Frequently Asked Questions for HMI-Computing Seed Grant 2023

0. Why is it required to have an investigator at the School of Computing?

    The funding pool is part of the direct investment from the School of Computing to HMI. With permission from the School of Computing, HMI is administering the current Seed Grant round with a mutually agreed constraints on the funding and what it can support. In future seed grant rounds, and sources and terms of the grant may be different.

1. **Investigator eligibility**. I have a part-time appointment with School of Computing, am I eligible to be the only Computing investigator on the grant application?
    It is assumed that a SOCO investigator would have at least 0.5FTE in the grant period (calendar year of 2024). Get in touch if you have special circumstances that deviate from this.

2. **Collaboration within the ANU**. Is there an expectation that someone in computing and not in computing work together?
    While we envision a combination of Computing and expertise from another discipline (incuding and not limited to social and political sciences, law, arts and humanities) will be beneficial to framing problems and answers in Computing for Social Good, we do not prescribe that this is the ONLY way a successful seed grant is organised. A good project team could consist of (but are certainly not limited to): Computing investigator(s) and an external collaborator who is intellectually vested and best for the proposed topic; Computing investigator team who has expertise in the requisite other disciplines themselves (including and are not limited to design thinking, social theory, science and technology studies, moral psychology, and others).

    If you need a collaborator but do not already know one, then reach out to HMI, and attend one of the upcoming information sessions in September and October.

3. **Collaborators external to the ANU**. Is it possible for non-ANU academic to be listed as an investigator (say, as a "partner investigator" in ARC grants), while a SoCo academic is still the chief/managing investigator?

    From the grant administrators' point of view, an investigator is appointed by the *grantee institution* and in charge of the technical or scientific direction of the project. In a common alignment between rights and responsibilities, investigators also have financial responsibility on how grant resources are allocated and spent. This is the case for ARC Partner Investigators OR NSF co-investigators – where the other institution must sign sub-contracts and has allocated resources. For this HMI-Computing Seed Grant, ANU is the sole institution giving and spending the grant, and it is not possible to hand over funds or responsibility to employees of another institution. Also see FAQ #7 for matching and other available funds.
    On the other hand, the goal of the seed grant is to seed and enable (see next question), there is nothing preventing the external collaborator to have important

intellectual leadership, and subsequently obtain joint grants with the ANU investigator(s), which hopefully bolster the profile of both ANU and the other institution.

4. **The capacity to seed and enable**. How should we think about proposing new project versus already having track record on the proposed topic.

   This is a great question. One way to think about it is the balance between risk and reward. While all research projects have significant chances of failing (otherwise it's not called research!), a seed grant is geared towards newer and bolder ideas than a larger grant with a rigid execution plan. The other way to think about this can be that the novelty can rest in the intersection of different people's expertise that were previously not explored. The proposal is expected to establish where the opportunities and risks are relative to the research field and researcher records. See [Heilmeier's Catcheism](#).

5. **Academic visitor.** What does the "academic visitor" budget item mean?

   In addition to new research projects, new high-profile research connections is another type of activity that such a seed grant can support. Influential research collaborators can lift the profile of not just the contact investigator but also our institution at large. A realistic timeframe and activities of the visitor needs to be included in writing in the grant proposal. A rough breakdown of visiting expenses (e.g. airfare, accomodation, etc) is needed. A written confirmation of availability to visit is expected. One could also ask the corresponding schools for matching funds if needed.

6. **Funding pool.** The grant scheme has 200K with 25K max, does this mean there will be 8 funded projects?

   Submitted grants will be assessed by the assessment panel according to the criteria spelt out on the funding call. The assessment panel reserve the rights to allocate *all or part* of the funding pool in response to the quality, budget size and realism of the proposed projects. It is not possible to pre-determine the number of funded projects.

7. **Other available funds, matching funds.** Why are we expected to justify not using existing funding on the proposed project "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."

   Also see Q5 (to seed and enable). Many academics in School of Computing has professional development or start-up packages for new faculty. The intention of this seed grant is to enable new research directions or collaborations that are not already covered in a researchers' "business as usual", and has the potential to become something big and exciting.
   On the other hand, IF external collaborators or ANU co-investigators has existing research funds that they can leverage to deliver the proposed research, these are

relevant facts to include to support the commitment and build momentum in a collaboration.

8. **Leveraging the seed grant.** I am submitted a DECRA or other external grant before late 2024, how will this seed grant help me?

   If you are awarded a seed project (congrats!), it is reasonable to include the project amount as ANU Cash contribution in an external grant application (such as with the ARC) on cognate research topics. Be sure to explain the sources of such cash contribution in ANU internal approval during the external grant application.

9. **Pitching and revising.** Why do we need to pitch the proposal on 2 Nov, what does a pitch look like? What do you mean, we are allowed / expected to revise our proposal by 7 Nov?

   A complete proposal is due on 30 Oct (the week after teaching concludes in 2023 and before exam commences). A pitching event will be held that week for the HMI community and School of Computing to hear about the submitted proposals and provide feedback. Specifications of pitching talks will be available closer to time.

   After the pitching event, the investigator(s) can optionally submit a revised proposal within a few days, which will be taken into account during the assessment. It is okay to just keep the original proposal.