Social Impact Grants: FAQ

General

How have the grants evolved since 2018?

From the feedback of previous recipients we have made a few changes for the 2019 round of grants. The grants are being offered earlier in the year to provide more time to roll out your project and evaluate as you go. We have also embedded evaluation support through the form of a compulsory 1-day evaluation workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to help recipients be mindful of what outcomes you're tracking right at the beginning. Grant recipients that fully engaged with the evaluation resources, asked a lot of questions and utilised the support from the Centre, were in a better position to produce effective outcome reporting at the end of the grants.

Can we have access to the application form without having to fill in the whole form?

Yes, we have included a downloadable pdf of the questions on the 'About' page of our Social Impact Grants website.

I received a grant last year, can I apply again for the same project?

You are welcome to apply for the grants this year. New projects, however, will be preferenced in the assessment of the grant applications as the intent of the grants is to be an enabling source of funding to assist and build the capacity of our community. An ideal outcome for the grants would be the ability to leverage this grant to gain other support. If you do decide to apply, you will need to articulate how a second round of funding will build the capability of the project team in a way that the initial grant did not.

What is the specific theme for Research Grants this year?

Research grants are focusses on community engaged research and require a community partner. This is encouraged for practice grants – but not require.

I have multiple projects that meet the criteria. Can I apply for more than one grant?

Yes, you can! Please ensure you lodge a separate application for each individual project.

Can our community partner be internal to UTS?

Yes.

Community Partners

Can I apply as part of a team with academics from other universities?

Absolutely, you can partner with who you want! If successful, we would grant you - if what would enable you is a partnership outside of UTS then you would be expected to manage that relationship.

Do you need to have an established partnership, or can you propose a partnership you wish to pursue?

We want to see evidence that the community partner has some level of interest and involvement. It's important for them to be engaged in the dialogue. From our perspective of engaged scholarship, the expectation is that the development of your application would be done in partnership with your community partner to begin with – with their point of view embedded in the application process.

If the project is teaching focused, but teaching projects externally, is that a suitable project?

Yes.

What do you need from our community partners to demonstrate their partnership?

The precondition of the SIF requires trust - We absolutely trust our grant recipients. We need your word that they are involved in an authentic way. You'll find that the application is not onerous, and we have intentionally kept it this way as we understand our community is very busy.

What we ask is that you tell us how. How have they partnered? How have they engaged in this? How are you connecting and working together?

The Social Impact Framework

Where can I find information about the domains, values and mission of the UTS Social Impact Framework?

More information around the Social Impact Framework can be found at: https://www.uts.edu.au/partners-and-community/initiatives/social-justice-uts/welcome/social-impact-framework

Can the framework be implemented in the community?

The UTS Social Impact Framework is roadmap of what we're trying to achieve here at UTS, so it is a framework bespoke to UTS. In the grant application we do ask applicants to identify in what way the project connected to the various domains of the Social Impact Framework.

Important Dates

What if I can't attend the dates that the workshop is being run?

The workshops are mandatory. If you are unable to attend the dates identified because of a reasonable reason, say for example you're teaching, please don't let this stop you applying and just identify you're unavailable for those dates in your application. We will negotiate with successful applicants if these dates are an issue.

Is the session on the 13 June the only info session for the 2019 Grant round?

Yes, but information on the grants is available at: https://www.uts.edu.au/partners-and-community/initiatives/social-justice-uts/social-impact-grants

Are you interested in any specific kind of research?

We are interested in research that has an impact in the world on communities that leads to a sustainable, socially just world. In order for us to have the most amount of impact in the world, one approach is to do this work alongside communities. We are less interested in the specific area you're focusing on, and more interested in research that established partnerships with the people impacted by issue you're focusing on, and how they are involved.

Student Applications

Do you get many successful applications from students, and are there any additional requirements for student recipients?

We welcome student applications. They do need to have a staff mentor, as we will release the funds to the staff member. There are no additional requirements. We have had student applications in the past however they have not been to the standard of other applications. Internally we have had conversations around how we can best support student application and/or recipients in the future. Mentoring has been identified as one approach.

What can students do to strengthen their applications and what is the role of the mentor for student applications?

The applications in the past have been quite rushed, and completed in isolation. The point of having a mentor is to assist you in developing your application to the quality that it needs to be submitted. The application does ask for evidence of experience and understanding in the area you will be working – so you're encouraged to list the experience of your mentor also in the area.

There will be some financial responsibility for them to be the reporting on. Our intention was to motivate the mentor to be a supportive. You can have an established practitioner who operates in this space, that has extensive experience in this space, and who can support you. In the long term we would love to steer towards examining how academic staff, professional staff and students can work together as colleagues, so it's not a mentor mentee situation, rather a recognition of the diverse level of skill and knowledge we bring into the process.