

Changes to Grants Scheme 2009 Guidelines

Introducing the Program

There will be a new subheading in each program guideline under the heading “Introducing the Program”:

2.4 Relationship between programs

A list of the funding priorities for all programs is found below. The abbreviation shows the program which address this funding priority: Leadership Program (LP), Priority Projects Program (PP); Competitive Grants Program (CG)

- Leadership capacity building for learning and teaching (LP)
- Curriculum Renewal (PP)
- Assessment, standards and reporting (PP)
- Learning and teaching spaces (PP)
- Peer review for promotion (PP)
- Research and development focussing on issues of emerging and continuing importance (CG)
- Strategic approaches to learning and teaching that address the increasing diversity of the student body (CG)
- Innovation in learning and teaching, including in relation to the role of new technologies (CG)

Operation Guidelines

The operational policy changes apply in all programs. Changes or additions are highlighted.

4.10 Project Leaders and Project Teams

The project leader/s must take significant intellectual responsibility for the proposed project, its design, conduct and results. This requires a serious time commitment (usually at least 20% of the leader’s time).

Individuals may not hold the substantive responsibility (project leader) for more than two ALTC projects concurrently unless the PVC/DVC (academic) approves a greater commitment and provides details of how the time will be allocated to enable the individual to acquit his/her responsibilities to the projects. While this restriction does not apply to project team members, care should be taken by individuals not to overcommit.

Under normal circumstances, applications involving a project leader whose final report is overdue or not of a satisfactory standard at the time of close of applications will not be accepted. The Chair of the Standing Committee has the discretion to rule on this matter. (Note this adds to the current statement that prevents leadership of more than two projects)

Projects that build on previous work are encouraged. However to ensure the quality of work and wide participation in the program, applications arising directly from a previously funded ALTC project will only be accepted if the final report has been available to the sector at least six weeks before applications close. Where the original team is proposing to carry work forward, they are strongly encouraged to include some new team members.

Project teams are encouraged to include one or two early career academics as substantive members of the project team.

Should a project leader need to withdraw from the project, written notification should be provided to the ALTC with information on how the project will continue to be supported by the lead institution.

4.10 Project Leaders and Project Teams

The grant is provided for the purpose of achieving the deliverables and outcomes of the project for which it is approved.

The budget can contain provision for:

- Salaries and on-costs. The rate used for on-costs should be 28%.
- Teaching relief – to a maximum of \$35,000 per year per institution associated with a project, with a letter of agreement from the relevant head of school
- Dissemination activities
- Travel associated with the project conduct and/or dissemination
- Technical and expert support, evaluation and resources essential to the conduct of the project
- Up to 10% for administration costs and overheads
- The budget should include a allocation of \$3000 for attendance at ALTC events*

* For those universities with high cost travel, once this amount is used up the Council will consider case by case applications for an additional allowance.

Priority Projects Policy Guidelines

Priority 4: Peer review for promotion

Expected Outcome: To develop and model systems of peer review of learning and teaching in a number of Australian higher education institutions to be incorporated into promotion processes.

Competitive Grants Policy Guidelines

Only one small clarification to the guidelines was endorsed by the Board for 2009 plus the encouragement to build on work already undertaken. The following highlighted notes show the changes:

‘The Competitive Grants Program supports research, development and innovation related to the enhancement of learning and teaching in higher education.

The ALTC encourages submissions that are designed to extend the scope of successful work already undertaken or to assist in the further implementation of demonstrated good practice’.

Projects to be funded under the *Competitive Grants Program* in 2009 should demonstrate the following:

Project Outcomes and Rationale

Clearly articulated outcomes and a clear argument demonstrating how the project will address one of the program priorities and contribute to the enhancement of learning and teaching in higher education. (The application will be assessed against others identifying this priority. It is no advantage to indicate that the application meets more than one priority).

Leadership for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Policy Guidelines

No changes to the program guidelines for the Leadership Program though all the changes to the operational guidelines and the section “Introducing the Program” apply.

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