



Centre for
Social Justice
& Inclusion

Social Impact Grants 2026

**Application
guidelines**

Introduction

The Social Impact Grants are facilitated by the UTS Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion. These grants support projects that aim to create social change at UTS and in the broader community. They also encourage collaboration across different university disciplines and partnerships between the university and the community.

The 2026 Social Impact Grants are open to all UTS staff and students, regardless of their career or study stage.

12 grants of \$5000 are available.

These guidelines explain how the grant program works, who can apply, how to apply, the selection process, and other important details. Please read them carefully before applying, as the grants are competitive. We also recommend attending the [Social Impact Grants information session](#).

For more information or any other inquiries, please contact socialimpactgrants@uts.edu.au.

Grant guidelines

Themes

The Social Impact Grants support research projects and practical initiatives aimed at making a positive change on campus and/or in the wider community. To apply, your project must align to 1 of the following themes:

Safe and Inclusive UTS

Projects aligned with this theme focus on creating a more welcoming and inclusive campus for UTS students and staff from diverse equity groups. These equity groups include, but are not limited to:

- ☐ students from rural, regional, and remote areas
- ☐ students from low-SES backgrounds
- ☐ First Nations students & staff
- ☐ culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) communities
- ☐ people with disability
- ☐ LGBTIQ+ communities
- ☐ Women.

To maximise impact, projects are required to involve partners from more than 1 faculty, unit, or area of the university.

In 2026, 2 grants within the *Safe and Inclusive UTS* theme will be dedicated to advancing anti-racism at UTS. This is in alignment with the university's developing *Cultural Diversity and Anti-Racism (CDAR) Action Plan* and the current national focus on racism in higher education, including the ongoing Human Rights Commission survey into racism at Australian universities.

We welcome proposals that seek to address issues of systemic racism, support culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) staff and students, and contribute to a more inclusive, safe, and equitable campus.

In particular, we are interested in projects that build anti-racism capability, strengthen race literacy and racial dignity, create culturally safe spaces, elevate CARM voices and leadership, and foster belonging and intercultural connection within the UTS community. While the CDAR Action Plan is still being finalised, applications that speak to these priorities will help lay the groundwork for its implementation.

Thriving Communities

Projects aligning to this theme aim to address social, health, or environmental challenges in the wider community, and must involve a partnership between the university and external community organisation. Community partners may include:

- ☐ an NGO or charity
- ☐ a peak body organisation or activist/advocacy group
- ☐ an individual community member
- ☐ a grassroots community organisation
- ☐ Traditional Owners or Elders
- ☐ a local health district.

We don't accept commercial partners, industry partners, or other academics as community partners.

Eligibility

Who can apply:

- ☐ UTS staff members (academic and professional, full time, part time, casual or sessional).
- ☐ UTS students (undergraduate, postgraduate or higher degree research).
Note, students must identify an academic or professional staff supervisor for their project. Funds will be dispersed to the staff members involved who will take joint responsibility.

Further notes on eligibility:

All applications must have a UTS staff member as the project lead.

While each application must have a project lead from UTS, we encourage project teams made up of people from different faculties, fellow universities, community organisations or industry. For student applications, the nominated staff supervisor will take joint responsibility.

We encourage applications from researchers and practitioners at all career stages, including early career researchers and HDR students.

Projects and staff from Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion will not be considered for funding. Previous Social Impact Grant recipients may apply but will not be considered for a similar or related project in the 2026 round.

For partnered projects, applicants can either be active members or involved with the partnering group.



For projects applying to the *Thriving Communities* theme, a **community partner is mandatory**. A **short letter of endorsement** from your community partner is required as part of your application. Industry partners, commercial entities, or other university academics are not counted as community partners.



For projects applying to the *Safe and Inclusive theme*, your project must be an **internal collaboration between faculties or units/areas**. You will also need to **get endorsement from your relevant Equity, Diversity or Inclusion committee** to be considered for funding.

Endorsement

All projects, regardless of which theme you are applying under, need to be endorsed by the Dean (Faculties), or relevant Pro-Vice Chancellor/Deputy Vice Chancellor (Units, Centres, Division etc).

Note: applications from the Business School must also get endorsement from the Associate Dean (Research), Kathy Walsh, and the Associate Dean (Education), Katie Schlenker, for teaching related research.

Projects applying as part of the **Thriving Communities theme** will need to provide a short letter of endorsement from their community partner as part of their application.

Projects applying as part of the **Safe and Inclusive UTS theme** will need to get their projects endorsed by their relevant Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee. See table below for how best to seek this:

Faculty, Unit or Division	Process	Key date	Email for applications:
Design and Society	Please use the committee of your internal partner, as the committee for Design and Society is not set up yet.		
Business	<p>Applications must be emailed before the scheduled committee meetings.</p> <p>A sub-committee will review the application and provide recommendations to the full committee.</p> <p>Applications will be considered at the committee meeting, with endorsement confirmed within three days of the meetings.</p>	<p>Committee meetings: 18 September 15 October</p> <p>Deadline to submit applications prior: 16 September 12 October</p>	Bus.SJIC@uts.edu.au
Faculty of Engineering & Information Technology	<p>Applications will be considered by the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Working Group.</p> <p>Applications are to be emailed by 10 October for consideration, and endorsement will be provided within 2 days after the meeting.</p>	Deadline to submit applications prior: 10 October	Danielle Seah: FEIT.EDC@uts.edu.au
Graduate Research School	Applications will be considered at the committee's meetings.	Committee meeting: 14 October	Sarah Kinkel Miller: sarah.kinkel@uts.edu.au

	Email applications to Sarah prior to the meeting, and endorsement will be provided in the following 48 hours.	Deadline to submit applications prior: 1 October (please contact Sarah if you need more time)	
Health	Applications will be considered by the committee at a meeting. Applications are to be emailed by 10 October for consideration.	Committee meeting: 15 October Deadline to submit applications prior to meeting: 10 October (by 5pm)	Kevin Peters Kevin.Peters@uts.edu.au
Law	Please use the committee of your internal partner, as the committee for as the Law committee cannot process applications.		
Science	Applications will be considered via email, email applications to Lana and endorsement will be provided within 3 days.	Committee meeting: 7 October Deadline to submit applications prior to meeting: 4 October Deadline to submit applications for email feedback: 23 October	Lana McClements: lane.mcclements@uts.edu.au
Transdisciplinary School	Applications will be considered via email or committee meetings. Email applications to Leila and endorsement will be provided within 3 days.	Committee meetings: 15 October Deadline to submit applications prior: 12 October	Leila Khanjaninejad Leila.Khanjaninejad@uts.edu.au
Institute for Sustainable Futures	Applications will be considered via email. Internal endorsement will be provided by 25 October.	Deadline to send applications for consideration: 13 October (11.59pm) Internal review: 14–24 October	isf-hr@uts.edu.au

As noted in the table above, applications from the Faculty of Design and Society, and the Faculty of Law will need to use their internal partners committee for endorsement, as these two areas are not able to review applications. If this is not an option for your application, please email socialimpactgrants@uts.edu.au so we can help you.

Funding

There are no restrictions or requirements on how the grant funding should be used. However, you must provide a clear description detailing how you plan to allocate the funds with estimated costings.

The grant can be used flexibly to fund entire projects or specific aspects of initiatives. For example, it could support a project from the ideation phase to the delivery phase. It can also act as a catalyst to advance a current project or assist in evaluating a project.

Grant recipient requirements

Successful applicants will be required to attend a 2-hour evaluation workshop in early 2026.

All grants must be financially acquitted by early December 2026, with project outcomes completed or near completion by January 2027.

All grant recipients must also complete a final project report and work with the Centre for Social Justice's communications team on a case study of their work.

Student projects

We encourage student projects, and both undergraduate and postgraduate students can apply for the grants. They will need to have a nominated staff supervisor for their project, who will receive the funds and act as a supervisor throughout the process.

We encourage students to work with their staff supervisor to develop their application.

The application does ask for evidence of experience and understanding in the area you will be working on – so you're encouraged to outline your experience, as well as the experience of your supervisor.

As a student applicant, you need to understand your responsibilities if you are successful in gaining a grant, such as:

- ☐ **Time commitment:** you should ensure you have the capacity to deliver the project within the grant timeline, balancing your study and other responsibilities.
- ☐ **Financial accountability:** the staff supervisor is formally responsible for the grant funds, but you should understand and be involved in basic budgeting and acquittal process.

- ❑ **Partnership expectations:** when working with community/external partners or internal UTS partners, you must be mindful of the importance of respectful, timely communication and shared decision-making.
- ❑ **Communication with your staff supervisor:** You must communicate to your supervisor if you achieve different milestones in your projects, are having challenges, acquire new funding or stakeholders, or want to deviate from the activities or outcomes in your approved project
- ❑ **Following proper research ethics:** You must understand the importance of following proper ethics processes for projects and be aware of how to seek support or expertise you may not have.
- ❑ **Project outcomes:** You must understand the importance of adhering to the activities, plans and outcomes in your application.

As a staff supervisor for a student, you act as a co-lead for the project and have joint responsibility for its delivery. This means we expect you to:

- ❑ have regular communication and check ins with your student
- ❑ be aware and across project updates and milestones, including challenges or changes to the project
- ❑ If necessary, escalate project risks or concerns or take action.

This is also inclusive of helping students with the financial, academic, and administrative aspects of the project, such as supporting them through ethics process, grant acquittals, required documentation, appropriate engagement with internal and/or external stakeholders and research participants, and risk mitigation.

It's important for you to set out a collaborative way of working with your student that will work for both of you at the outset of your project, so you both feel comfortable raising issues or addressing any challenges that may arise.

Selection criteria

Grant applications will be assessed based on the following criteria. All applications must also align with 1 of the themes listed on page 2.

1. **Social impact:** The project should have the potential to positively transform communities, either within UTS, outside UTS, or both.
2. **Clear outcomes:** The intended outcomes should be clear and achievable within the given timeframe and resources, with a detailed plan to demonstrate these outcomes.
3. **Engagement:** The project should show active involvement with the intended beneficiaries and key stakeholders. This may look different for each theme:
 1. **Thriving Communities:** The project should show significant engagement with their community partner, including how they co-identified and co-designed the project, and how they will be involved ongoingly. A brief letter of endorsement from the partner must be provided. The project should also demonstrate meaningful input from the intended beneficiaries (i.e., the end-users) in shaping the project's goals, design, and delivery - ensuring it responds to real needs and is grounded in lived experience.
 2. **Safe and Inclusive UTS:** The project must be a cross-university partnership, with projects partnered with another UTS division and/or faculty. The project must demonstrate meaningful cross-university consultation and engagement, showing how the need for the project was identified in collaboration with the intended beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders and how key stakeholders have been involved in shaping the project's design and planned implementation.
4. **Project feasibility:** The project activities and use of funding should be detailed, clear, and achievable within the given timeframe and resources.
5. **Expertise:** The project lead/team should have existing expertise in the subject area.
6. **Risk management:** Potential risks and mitigation strategies should be clearly identified.
7. **Dissemination:** There should be a clear plan for how the project findings will be shared.
8. **Endorsement:** The project should be endorsed by the faculty Dean/Unit Director.

1. All projects should be endorsed by the Dean (Faculties), or relevant Pro-Vice Chancellor/Deputy Vice Chancellor (Units, Centres, Division etc).
2. For projects in the Safe and inclusive UTS stream, they must also be approved by your area's relevant Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

How to apply

Applications open on 1 September and close 28 October 2025.

All applications must be submitted online, through the [Good Grants platform](#).

The Good Grants platform will allow you to save your application progress as you go. Late and incomplete applications will not be accepted for review.

If you wish to prepare your responses to the application questions prior to completing the online application form, you can access blank forms for each theme below:

- ☐ [Thriving Communities blank application form](#)
- ☐ [Safe and Inclusive UTS blank application form](#)

If you require more information or have any issues with Good Grants, we encourage you to email us at socialimpactgrants@uts.edu.au

Selection Process

All completed applications received will be shortlisted to confirm they meet eligibility requirements.

Shortlisted applications will then be reviewed and selected for funding by a panel comprised of:

- ☐ Pro Vice-Chancellor (Social Justice & Inclusion)(Chair)
- ☐ A faculty Dean
- ☐ Two representatives from faculties at various stages of career
- ☐ A community member

Please note, applications in the Safe and inclusive stream related to student mental health will also be assessed by the Student Services Unit.

Successful applications will be notified mid-December 2025, via email. The Social Impact Grants team will then work with all successful recipients in 2026 to release the funds and commence the project.

Contact us

If you require any more information, or would like to speak to someone about your application, please email socialimpactgrants@uts.edu.au