Postgraduate Strategic Funding Program

Guidelines Semester 2, 2019

Grants of up to $15,000 are available for the development of Microcredentials between 2 – 4 Credit Points to be delivered online by 2020. The aim is to support the 2027 ‘Learning for a Lifetime’ Initiative by developing innovative and flexible online modules which include a formal assessment component accredited by the Australian Qualifications Framework. Grant applications must follow the guidelines outlined below and be submitted by 5pm, 2 September 2019 for consideration.

1. Overview

The University’s postgraduate strategy has been established to transform our Postgraduate Coursework (PGC) student experience. PGC courses are being redesigned into disaggregated and more digitally-supported forms. Curriculum is being rethought to be more flexible through the development of more, modular, short course, taster and on-ramp study options. The strategy represents UTS’ response to the changing nature of work for the postgraduate learner and is the central to the UTS 2027 Strategy of Lifetime Learning.

The postgraduate strategy is being implemented in three stages. The first stage, completed mid-2017, involved significant investment in digital support systems and structures, setting up the learning design support team, rolling out infrastructure including the Canvas digital platform, and piloting subjects and courses. Stage 2 of the work was commenced in the last quarter of 2017, establishing a change to a range of existing degrees plus the design of a new set of degrees for a University of Technology in the 21st century; agreeing and implementing individual faculty strategies; and introducing UTS Open. Stage 3 will be ongoing and involves incorporating a range of new business models for PGC in a life-long learning vision to 2027. In 2018 each faculty developed an individual PGC growth strategy identifying core priority courses for redevelopment. In 2019 these strategies are being advanced and progressed and will include priority courses for other UTS PG business lines: Wholly online courses, Open and Short Courses, Interdisciplinary, Transnational, Corporate, and Subscription.

2. Purpose of funding

Postgraduate strategic funding is available to build upon and extend the priorities set out in faculty strategies for a new Postgraduate Coursework experience, focusing on the development and design of microcredentials.

We are now calling for applications for funding.

3. Category of funding

1. Microcredential Definition

A credential granted following successful completion of a short form of learning including assessment requirements and meeting learning outcomes of the course and may be recognised as prior learning or articulate into an award course. In order for a short form of learning to be considered a microcredential it must align to the [Australian Qualifications Framework](https://www.aqf.edu.au/).

1. UTS microcredentials may be awarded for short forms of learning that include any of the following where the course is assessed and either is part of an approved course structure, articulates into an award course, or can be recognised for credit toward an award course. These include:

* Parts of an existing subject in award courses which have been developed into a short form of learning
* Professional development, executive education or staff development courses
* Enterprise learning courses
* Academic bootcamps
* Pathway courses

4. Who can apply?

Faculties and units which host UTS postgraduate curriculum-based subjects, i.e. courses that are approved through CAC (Courses Accreditation Committee).

5. Previous grant applicants

Applicants who received a Postgraduate Strategic Grant in 2018 or 2019 may apply but must submit an interim report which details the results of their previous funding, including financial acquittals.

6. How much funding?

Funds of up to $15, 000 are available. Proposals that exceed $15,000 may still be put forward for special consideration.

Funding will be awarded to the best ideas/applications overall, that are judged as a best fit for these criteria:

* innovative ideas that advance the faculty postgraduate strategy;
* proposals that could not be funded directly via business-as-usual faculty processes;
* ideas that will clearly lead to future increased PG enrolment opportunities;
* those which offer to advance the faculty/university signature.

7. Funding outcomes

Funding must have tangible results, i.e. the development of at least 2 Credit Points in microcredential coursework including an assessment component and defined learning outcomes that can be delivered online by 2020.

8. Application procedures

Applications should use the application 2-page form provided, detailing the following:

1. Rationale for funding and anticipated outcome (note microcredential definition above);
2. Alignment of Grant outcomes to the Postgraduate Strategy for your Faculty. (Application must be supported by your Faculty, and approved by your Faculty Postgraduate Coordinator)
3. Overview of approach to design of coursework and assessment;
4. Amount requested;
5. Itemised budget including any staffing costs and on-costs, consultancy costs, staff buyout costs, etc. Applicants are recommended to seek advice from their faculty administrative, HR or Finance staff or management if unsure about staffing costs, employment policies or procedures.
6. Names of UTS or other staff involved;
7. When there is a dependency on central resources. As part of the application process, all applicants MUST meet with the designated PG.f Learning Designer for their faculty to determine project scope and workload involved;
8. Whilst team submission is strongly commended, one person should be named as the primary contact point for the proposed work.

9. Timeline

1. An Information Session will be held on the 23rd August 2019. It is advised that all potential applicants attend the Information Session.
2. Applications close on the 2nd of September 2019.
3. If clarification meetings/discussions are required, these will be held with potential recipients during the week commencing the 9th of September 2019.
4. Successful grants will be awarded by week commencing 16th September 2019 ready for work to commence asap.
5. All projects should be completed by the 6th of December 2019. (Funds must be expended by **31 December 2019**.)

10. Submission

Please submit application for funding to Charlie Hock [charlotte.hock@uts.edu.au] by 5.00pm on Monday 2nd of September.

11. Funding logistics

Once the funding has been awarded, please contact your local or Faculty Finance Officer to set up an activity code. An accounting string will need to be provided so that funds can be transferred to your Unit.

12. Report on funding

All grant holders will be asked to provide a report at the end of the funding period (31st of December 2019) on the outcomes of the funding, referring to the initial application.

The report should address the following questions:

1. Course name for this PG development (and number, if existing course);
2. What did you set out to achieve in the project? What were the key issues you were hoping to address in course redesign? How was the project related to postgraduate strategy?
3. Describe the outcomes of the project and report on any tangible evidence/data/resources/examples/scenarios that you have gathered in relation to the outcomes that might be useful to other staff.
4. What were the challenges in implementing the project and achieving the desired outcomes, and how were these addressed or overcome?

The report should be submitted to charlotte.hock@uts.edu.au.

More information

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