



Joint Seed Funding Guidelines – Disability Human Rights Research Grant

Australian Human Rights Institute

Disability Innovation Institute

2022

The Australian Human Rights Institute and the UNSW Disability Innovation Institute (DII) have partnered to offer a Joint Seed Funding program to support multidisciplinary disability-related projects in human rights.

1. PURPOSE

The **Australian Human Rights Institute (the Institute)** was created as part of Strategy 2025 to enhance UNSW's ability to create a world-class research institute focused on human rights to further the strategic goals of pursuing academic excellence and enhancing our social impact. Its interdisciplinary and evidence-based research informs an understanding of the root causes of human rights and challenges and innovates practical and sustainable solutions to create systemic change. The **Disability Innovation Institute (DII)** is central to the university's profile as a global leader in disability-inclusive research and social justice, and facilitates interdisciplinary disability research and educational pedagogy, collaborating with others to design accessible and inclusive working, living and learning environments, generate innovative technologies and create inclusive and equitable practice and policy.

The **Disability Human Rights Research Grant provides Seed Funding for disability-related projects that strengthen human rights research at UNSW and that have the potential to contribute to a better quality of life for people with disability.** The purpose of the Seed Funding is to establish or advance inclusive and interdisciplinary research between UNSW academic researchers, people with disability, government, industry, and community. It is expected that the funded projects will result in an application for external funding and at least one publication.

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBLE: UNSW academic staff who are Associates of the Human Rights Institute and/or the Disability Innovation Institute and are actively engaged in research with a full-time or fractional appointment are eligible to apply. The team may include researchers external to UNSW, but the lead applicant must be a UNSW academic who is an Associate.

NOT ELIGIBLE: Staff in honorary roles, on casual or sessional appointments, or on fixed-term contracts of one year or less are not eligible to apply under this scheme (although they can be members of the research team). PhD students are not eligible for seed funding.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Development of a research project that is sustainable beyond the duration and scope of the Seed Grant;
- Submission of at least one high-quality peer-reviewed publication related to the field of human rights, to be associated with the Institute and DII;
- Specific plan to submit an application for external research funding that builds on the research project;

4. FUNDING

A \$20,000 grant will be awarded. The funds are required to be spent by November 15 2023.

5. BUDGET ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

- Transcription;
- Research Assistant salary/other non-UNSW salaried personnel costs;
- Payment for research participants, advisors, consultants and/or co-researchers and their support;
- Fieldwork-related costs (e.g. travel to collect data, venue hire, accessibility);
- Workshop, conference or partner meeting costs (including venue hire, catering, accessibility);
- Knowledge exchange activities

Items not eligible for funding:

- Salaries for investigators
- Stipends for postgraduate scholarships;
- Teaching relief/buy out;
- Entertainment
- Any expenses associated with academic attendance at conferences (including conference registration, conference travel, per diems)

It is expected that the funding provided is expended in line with the approved budget. If there is more than 10% variation, approval is required.

6. ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed by a Selection Committee, chaired by the Directors of both Institutes, against the following criteria:

1. Quality of the project proposal (including significance, benefit, innovation and impact of the study within the field; research design and methodological rigour; research team);

2. Potential for the project to engage in interdisciplinary collaboration (e.g. a research team with members from different UNSW faculties, the inclusion of an external partner ie government, industry, community organisations);
3. Appropriateness of budget sought and its justification; and
4. Likelihood of leading to an external research grant application
5. Involvement of an early career researcher in the research team and an interdisciplinary approach is encouraged.

All disability-relevant proposals will be considered, but priority will be given to inclusive research projects in which people with disability have the role of co-researchers, not just participants. Please do still apply to the program even if you are not familiar with disability-inclusive research, as guidance can be given. See the DII's publications at <https://www.disabilityinnovation.unsw.edu.au/inclusive-research/research-resources>

7. KEY DATES

Applications open: 5pm, 1 March.

Applications close: 5pm, 4 April.

Announcement: successful applicants will be informed in May.

8. HOW TO APPLY

- Applications for Seed Funding grants must be made via the online form on the Associates page on the Australian Human Rights Institute website
- Applications submitted with incomplete and/or inaccurate documentation will not be considered
- Applications received after the deadline will not be considered

9. OBLIGATIONS OF THE LEAD INVESTIGATOR OF A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

The lead investigator of a successful application is required to report within three months of the final date for expenditure of the grant: by 15 February of the following year.

For further information regarding Seed Funding, please contact the Australian Human Rights Institute: humanrights@unsw.edu.au