

Faculty of Science and Information Technology
RESEARCH & RESEARCH TRAINING COMMITTEE
2011 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES RESEARCH FUND (SIRF)
'GUIDELINES'

Background:

The SIRF has been established to facilitate opportunities for Schools and Disciplines, within the Faculty, to develop and drive their own strategic initiatives directed at improving research quantum.

The Faculty will offer financial support for schemes/projects that are viewed as being aligned with strategic initiatives to increase research quantum. A focus on the development of long-term strategic initiatives in research is encouraged and will be supported by the Faculty.

Applications:

Applications for access to SIRF funds will be considered by the FRRTC. The fund will support initiatives defined as, but not restricted to:

1. Initiatives aimed at building research groups and encouraging cross-disciplinary research in both existing and emerging areas of research strengths.
2. Initiatives aimed at enabling research groups to develop their research to be competitive nationally in terms of quality and ability to attract external funding.
3. Initiatives designed to promote innovation and commercialisation within a designated field.
4. Infrastructural initiatives aimed at aiding in researcher and research development such as writing workshops, grant writing support and Early Career mentoring and training.
5. Industry networking initiatives to establish ties between researchers and industry to foster research collaboration and external funding scheme applications (i.e. ARC linkage).
6. Infrastructure to support & facilitate research & research training (not including equipment).
7. Research support (i.e. consumables) to facilitate ongoing projects.

Application Process:

Applications will be called for and are to be submitted as part of a coherent strategic research development plan. Funds will only be provided where clear outcomes are identified in areas such as a) improving grant performance (success in nationally competitive grant schemes) b) improving research quantum (increased research and publication output according to ERA guidelines), c) facilitating the establishment of new collaborative networks with the potential for grant success and d) mentoring and training of early career researchers in relation to grants and publication success, e) where outcomes (i.e. pilot data, publications) improve likelihood of submission or success in ACG or other schemes.

Expenditure:

The allocated funding is intended for commitment and total expenditure in the year of funding (i.e. 2011) for the specific purposes outlined in your SIRF application.

The funds must be fully spent before **Monday 31st October 2011** otherwise, the Faculty will reclaim the funds. Funds not fully committed (i.e. orders placed) & spent by **Monday 11th October 2011** will require confirmation by the first-named Chief Investigator that the funds will be fully spent by **Monday 31st October 2011**, or the funds will be reclaimed by Prof Bill Hogarth, Pro Vice-Chancellor and re-allocated.