



ICEDS Seed Funding Guidelines 2023

Seed funding for ANU research into climate, energy and disaster solutions

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General Information

The ANU Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions (ICEDS) was established in January 2021, consolidating the former Climate Change, Energy Change and Disaster Risk Science Institutes. Our goal is to advance innovative solutions to address climate change, energy system transitions and disasters preparedness, response and recovery. We facilitate integrated approaches to research, teaching and policy engagement across disciplines. We also have a lead role in the ANU Below Zero Initiative, which is working to reduce the University's greenhouse gas emissions to below zero.

Since it was established, ICEDS has secured a number of major externally funded research projects, bringing external income into ANU to support climate, energy and disaster research. In addition to supporting these projects, our goal is to reinvest salary offsets and overheads from these projects into further ANU research via a seed funding grant for ICEDS Members.

Eligibility

Researchers from across ANU are eligible to apply. For projects to be eligible, the Chief Investigator (CI) must be a current ICEDS Member. Further guidance on Researcher eligibility and ICEDS membership is detailed below in the **Funding Terms and Conditions**.

Objectives

To provide **Ideation** (up to \$10,000) and **Research** (up to \$20,000) grants supporting nascent projects that advance novel solutions and build capabilities towards the growing challenges of climate change and / or energy transition and / or disasters. Projects should aim to align with one of the following primary themes:

1. **Reducing vulnerabilities** (e.g. social, environmental, economic) relating to climate change and / or energy transition and / or disasters preparedness, response and recovery.
2. **Generating societal benefits** in the context of climate change and / or energy transition and / or disasters preparedness, response and recovery via inclusive, equitable and / or co-designed solutions.
3. **Restoring, maintaining or improving natural systems** in relation to climate change through the adoption of novel emissions-reduction or adaptation solutions.
4. **Supporting equitable governance and enhancing capacities** (of people, communities, business) in relation to climate change and / or energy transition and / or disaster risk management.
5. **Supporting the ANU Below Zero Initiative** which seeks to reduce the University's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and progressively draw down emissions using ANU land and / or via projects.

Application Process

Applications open on **Wednesday 4 October 2023**. ICEDS staff are available to assist you with your application and we encourage you to contact us at iceds@anu.edu.au. **Applications close 11:59pm AEDT Monday 23 October 2023** and will need to be submitted by completing an [online Application Form](#). Please contact us if you have any questions about submission.

Key dates (2023):

Applications Open	Wednesday 4 October
Online information session	Monday 16 October
Applications Close	Monday 23 October 11:59pm AEDT
Assessment and deliberation	Tuesday 24 October – Friday 10 November
Outcomes announced	Week commencing Monday 13 November
Projects commence	Monday 18 December

Selection criteria

ICEDS will evaluate submissions against the following selection criteria:

<p>All projects must advance <i>innovative solutions to climate change and / or the energy transition and / or disasters and build capacity within ANU for research in these critical areas.</i> (ESSENTIAL) <i>[This scheme will not fund continuations of existing or funded projects.]</i></p>	
Strength of the proposed joint project (40%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of proposal, including methodology and achievable timeline • Proposal outlines anticipated outcomes and benefits • Alignment with ANU/ICEDS Strategies
Feasibility of collaboration and likelihood of competitive grant application and/or publication/s or other outputs resulting from collaboration (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application articulates how the proposed project will be leveraged into a future application for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ external funding (international or domestic) ○ joint publications ○ co-supervision of collaborative PhD students and/or other clearly defined research outputs ○ in alignment with ANU's research strategic priorities.
Involvement of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and PhD students (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications led by experienced CIs that include ECRs and PhD students will be viewed favourably • Small ideation grant requests (~\$2,500) led by ECRs will also be viewed favourably
Projects involving multiple individuals across ANU Colleges and ICEDS Clusters (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects involving multiple researchers across ICEDS membership will be viewed favourably • The contribution of each researcher must be articulated clearly in the application
Qualifications of the applicants to conduct the project (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on expertise and experience, with due consideration given to early and mid-career researchers

Review process

All applications must meet the selection criteria and demonstrate how they can achieve their intended outcomes. All projects must advance *innovative solutions to climate change and / or the energy transition and / or disasters and build capacity within ANU for research in these critical areas*. This scheme will not fund continuations of existing or funded projects.

Additionally, the following are not supported by the Scheme:

1. Scholarly investigations that are not anticipated to lead to conceptual advances or discoveries or to novel practical outcomes and applications, such as uncritical bibliographical compilations, purely descriptive catalogues, and publications that do not involve original research.
2. Activities that lead solely to the creation or performance of a work of art without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.
3. Activities that lead solely to the creation of teaching materials without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.
4. Activities that lead solely to the creation or development of research aids and tools, including computer programs, without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.

A funding outcome will be communicated to applicants in the week commencing **Monday 13 November 2023**.

Acceptance of granted funds

If you are successful in this funding round, an ANU GLC will be created for management of your project funds.

Seed Funding Terms and Conditions

1. Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions

- 1) The Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions (ICEDS) is an interdisciplinary research institute at the ANU.
- 2) ICEDS aims to connect people with climate, energy & disaster-risk research from The Australian National University. Our goal is to advance innovative solutions to address climate change, energy system transitions and disasters. We facilitate integrated approaches to research, teaching and policy, industry and community engagement across disciplines.
- 3) ICEDS Seed Funding is administered in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.
- 4) ICEDS Programs and Administrative staff will provide appropriate guidance, support, and assistance to researchers to facilitate the successful completion of projects.
- 5) All named participants, including all Chief Investigators, Research Associates, Research Assistants, Partner Investigators, and Partner Organisations must disclose to ICEDS any real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the project.
- 6) The Chief Investigator named on the project will be a Member of ICEDS.
 - a) All Research Associates, Research Assistants and Partner Investigators are encouraged to join ICEDS as Members and participate in ICEDS events and engagement activities, including lectures, seminars, workshops, and conferences.
- 7) Intellectual property is governed in accordance with ANU policies and procedures.

2. Project selection

- 1) Project selection is administrated by the ICEDS Review Panel.
- 2) To be eligible for consideration, Researchers must submit a compliant [Application Form](#) by the applicable closing date and time specified in the funding guidelines.
- 3) Following evaluation, the ICEDS Review Panel will provide one of the following outcomes:
 - a) Approved;
 - b) Rejected;
 - c) Conditional Approval;
 - d) Seek additional information;
 - e) Or request resubmission of an application in another funding round.
- 4) Funding decisions are at the sole discretion of the ICEDS Review Panel.
- 5) If the proposed project is better suited to an alternate funding source, ICEDS may connect the CI with the relevant funding administrator.

3. Funding

- 1) Funding amounts are at the discretion of the ICEDS.
- 2) Funding can be requested for:
 - a) internal teaching and marking relief for existing academic staff named as Chief Investigators,
 - b) hiring casual or fixed-term Research Associates or Research Assistants,
 - c) buying in the time and expertise of external Partners (including Partner Investigators and Partner Organisations),
 - d) equipment,
 - e) access to data,
 - f) consumables,
 - g) research translation and publication costs,
 - h) travel costs.
- 3) This is an internal ANU fund. Budgets may include:
 - a) annual leave and superannuation on- costs but are not subject to overhead charges.
 - b) Any assets purchased and unused funds remaining at project completion will be returned to ICEDS.
- 4) Applications that are not primarily directed towards research will not be considered. The following are not supported by the Scheme:
 - a) Scholarly investigations that are not anticipated to lead to conceptual advances or discoveries or to novel practical outcomes and applications, such as uncritical bibliographical compilations, purely descriptive catalogues, and editions that do not involve original research.
 - b) Activities that lead solely to the creation or performance of a work of art without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.
 - c) Activities that lead solely to the creation of teaching materials without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.
 - d) Activities that lead solely to the creation of Development of research aids and tools, including computer programs, without a clear plan for scholarly dissemination and publication.

4. Participants

- 1) Chief Investigators
 - a) All projects must nominate a Chief Investigator (CI) who must be an existing ANU staff member. This includes academic staff, professional staff, ongoing, part time or casual staff members.
 - b) All Chief Investigators must be current Members of ICEDS. Those who are not yet ICEDS Members and are interested in composing a team and/or submitting an EOI, are encouraged to join via the online form [Join the Institute](#). Please note that affiliation to ICEDS is subject to approval and may take a few days to be completed.
 - i) ICEDS staff, ICEDS honorary appointees, and PhD Candidates cannot be the CI on a project but may be part of a project team.

- c) All Chief Investigators must disclose any real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.
 - d) Chief Investigators must provide timely responses to requests from ICEDS staff.
 - e) In submitting an Application Form, it is assumed that all Chief Investigators have consulted with their Heads of School and have the capacity to undertake the project.
- 2) Project Team
- a) The project team must be comprised of ICEDS Members and/or honorary appointees. ICEDS honorary appointees and ICEDS staff can be part of a project team but may not be Chief Investigators.
 - b) Project Teams are encouraged to support Early Career Researchers, including PhD and Masters by Research students.
- 3) Partner Investigators and Partner Organisations
- a) Partner Investigators and Partner Organisations are external participants and organisations named on the project who are not employees or companies of the ANU.

5. Reporting

- 1) CIs will provide interim updates on project performance to ICEDS upon request. Updates may be completed via a written report or verbal presentation during ICEDS arranged events.
- 2) CIs will be required to provide reports on the progress, outcomes, and outputs of the project at the times and in the form requested by the ICEDS Institute Manager, with a formal final report required on the outcomes of the project within six months of the project's completion.
- 3) Summaries of projects and project final reports may be published by ICEDS.
- 4) CIs will provide ICEDS with details of all publications, presentations, media coverage, and additional grants arising from the project.

6. Communication

- 1) Participants may be asked to present their work at ICEDS events and forums.
- 2) Participants will provide project materials and updates to support ICEDS marketing and communications activities.
- 3) All participants will acknowledge ICEDS in all publications, presentations, and media coverage directly arising from the project.

7. Revocation

- 1) ICEDS Funding can be revoked for:
 - a) Failure to adhere to any of these terms and conditions.
 - b) Failure to commence the project within four weeks of receipt of funding without supporting evidence.
 - c) Provision of false or misleading information in the Funding Application form.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can 2022 Seed Funding recipients apply again?

Yes – successful applicants from 2022 are eligible to apply in the 2023 round. However, as this scheme will not fund continuations of existing or funded projects, applications must be for new projects.

I applied last year but was not successful, can I re-submit my application?

Yes. However, applications in the 2023 round must be submitted via the online form. Please also consider whether your budget or other elements need to be updated to incorporate changes, e.g. salary rates.

The guidelines state that the grant cannot be used for existing or funded projects, but can it be used for projects that leverage off existing projects, or would run parallel to them?

Yes – funding can be used for projects that leverage off existing projects, or run parallel to them, however, applicants are expected to demonstrate how the project will advance **innovative and additional solutions**.

Do all researchers involved in the project need to be ICEDS members?

The Chief Investigator named on the project must be a member of ICEDS. All Research Associates, Research Assistants and Partner Investigators *are encouraged* to join ICEDS via the online form [Join the Institute](#).

Are members eligible to apply for more than one grant?

ICEDS Members are eligible to be Chief Investigator on one (1) application only, however, they can be part of more than one Project Team.

What is the difference between ‘ideation’ and ‘research’ grants?

The intention of the two types of grants is to support different stages of research and development. For example, ‘Ideation’ grants might expect to deliver a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 1 to 3, whereas a ‘Research’ grant might expect to deliver a TRL of 3 or higher at the end of the project.

Examples definitions and descriptions of TRL can be found at the following links:

- [trl-guide.pdf \(arena.gov.au\)](#)
- [TRL Explanations_1.pdf \(defence.gov.au\)](#)

Will we receive feedback on unsuccessful applications?

Limited feedback will be available.

Is there any preference for, or advantage of, an Australian-based, cross-ANU collaboration or an international collaboration with international scope?

There is no preference for international or Australian collaboration or scope. Projects involving multiple researchers across ICEDS membership will be viewed favourably and therefore cross-ANU collaboration is encouraged.

Can we partner with researchers or parties outside of ANU?

The seed funding can be used to buy in the time and expertise of external partners, including partner investigators and partner organisations.

What kind of information do we need to report on and how often do we need to report back to ICEDS?

Chief Investigators must provide interim updates on project performance to ICEDS upon request, and a formal final report no more than six months after the project's completion. Reports should include information on project progress, outcomes, and outputs in the form requested by the ICEDS Institute Manager. Note that the final reports and summaries of projects may be published by ICEDS. Failure to report back may result in the revocation of funding.

What are the timelines for the grant? From the key dates the projects would commence 18 December, but when must the funded project be completed?

All projects should be completed by end of Q3 2024. ICEDS will request progress reports during 2024, and a final report will be due end Q1 2025.

Can funding be used to support salary for a casual academic?

Yes – salary can be paid from the project GLC.

Can a current ANU PhD student apply as the CI for an ICEDS Seed Funding grant?

All projects must nominate a Chief Investigator (CI) who is an existing ANU staff member. This includes academic staff, professional staff, ongoing, part time or casual staff members.

If you are a PhD student who is also an ANU staff member, you may be eligible as a CI if you have a Project Team member who has appropriate financial delegation. Please contact ICEDS to discuss your situation – icedes@anu.edu.au.