



Health Systems Research Theme: 2025 Collaborative Grant

Guidelines

1. Health Systems Research Theme

The goal of the UNSW Health Systems Research (HSR) Theme is to develop and implement high-quality, person-centred health systems research that will improve individual and population health and well-being for Australians and the global community.

The HSR Theme aims to identify and respond to significant challenges that will improve the quality, value and equity of health systems and health care delivery; and develop, implement and evaluate responses to these challenges.

For more information on the HSR Theme, click [here](#).

2. Scheme Overview

The objective of the scheme is to facilitate collaboration to support high quality health systems research at UNSW that will strengthen health system performance leading to improved individual and population health and wellbeing.

The intended outcomes are to:

- generate new knowledge to strengthen and improve health system performance,
- build capacity among early-and mid-career researchers (EMCRs), and
- foster multi-disciplinary collaboration between researchers, health care professionals, policymakers and community.
- Demonstrate authentic consumer/community involvement (or plans for doing so) as well as others who may be impacted by your research.

Funding

All funds must be expended by the end of 2025, in accordance with the UNSW Finance Close-Off Guidelines. Therefore, applicants should carefully consider the scope and feasibility of the proposed research activities (including Human Research Ethics requirements).

The scheme is funded from the UNSW HSR Theme budget.

- 4 grants of up to \$50,000 per grant are available (GST exclusive).
- A minimum of 2 grants will be awarded to early career researchers (up to 5 years post PhD)
- Grant funds can be used for direct costs including personnel costs (salary and salary on-costs) and non-salary costs. Grant funds cannot be used for indirect costs (costs incurred to support research that are not attributed to individual projects).

- The application must include a budget line item for consumer and community involvement associated with this project and a rationale for this approach.
- The HSR Consumer members are available to support applicants for general guidance and advice on their application. Please contact Anna Byrne, HSR Research Development Manager to arrange an appointment.
- Applicants must make a clear case to demonstrate how the funds will strengthen and improve their program of health systems research and how the outcomes would not be otherwise realised without the funding. Funds can be used to supplement existing research programs, but clear measurable outcomes associated with this scheme are required.
- The scheme is open to all areas of health systems research and does not need to align with the theme's Flagship Programs.
- All projects funded under the scheme will be required to provide a final report.
- Funding will be provided as a one-off grant and must be spent by the end of 2025, in accordance with UNSW Finance Close-Off Guidelines. Any unspent funds must be returned.
- Co-funding of a project may be considered by Themes.
- Applicants who have been awarded funding from any other source for the same purpose/project are ineligible. Chief Investigator A is required to inform the Research Development Manager – HSR Theme immediately should funding from other sources for the same purpose/project be awarded.

3. Eligibility

- Chief Investigator A must be:
 - Academic Level A – C
 - Up to 10 years post PhD or equivalent (as per NHMRC Investigator Grant Guidelines); and
 - UNSW Medicine & Health academic staff or have a formal conjoint/adjunct appointment with UNSW Medicine & Health.
- The team must:
 - Include no more than five other chief investigators (CIB-F)
 - Include a minimum of two distinct UNSW units and/or affiliated medical research institutes. e.g., schools and centres within UNSW Medicine & Health, other UNSW faculties/schools, and/ or affiliated medical research institutes. For a list of UNSW Medicine & Health's schools, research centres and institutes, and affiliated medical research institutes – click [here](#).

For eligibility purposes, the [School of Clinical Medicine](#) at UNSW Medicine & Health will be treated as multiple units and distinctions made based on the Disciplines and/or Campuses within it. Therefore, investigators affiliated with the School of Clinical Medicine must clearly state the relevant Discipline or Campus in the application.

Dual appointments for investigators will not be considered a means to circumvent the minimum of two UNSW unit requirement. In other words, applications including investigators with dual appointments must still fulfill the requirement of a minimum of two distinct UNSW units and/or affiliated medical research institutes.

- Individuals who were CIA on a successful 2024 HSR Theme Collaborative Grant are not eligible to apply as Chief Investigator A.
- Individuals may be named as a Chief Investigator (CIA-F) on one application only.
- Members of the Health Systems Research theme [Executive Committee](#) are not eligible to apply as Chief Investigator A but can be listed as CIB-F.

Lead applicants are encouraged to seek advice about the eligibility of your project and team prior to submission.

4. Timeline

Stage One applications: Open	29 August 2024
Stage One applications: Close	10 October 2024 (5pm)
Stage One applications: Assessment	14 October – 4 November 2024
Applicants notified and feedback provided to shortlisted applicants	4 November 2024
Stage Two applications: Presentations	Week 11-15 November 2024
Applicants notified	15 November 2024
Project start	01 Jan 2025
Project end	31 Dec 2025
Final report due	31 Jan 2026

5. Assessment Process and Criteria

For this scheme, there will be a two-stage assessment process.

Stage One: Expression of Interest

Stage Two: Invitation to present to the Executive Committee

For Stage One, applicants are to submit an Expression of Interest application form, responding to the eligibility and assessment criteria. Applications will be reviewed for completeness/adherence to submission requirements, before being assessed by the Grant Review Panel.

The Grant Review Panel will be multi-disciplinary in composition (including members of the Executive and other stakeholders such as consumers). The Panel will assess all eligible Stage One applications and make recommendations on which applications are suitable for progression to stage two. Up to 8 applications will be shortlisted for Stage Two.

Applicants who are successful in Stage One will be required to present their proposals to the Executive Committee of the HSR Theme. Further details will be communicated to shortlisted applicants in due course.

Successful stage one applicants may be provided feedback on specific areas of their proposal, drawing on the insights of the Grant Review Panel. This feedback is intended to support applicants in refining their proposals in preparation for Stage Two of the application process.

Grants will be awarded based on these presentations.

Assessment Criteria for Stage One and Two

1. Knowledge gain and project design (30%)
 - a. Applicants must clearly articulate:

- i. the rationale/motivation of the project, the extent to which it addresses a significant health system challenge, the aims, study design and methods.
 - ii. alignment to the theme [objectives](#).
2. Pathway to Impact (20%)
 - a. Applicants must describe the potential pathway to impact, including:
 - i. how the funds will support future funding applications
 - ii. plans for research translation and impact, including benefits to the health system, health consumers and community.
3. Team quality (20%)
 - a. Applicants must describe:
 - i. the multi-disciplinary nature of the proposed team highlighting the collective strength, experience, and diversity, and how the team will work together to achieve the aims.
 - ii. Team's track record.
4. Collaboration and engagement of key stakeholders/end-users (20%)
 - a. Applicants must describe:
 - i. the integration of members and multiple disciplines necessary to address the research question: key stakeholders that will be impacted by the research project, their level of engagement within the project (e.g. guidance on project design, interpretation, and dissemination of findings).
5. Feasibility (10%)
 - i. Likelihood of successfully completing the research project within the proposed timeframe.

6. Submission process

Use the *HSR 2025 Collaborative Grants EOI Form* template to complete your stage one application.

Applications should provide all requested information, keep to the word limits designated to each section in the form. Responses must be in 11-point Arial font.

Ensure that your application meets both the eligibility requirements and the specified word/page limits; failure to do so will result in the application being deemed ineligible for review.

Applications must be submitted in WORD to medicine.themes@unsw.edu.au by **17.00 (AEDT) 10 October 2024**. Incomplete, non-compliant or late submissions will not be accepted.

You are encouraged to seek advice about the eligibility of your project and team prior to submission.

For more information, please contact:

Anna Byrne, HSR Research Development Manager
E: medicine.themes@unsw.edu.au