



Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Indigenous Professional Development Grant 2025 Guidelines

Closing date: 16 December 2025

Enquiries: For general queries please contact: jasmin.ehlert@unimelb.edu.au

Indigenous academic and professional staff are now invited to apply for the competitive 2025 MDHS Indigenous Professional Development Grant.

What is the MDHS Indigenous Professional Development Grant for?

The MDHS Advancing Health 2030 strategy aims to transform Indigenous local and global health outcomes. To bring Indigenous health research, education and development to the fore, harnessing the power of our expertise. To achieve this, we need to promote, develop, and support Indigenous careers in research, education, professional roles, and leadership. The Indigenous Professional Development Grant is designed to benefit Indigenous academic and professional staff across all schools and research institutes, centres, and departments of the faculty.

This grant funds opportunities for professional development that contribute to the community through education, training, research, and leadership enhancement. Designed for flexibility, the grant supports a diverse range of activities. Applicants are encouraged to consider how the grant can best support Indigenous development and career enhancement underpinned by the key Advancing Health 2030 strategic vision through fostering collaboration, innovation, and nurturing development for oneself and others.

Both professional and academic staff are encouraged to apply.

What funding is available?

The MDHS Indigenous Professional Development Grant offers up to \$9,000 (for international) or up to \$6,000 (for domestic) to support staff for one or more projects involving an individual to undertake career development activities, commencing February 2025 to end of 2025.

The grant can be used to cover a variety of costs, e.g., cost of meeting with community, travel, presenting at conferences, pay for the cost of a course, travel to visit a collaborator and to plan a paper, or do a piece of work for a community organisation, etc.

Due to an increase in interest, the 2025 grant application process may be highly competitive. We recommend ensuring your application meets appropriate criteria.

Activities not supported

Grant funds cannot be requested to support the following items:

- Purchase of capital assets over \$1000.

What are the grant timelines?

| Stage | Date |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Scheme opens for applications | 30 October 2024 |
| Application submission deadline | 16 December 2024 |
| Applicants notified of outcomes | Mid-January 2025 |
| Grant period commences | Early February 2025 |

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible for this program, an applicant must:

- Identify as an Indigenous Australian (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander)
- Have a current salaried (continuing, full-time, part-time, fixed term or casual) appointment with the faculty at the time of application submission and throughout the assessment period
- Commit to share your development plan with regular updates on progress (sharing your story and learnings is an important part of this program)
- Recipients of the international round in the 2024 are not eligible to apply for this year's international round,(ie two years in a row) **however are eligible for the domestic round.**

Application submission process

- Applicants are required to submit applications [online](#)
- Contact jasmin.ehlert@unimelb.edu.au

Referees and endorsement

As part of your application, applicants will be required to provide the details of two (2) referees (including your current supervisor), who may be contacted by the assessment panel for independent advice on the application.

Referees should be familiar and able to speak to the skills, capability and career development goals of the individual applying to this scheme and be familiar with the proposed activities included in the application.

Confidentiality

Information provided by applicants via this scheme, including personal information, will be treated with due care and confidentiality. In disclosing this information, applicants should be aware that it will be provided to members of an assessment committee solely for the purpose of assessing their application.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed in line with the following criteria:

Nurture

How the development initiative supports career development and the impact on community

Collaboration

How the activity enhances connections and work with community (this can be local, global or both)

Innovation

How the activity supports innovation (in teaching, research or professional activity)

Notification of application outcomes

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application, including whether their application was successful, unsuccessful via the email address supplied on the application form.