

UNSW Medicine & Health

Early & Mid-Career Researcher Cancer Seed Grant Scheme 2025

Guidelines

1. Introduction and Objective

Collaboration is fundamental to research quality and success. This grant program aims to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration within the UNSW cancer research community through the award of seed grants. The objective of the grant is to initiate collaborative team science, leading to increased competitiveness for program-level grant funding, staff exchanges for education and training, and shared use of infrastructure.

We recognise that the funding landscape is particularly difficult for early- and mid-career researchers. These grants will provide targeted support for this crucial group and our next generation of leaders.

2. Focus Areas

In this grant round, projects can address any area along the continuum of cancer research, from preclinical to clinical research. Applicants must demonstrate that their project will be completed by December 2025, with funding available from January 2025. No extensions will be provided.

3. Funding

The funds for these collaborative grants are sourced from the UNSW Medicine & Health, Cancer Theme and will be administered by UNSW Sydney. Funds must be spent for the primary purpose of achieving the objectives of the Grant Scheme and cannot be spent on indirect costs.

- Up to 5 grants, each with a maximum budget of \$50,000 (GST exclusive), are available for pre-clinical and clinical projects that must be completed between January-December 2025.

Grants are non-renewable. Allocated funds must be fully spent by December 2025. Unspent funds must be returned.

All projects funded under the scheme will be required to report against key performance indicators developed by the applicants as part of the submission process project plan and outline the impact of funding. These indicators will be reviewed and additional KPIs may be requested as part of grant award.

Grants will be assessed by a committee of non-conflicted reviewers.

4. Eligibility Requirements and Timeline

- The Chief Investigators must be early or mid-career researchers ≤ 10 years of their PhD award- a CI can be named on only one application in this round. Career disruptions/interruptions may be taken into account and should be listed on the application.
- The Chief Investigators must be academic staff of UNSW or have a formal conjoint appointment with UNSW.
- Team and project aims must differ from projects previously funded by this or other schemes.
- Applications require 2 Chief Investigators, from at least 2 distinct UNSW organisational units (other Faculties/Schools/Campuses/MRIs). Applications may have up to 2 Associate Investigators, who can be from non-UNSW institutions. At least one grant will be given to new collaborations with no prior track record of co-publication or mentorship.
- Priority will be given to cross-disciplinary or cross-theme initiatives with evidence of a clear pathway to significant external peer reviewed funding of any category to sustain and build ongoing research.
- Previous awardees from this funding scheme in the last 2 years are not eligible.

The timelines for the 2025 UNSW Cancer Seed Grant Scheme are:

Applications open	Thursday 29 August 2024
Applications close	Thursday 10 October 2024, 5pm
Notification to applicants	No later than Thursday 19 November
Project commencement (funds transferred)	Jan 2025
Project funds fully expended	Dec 2025
Final report and fund acquittal due	Feb 2026

5. Application Evaluation

Incomplete or ineligible applications will not be sent for review. Successful applicants will be selected through a competitive process. Applications will be scored on the following criteria:

- Project team demonstrates broad UNSW collaboration; and includes multiple disciplines and organisational units
- Scientific Merit/Excellence
- Potential to significantly improve health outcomes
- Novelty or significant value-add to existing activities
- Capacity building
- Evidence of a clear pathway to sustainable future funding
- Budget feasibility, value and leverage.
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6. Application submission

Applications should provide all requested information and be no longer than five pages, 12-point font. Exceeding the word limits may render your application ineligible for review. If references and/or images are to be included, these must be included in the body of the application and counted in the word and space limitations. Only information provided in the application will form the basis of the review process.

Completed applications must be submitted as a Word document (using template) by email to medicine.themes@unsw.edu.au and received by the deadline, COB Thursday 10 October 2024, 5pm. Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted.

You are encouraged to seek advice about the eligibility of your project and team prior to submission - please contact the **Cancer Theme Research Development Manager**, Ms **Barbara Waddell** via email on b.waddell@unsw.edu.au.

Unsuccessful applications will be provided feedback.