANU Strategic Learning and Teaching Grants website.

## Application Process

### Selection process

Applications need to be submitted in accordance with the requirements as published on the ANU Strategic Learning and Teaching Grants website. You will receive an e-mail acknowledging the successful receipt of your application.

A selection panel will review and rank all eligible applications based on the selection criteria listed below. All applicants will receive a formal notification of the outcome and feedback will be made available to unsuccessful applicants.

### Selection criteria

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- *clear proposal with strong alignment to strategic initiatives and principles*
- *appropriate tier selected*
- *demonstrates innovation and transformation in line with grant priorities*
- *impact plan demonstrates effectiveness and is feasible in line with tier expectations*

### Timelines

Information on the opening and closing of Grant applications will also be published on the ANU Strategic Learning and Teaching Grants website.

*Phase 2: Applications will open from 4 June 2024 and close on 5 August. In-person and online information sessions will be made available throughout June and July and recordings of the online information session and an application information pack will be published on the ANU Strategic Learning and Teaching Grants website.*

*The selection panel will finalise its decision during August and grants will be expected to commence by September 2024.*

*Accordingly, mid-term progress reports are expected in March 2025 and final reports due October 2025 for grants running for the standard length of 12 months. Short-term grants will have amended reporting requirements. A template for reporting will be provided and made available on the ANU Strategic Learning and Teaching Grants website.*



## Further information

We will be offering online and in-person information sessions throughout June and July to answer questions around the grants and help interested staff in positioning their proposal.

These sessions are also a good opportunity for staff to connect with current grant recipients and explore synergies to develop combined grant applications.

Updates will be posted on the ANU Strategic Learning and Teaching Grants website.

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