

SWINBURNE RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Interdisciplinary Seed Funding Fact Sheet



1. Research collaborations with Swinburne University of Technology

Swinburne University of Technology is committed to establishing effective partnerships with industry and collaborating in research projects that benefit all parties. Collaborating with Swinburne will provide your business/organisation with the opportunity to work with research experts from a wide range of disciplines to identify and provide solutions to your challenges.

2. Swinburne Research Institutes

In 2017, Swinburne established five Research Institutes at the cutting edge of research:

- Data Science Research Institute
- Iverson Health Innovation Research Institute
- Manufacturing Futures Research Institute
- Smart Cities Research Institute
- Social Innovation Institute

See more information at: <https://www.swinburne.edu.au/research-institutes/>

3. Seed Funding

The seed-funding program focuses on addressing business/organisational issues and needs while also addressing complex, challenges of relevance to society and our Institute goals. It supports the development and establishment of genuine interdisciplinary projects and partnerships, demonstrating that our researchers can solve 'end-user' challenges while contributing to economic and social impact.

Projects are generally around a **six-month duration** and are developed by a research team. The team will have actively engaged with you, the external partner, and the relevant institute(s) the project is related to. This will ensure that successful projects have:

- a program of research that addresses your needs but is also innovative and research-relevant
- engaged with at least one 'end-user' partner from business, government or not-for-profit sectors
- clearly outlined pathways for the uptake and application of research
- a genuinely multi-disciplinary team with appropriate and complementary expertise
- an innovative project design with strong potential for quality research outcomes and publications, and
- identified pathways for further funding.

The university will make a cash investment of up to \$20,000 with at least matching cash funding from partners. Our business development team is available to support you in developing a collaborative partnership.

4. Partner Organisations

Partner organisations typically provide:

- A cash contribution of at least one to one, that is, at least \$1 seed funds: \$1 partner funds.
- In **exceptional** circumstances, for example, non-government organisations or not for profit organisations, cash contributions may be reduced or waived. However, substantial in-kind contributions must be provided.

It is expected that by the end of the project, the partner and the university will have actively explored further research pathways and opportunities for further funding such as vouchers, Innovation Connections grants, Australian Research Council Linkage Projects, CRC-Ps or directly-funded research.

Please note that it is a requirement that Swinburne and the partner enter into a legal agreement prior to project commencement. A standard agreement has been prepared and is available upon request.

Note: Some organisations may be eligible to claim their cash contribution as an eligible R&D activity under the R&D Tax Incentives program.

See more information at: <https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Research-and-development-tax-incentive/>

5. Next Steps

We are keen to talk with both researchers and external organisations about the program to see if it is right for you.

Please contact us at aacampbell@swinburne.edu.au if you would like more information.