

Social Impact Grants

Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion

Social justice is front and centre in UTS's vision and purpose and a core component of its [Strategic Plan](#). This focus has already created a rich array of successful [research and practice efforts that contribute to communities locally and globally](#). The university's [Social Impact Framework](#), which was co-created with the UTS community, seeks to further enable UTS's current social justice profile and inform the university's social justice priorities into the future. The framework – an Australian first institution-wide approach to social impact – firmly positions the university as an agent for social change and supports the university to take up its public purpose role.

In support of this vision, the Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion works to enable and enhance social impact research and practice at UTS. As part of its offerings, the Centre is proud to offer the **Social Impact Grants**.

Ten grants of up to \$5,000 are offered across two categories:

- **Practice grants**
- **Research grants**

We are most interested to tap into the expertise of researchers and practitioners already working in this field, and thus to provide additional capacity and opportunity. Through this process, we are hoping to develop ongoing relationships with practitioners, and with it, generate new opportunities for engaged practice and research.

Practice Grants

The 2020 Social Impact Practice Grants are offered for initiatives that demonstrate UTS's contribution to social impact in line with the [Social Impact Framework](#). Practice Grant applications must reflect projects that respond to one or more of the six domains of change, as articulated in the Social Impact Framework (detailed below), and/or one or more of the Social Impact Framework's pre-conditions (detailed below).

Domains of change:

1. Increasing the number of students from under-represented target groups successfully completing a higher education degree at UTS
2. Increasing student agency to enact personal and social responsibility
3. Supporting staff to maximise their social impact
4. Producing targeted research, teaching and program outcomes that have social impact and actively contribute to communities
5. Being an advocate, critical voice and thought leader on issues that concern and impact communities
6. Developing business operations and strategies that reflect a long-term independent commitment to social impact.

Preconditions:

- UTS has the social capital and is trusted to bring about social change
- Alumni and partners are willing to act through and with UTS
- Leadership and the culture at UTS is inclusive and supports the public purpose role of the university

Practice grants can support collaborative projects involving staff and students, staff only or students only. Practice can include teaching and learning projects, initiatives and events that build the culture of inclusion and social justice at UTS, initiatives that support collaborations between UTS and the communities that we are connected to or other projects that further the goals of the Social Impact Framework.

This grant can be used flexibly to fund entire projects or they can be used for aspects of initiatives, including: to help progress projects from the ideation phase into the development or delivery phases, as a catalyst to progress current projects or to assist in evaluation of projects nearing completion.

An information session for interested applicants is being held on 23 March 2020 at UTS. RSVP for the Social Impact Grant Briefing session by contacting Robert.carr-1@uts.edu.au.

Research Grants

The 2020 Social Impact research grants are focused on supporting community-engaged research, where researchers work in reciprocal partnership with the community to drive the purpose, design, implementation and use of research.

Research outcomes will be published and shared through UTS and the broader community in both academic and non-academic formats. An ideal outcome from each grant would be a publishable academic peer reviewed article, and a shorter public facing discussion paper or public engagement piece that can include open access, policy or industry reports; lay media publications or broadcasting; public seminars, demonstrations, exhibits or events; public awareness campaigns; or public policy action.

Like the Practice Grants, this grant can be used flexibly to fund entire projects or they can be used for aspects of initiatives, including: to help progress projects from the ideation phase into the development or delivery phases, as a catalyst to progress current projects or to assist in evaluation of projects nearing completion.

An information session on community-engaged research is being offered as part of the Social Impact Grant briefing session on 23 March 2020. Those considering this grant category are highly encouraged to attend. RSVP for the Social Impact Grant Briefing session by contacting Robert.carr-1@uts.edu.au.

Application Details

We welcome applications from any member of UTS staff, permanent, sessional and casual, who have expertise or interest in specific areas of the framework. We also welcome group applications, and projects working in partnership with community organisations.

We also welcome applications from UTS students, including higher degree research students, who have expertise or interest in specific areas of the framework. As a condition of grant, students must identify an academic or professional staff mentor and supervisor for their initiative. Funds will be dispersed to the involved staff member who will take joint responsibility for the financial acquittal of the grant.

Each grant will be awarded up to \$5,000 including on costs. Payments will be transferred to the staff member's faculty or unit for disbursement. As part of the application process, all applications will need to include a budget for how the grant will be spent.

As a condition of the grants, successful applicants will be required to attend a two-hour evaluation workshop on 8 or 11 June 2020.

All grants will need to be financially acquitted by 10 December, 2020. Grant outcomes for research projects and practice initiatives need to be near-completion by January 2021. Evaluations for both grant categories are to be submitted by 28 February 2021.

Grant applications will be assessed according to the following considerations:

- The project scope, intended social impact and intended beneficiaries of the project outcomes
- Stakeholder involvement
- Demonstrated alignment with the values and mission of the Social Impact Framework
- Existing expertise with the subject area, ideally with examples of published work or delivered programs
- Ability to deliver within timeframe
- Evidence of good project management and planning – realistic timeframe, project deliverables, budget allocations
- Endorsement of the Faculty Dean/Unit Director/Supervisor
- Desirable: familiarity and alignment with related programs and initiatives of UTS

Successful applicants will be notified by 20 May 2020.

Applications to be submitted through a short google form, accessible [here](#).

For more information, to submit supporting documentation or if you have any questions, please email: socialimpactgrants@uts.edu.au

Summary of Dates

- 24 February 2020: Applications Open
- 23 March 2020: Social Impact Grant Briefing
- 30 April 2020: Applications close
- 20 May 2020: Successful applicants notified
- 9 or 11 June 2020: Required one-day evaluation workshop for all grant recipients
- 28 February 2021: All evaluations and reporting due