

## Computing for Social Good Seed Research Grant

The ANU Humanising Machine Intelligence research initiative and ANU School of Computing are pleased to jointly announce the inaugural round of Computing for Social Good Seed Research Grant in 2023. The purpose of this grant is to build new research capacity in computing technologies with explicit considerations for their adoption and implementation in society, and to foster a culture of collaboration and dialogue across the requisite disciplines. In the long run (3-5 years), this seed grant scheme expects to build communities for collaboration and generate externally funded research incomes for ANU.

### Investigator eligibility:

- Grant applications should be from small teams of 1-4 academic staff at the ANU. Applications from junior academics are especially encouraged.
- At least one investigator must have an appointment with the School of Computing.
- Any investigator can be on a maximum of two grant applications in the current Seed Research Grant round.
- PhD students can be collaborators or key personnel in a proposed project, but each investigator should hold an academic appointment at the ANU.

### Funding amounts and supported expenses

- The maximum amount supported under this scheme is A\$25,000, the minimum is A\$5,000
- The duration of the seed grant is up to 12 months.
- This grant supports research assistance, material, travel, academic visitor, events and workshops, and small specialized equipment necessary for the seed project and not available from other existing sources.
- The seed grant does NOT support salary of investigators, teaching relief, costs of standard office items (such as laptops or tablet computers), or equipment items that are otherwise available as shared resource (such as standard high-performance or cloud computing costs).
- This grant will be administered by HMI within HMI financial arrangements. At the end of the grant period unspent funds will be returned to HMI.
- The initial round is expected to fund a number of projects, up to 200K total.

### What should a submission include?

Assessments are based on a project white paper, with no more than 2 A4 pages of content - single column, single spaced, with font size at least 11 points, including figures and tables. References, if any, can be on page 3. The white paper is expected to include:

- Project title, followed by a list of investigators and key personnel
- Project goals and approaches, addressing [The Heilmeier's Catechism](#) and articulating why this work breaks new ground from the investigators' track record.
- A plan of work, including a timeline of main activities during the calendar year 2024, expected output, and how the project team will collaborate.
- Choose among the following budget items, with a total not exceeding the limit specified below.

- Scholarship or top-up in School of Computing \$10K
- Research assistant employed at the School of Computing \$15K
- Research travel overseas (specify who plans to travel) \$5K
- Research travel within Australia (specify who plans to travel) \$1.5K
- A workshop hosted at ANU \$5K or \$10K
- A high-profile overseas visitor to the School of Computing and HMI \$10-25K
- Items other than the above – include an explanation and justification in the appendix below.
- An appendix can be included for essential information that supplements what is in the main proposal, such as:
  - References.
  - If the grant involves collaborators or visitors outside of the ANU, written correspondence from the collaborator that is informative of their understanding of the project, their own roles and commitment.
  - Additional budget information if needed, such as
    - Justifications if proposed budget deviates from the pre-specified items.
    - Any matching or joint funding that is available to support the proposed project. Including but not limited to synergistic research grants that some investigators already hold, departmental travel funds for investigators and students, grants that allocate computing resources.
    - IF suitable funding is available to the investigator (such as Professional Development funds or start-up package), a brief rationale of not using them in the proposed project.
  - The CVs of all investigators, including grant and publication record in the proposed topic area. Shorter CVs are preferred, but any length is acceptable.

#### Important dates

- Tue 15 August 2023, Seed grant round open
  - Sneak preview at HMI monthly meeting 10 August and Aug SOCO staff meeting
  - For FAQ see [SeedGrant2023\\_FAQ.docx](#)
- Thu 14 September 2023, kick-off information session (12-2pm, lunch provided, registration essential <https://forms.office.com/r/qG5Z3W0vuf>)
  - Open to School of Computing, everyone in HMI
  - Holding “research speed dating” round for the registrants
- Mon 30 Oct 2023 5pm Canberra time, proposals due. Online submission form <https://forms.office.com/r/2SbvWAUyzC>
- Thu 2 November 2023, Investigators pitch to HMI team and SOCO: 12-2pm (lunch provided)
  - The HMI team and School of Computing academics are welcome to provide written comments and suggestions (via a web form available around the pitching event).
- Tue 7 November 2023 5pm Canberra time, revised proposal due.
- Early December 2023, results announced.
- Wed 13 December, Successful proposal teams present in 2023 HMI workshop.
- January 2024, Commencement of funded projects.
- November/December 2024 – Reports from funded projects.

## Assessment criteria

1. **Research Proposal:** To what extent does the proposed research provide an opportunity for a unique contribution to computing in society, and is it feasible within the period?
2. **The investigator team:** To what extent, and how do they rank the applicant compared to others they have worked with?
3. **Potential Impact.** What impact will the seed grant have on computing technologies and society in the long run.
4. The potential to seed and enable. What does this project initiate or enable, does it build new capacity, or strengthen existing capacities.

## Assessment process

An assessment panel will consist of the HMI Executives, plus one independent assessor outside of HMI elected by the HMI executive. In the inaugural round, this role will be filled by a representative from the School of Computing. The selection panel will be chaired by the Director of HMI. The HMI team and School of Computing academics are welcome to provide written comments (via a web form available around the pitching event).

Conflict of interest. The assessment panel is expected to declare any conflict of interest before assessing proposals. The Director of HMI will not participate in this seed grant round as investigator. Current HMI team members are strongly encouraged to participate, and the rest of HMI executives are able to participate as collaborating investigators.

### Submission:

Via the following sharepoint form <https://forms.office.com/r/2SbvWAUyzC>

### Contact:

HMI admin team [hmi@anu.edu.au](mailto:hmi@anu.edu.au)

Director of HMI [Lexing.Xie@anu.edu.au](mailto:Lexing.Xie@anu.edu.au) and HMI executive team.