



**Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
Climate and Health Seed Funding 2023
Expressions of Interest**

1. Context

The University of Melbourne Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) is a diverse faculty comprising six schools, and a number of departments and centres. MDHS is renowned for global leadership in health research, policy and practice, and recognises that partnerships and collaborations are an integral facet of development. A major strength of the Faculty is its ability to work collaboratively with partners to benefit the community. In 2022, MDHS committed to pursuing climate change and health as a research area, and has committed funds to progress research, teaching and engagement in this critical domain.

The Climate and Health Seed Funding is an important component of this commitment. MDHS will fund **projects between \$15,000 and \$40,000 each.**

The projects must be able to demonstrate high likelihood of making an immediate impact on the health/wellbeing and climate/environment problem. Therefore, the funding will be looking to realise a project's viability through applied research to support further scaling and stronger implementation. Given the complex nature of climate and health problems, the funding will require interdisciplinary representation.

2. Scope of the call

- The project outcome(s) must demonstrate a high likelihood of making a timely and meaningful impact on a relevant climate and health problem.
- The project must be highly collaborative and demonstrate interdisciplinarity. For example, the project must demonstrate broad intra-faculty breadth or inter-faculty linkages.
- Projects must be feasible within the stated timeframe, taking into account the constraints relating to the local and broader COVID-19 context. Guidance on managing research activity during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found [here](#).

Projects that aim to make well-targeted and tangible interventions to respond to a health/wellbeing and climate/environment challenge will be favoured. However, projects that include a foundational research element that aims to cover a knowledge gap will not be excluded from the call.

3. Eligibility

- 3.1 Individuals who hold a salaried appointment at MDHS, University of Melbourne for the duration of the funding period are eligible to apply as the Principal Investigator. Applications led by early-career researchers (ECR, within 5 years of being awarded a PhD) or mid-career researchers (MCR, within 10 years of being awarded a PhD) will be looked upon favourably. An ECR may submit one application as the Principal Investigator and be named as a Co-Investigator on one additional application.



- 3.2 Team members may include researchers, honorary appointments, students, partners and stakeholders external to the University of Melbourne.

4. Timeframe

The call for submissions will open on **Wednesday 1 March 2023** and close **Friday 14 April 2023**. A four-week assessment period will follow the close of submissions, and results will be communicated to applicants by **Friday 26 May 2023**. Funding will be disbursed to the successful applicants by **Friday 30 June 2023**.

The project finish date will be set at 12 months from the date of disbursement unless a time extension has been granted. Time extensions will only be granted in extenuating circumstances. Applications for extensions should be sent via email to climate-catchlab@unimelb.edu.au no less than 60 days prior to the project finish date. Extensions of no more than 3 months will be granted.

5. Information session

MDHS will host a half-hour information drop-in session via Zoom for researchers to attend and discuss their potential projects. The intention of the session is to provide interested researchers with an opportunity to receive more background details, meet others who are interested in applying, and ask any questions they might have.

The information drop-in session will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 9.30am (AEST)**. We encourage all interested researchers to join. You can register for the Zoom session [here](#).

6. Budget

Funding may be used for project research and administration support; convening and workshopping costs; and other applied research. The funding is not intended to pay for laboratory rent or equipment, infrastructure payments or other physical assets. Applicants will be required to outline anticipated budget items in the application form. Please refer to the Project Funding Guidelines for details.

7. Piloting the Carbon Offset Bank

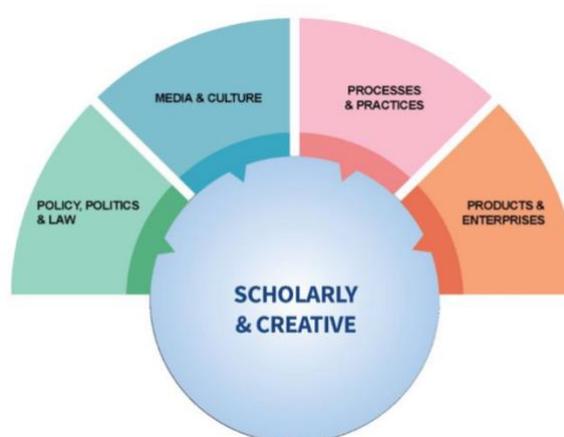
As recognised in the University's Sustainability Plan 2030, getting to net zero requires academics to take responsibility for and seek to reduce the carbon emissions associated with our research activities. We are therefore taking the opportunity of this grant process to pilot a carbon calculator that is being developed by the University's Associate Director, Sustainability, Katie Mee, in the hope that it can eventually be rolled out and used for all research activities across the University. Included within the budgeting of your project, we expect you to use the Carbon Offset Bank to calculate and include the emissions embedded in your research activities and the associated cost of offsetting these emissions (at \$30/tonne) within your budget: <https://sustainablecampus.unimelb.edu.au/carbon-offsets-bank/>. Upon completion you will receive a 'carbon offset preview' form. Please attach this to your application. As this is a pilot, we ask that you provide us with any feedback, especially on: ease of use; clarity of information; additional categories of emissions that could be included; and anything else. Please forward feedback to: sustainability-2030@unimelb.edu.au.

8. Demonstrating impact

The University defines research impact as “the effect on, change or benefit to scholarly knowledge and the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life.” The University supports its academics across all disciplines to engage with the wider community as thought leaders, to translate their research for practical benefit, and to use research breakthroughs to make a positive difference in the world. To capture impact within your research, it is important to consider what matters in your project and how you will measure what matters.

Professor Jenny Lewis, Director – Scholarly and Social Research Impact, has developed a framework to assist University researchers in thinking about the impact of their work (see **Figure 1** below). You can learn more about research impact in [this paper](#) by University of Melbourne academics, Kate Williams and Jenny Lewis.

Figure 1. Research Impact Framework



Facet	Aim
Scholarly and Creative	Advance knowledge and ways of knowing
Policy, politics and law	Inform/improve politics, policy and governance, including law and regulation
Media and culture	Inform/facilitate public debate, perceptions and culture
Processes and practices	Inform/advance/improve processes and practices
Products and enterprises	Create new products, technologies and (for profit and not-for-profit) enterprises and ventures

adapted from Williams, K and Lewis, JM (2021) 'Understanding, measuring and encouraging public policy research impact', Australian Journal of Public Administration 80 (3), 554-564

9. Evaluation and assessment

Applications will be assessed on a competitive basis by an Assessment Committee comprising MDHS and MDHS representatives. The Assessment Committee will assess each application according to its alignment with the Assessment Criteria. Applications will be assessed in a single round. The Assessment Criteria are:

Impact (using the Framework above):

- What project milestone(s) will the funding help deliver?
- Can the project reasonably achieve the project outcomes?
- When will the short- and long-term project outcomes be realised?



- Has the application discussed how it will measure what matters?

10. Submission format

Applicants must complete the relevant application form. In addition, a **project outline of no more than 3 pages** must supplement the application form. The project outline must contain:

- A description of the project including its current state (½-1 page);
- A description of the intended short- and long-term project milestones, outcomes and timelines (½ page);
- A statement on how the funding will support your project to have impact **and how you will measure this** (1-1½ pages);
- A listing and brief justification of the budget items (½ page).

The application form and project outline must be attached as a single PDF or Word document and sent to climate-catchlab@unimelb.edu.au.

11. Key application dates

- Applications open Wednesday 1 March 2023
- Information session held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 9.30am (register [here](#))
- Applications close Friday 14 April 2023
- Assessment of applications begins in late April 2023
- Notification of results by Friday 26 May 2023
- Disbursement of funds by Friday 30 June 2023

12. Further information

Should you have any queries as to any part of the application process, please contact climate-catchlab@unimelb.edu.au.