2024 UTS
Social Impact Grants
– Community-engaged research and practice

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Introduction

The UTS Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion is offering 14 Social Impact Grants – Community-engaged research and practice in 2024.

This brochure will provide you with all the relevant information you need to know about the grants program including:

- history and context of the program
- eligibility and assessment criteria of the grants
- grant availability, categories, and requirements
- how to apply
- key dates and deadlines
- application form/questions.

Social Justice at UTS

The UTS Social Impact Grants – Community-engaged research and practice support researchers and practitioners to work with communities to contribute to positive social change.
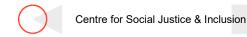
Social justice is front and centre in UTS's vision of being a leading public university recognised for its global impact. Social justice is also a core component of the UTS strategic plan. This focus has already created a rich array of successful research and practice efforts that contribute to communities locally and globally.

UTS developed a Social Impact Framework that seeks to further enable the university's social justice profile and inform social justice priorities into the future. The framework identifies pathways necessary for UTS to:

- achieve a shared social justice purpose
- be an agent for social change
- contribute to the positive transformation of communities through research, education, and practice.

Achieving this purpose will contribute to the university's social justice vision of a healthy, sustainable, and socially just society through increased public benefit, increased social mobility and equity, and enabling environments for communities to thrive.

A key pathway to this vision, as identified in the Social Impact Framework, is the necessary reward, recognition, and support for staff. In response to this, and as part of its broader work to enable and enhance social impact research and practice

at UTS, the Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion runs the Social Impact Grants program.

Social Impact Grants – Community-engaged research and practice

The **2024 Social Impact Grants – Community-engaged research and practice** are focused on supporting community-engaged research and practice. Grant recipients must work in reciprocal partnership with the community to drive the purpose, design, implementation, and use of research or practice.

The grants must also demonstrate UTS's contribution to social impact in line with the Social Impact Framework. Accordingly, grant applications must articulate how projects will contribute to the transformation of community(ies), and respond to one or more of the desired impact areas:

- A healthier, more sustainable, and socially just society.
- Increased public benefit.
- Increased social mobility and equity.
- Enabling environments for communities to thrive.

The grants can include:

- research projects
- 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 other projects that further the purpose and vision of the Social Impact Framework.

The grant can be used flexibly to fund entire projects, or for aspects of initiatives. For example, it could help progress a project from the ideation phase to the delivery phase. It could be used as a catalyst to progress a current project or to help evaluate a project.

Successful grants will have their projects showcased through a case study published on the UTS website.

In 2024, we have two categories of grants:

- Research and Practice Grant.

- Local Community Voice Grant.

Applicants may apply for either a general Research and Practice grant, or a Local Community Voice Grant.

Local Community Voice Grant

The Local Community Voice Grant is for projects in the suburbs surrounding UTS – Glebe, Pyrmont, Haymarket and/or Ultimo. It is an opportunity for applicants to undertake projects in our local community that respond to one or more of the following community identified priority areas:

- How might we influence attitudes and behaviours in our community to create a sustainable and thriving environment?
- How might we use public spaces more effectively to connect people in our community?
- How might we ensure that community voice informs decision making?
- How might we ensure that people have affordable and adequate housing so that everyone in our community feels safe?
- How might we improve public transport so that it is accessible and meets the needs of our community?

Proposed projects and community partners must be based in Glebe, Haymarket, Pyrmont or Ultimo,

If your project responds to the above areas, please consider submitting your project for a Local Community Voice Grant.

Information session

An online information session will run for those interested in applying for a Social Impact Grant – Community-engaged research and practice.

When: 19 February 2024, 1pm to 2pm.
Where: Online via Zoom.

Those considering applying are encouraged to attend. [You can register Humantix](#).

Grant writing workshops

Two online grant writing sessions will be run by the Network for Community Engagement and Carnegie Classification Australia. The sessions will provide potential applicants with tips on how to write a research grant application.

Project and program design: Building skills to develop "funder-ready" project proposals

When: Wednesday 28 February, 12 – 1pm
Where: Online via Zoom. Register via Humanatix.

Grant writing: Preparing high-quality applications that meet funder expectations

When: Tuesday 5 March, 12 – 1pm
Where: Online via Zoom. Register via Humanatix.

UTS and community networking event

A face-to-face and online networking event will be held to help facilitate university and community partnerships. These events will consist of 'speed-dating' rounds and will aim to match up potential partnerships for a grant application. These will be casual, friendly events, with the in-person event including food and drinks to share.

Face-to-face networking session

When: Monday 11 March, 12 – 1.30pm
Where: UTS campus, CB01.22.10

Online networking session

When: Tuesday 12 March, 5.30 – 6.30pm
Where: Online via Zoom

Register for the in-person or online networking session via Humanatix.

Application details

Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply for a Social Impact Grant – Community-engaged research and practice, applicants must:

- be a UTS staff member (academic or professional), or a UTS student (undergraduate or HDR).
  - o **Note on student applications**: As a condition of the grant, 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.
- Group applications are welcome.

How much is the grant for?

Each grant recipient 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 an indication of how the grant will be spent.

Are there any conditions of the grant?

Successful applicants will be required to attend one three-hour evaluation workshop on either:

- Monday 20 May 2024, 9.30am to 12.30pm (Face-to-face on the UTS campus)
- Thursday 23 May 2024, 9.30am to 12.30pm (Online).

All grants will need to be financially acquitted by **8 December 2024**.

Research projects and practice initiatives need to be near completion by January 2025.

A final report must be submitted by **28 February 2025**.

How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted online through the [Good Grants Platform](#).

You can access a [PDF of the application form](#) should you want to see the questions ahead of time.

If you have any questions or issues when completing or submitting your form, please email: socialimpactgrants@uts.edu.au.

When are applications due?

Applications are due **COB 12 April 2024**.

When will successful applicants be notified?

Successful applicants will be notified by **10 May 2024**.

How will the applications be assessed?

In 2024, there are two streams of grants:

- Research and Practice Grants.
- Local Community Voice Grants.

Grant applications for each stream will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. Project aligns with the purpose and vision of the UTS Social Impact Framework.
2. Project has the potential to contribute to the positive transformation of communities.
3. Project lead/team has partnered with a community organisation and/or external stakeholder.
4. Project lead/team demonstrates significant engagement with the community partner to identify need and design the project.
5. Intended beneficiaries will have considerable involvement in the project.
6. Intended outcomes of the project are clear and achievable within the timeframe and resources.
7. There is a clear and detailed approach to demonstrate the outcomes of the project, and this approach includes partner and beneficiary perspectives.
8. Project activities and intended use of funding is detailed, clear and achievable within the timeframe and resources.
9. There is a clear indication of how the project findings will be disseminated.
10. Project lead and/or team have existing expertise within the subject area.
11. Potential risks and how to address them are clearly identified.
12. Project has been endorsed by the faculty Dean/Unit Director/Supervisor.
13. **Local Community Voice Grant**: All projects must meet all the above criteria, and additionally:
    a. Projects must be in partnership with an organisation/group in the Glebe, Haymarket, Pyrmont and/or Ultimo areas.

  b. Intended project outcomes must benefit the Glebe, Haymarket, Pyrmont and/or Ultimo communities.

  c. Projects must seek to address at least one of the five community-identified priority areas:

    i. Ensuring community voice informs decision making.

    ii. Influencing attitudes and behaviours to create a sustainable and thriving environment.

    iii. Using public and private spaces to effectively connect people.

    iv. Ensuring affordable and adequate housing.

    v. Improving public transport.

Successful 2023 Social Impact Grant recipients will not be considered for a similar application in the 2024 round.

Where can I go for more information?

See the [Social Impact Grants – Community-engaged research and practice webpage](#) for more information.

You can also email socialimpactgrants@uts.edu.au with any questions.

Summary of key dates

- **12 February 2024**: Applications open.
- **19 February 2024**: Social Impact Grant – Community-engaged research and practice information session – [Register via Humanatix](#).
- **28 Feb and 5 March 2024**: Grant writing sessions (see above for registration details).
- **11 March 2024**: UTS and community networking event (Face-to-face) – [Register via Humanatix](#).
- **12 March 2024**: UTS and community networking event (Online) – [Register via Humanatix](#).
- **12 April 2024**: Applications close.
- **10 May 2024**: Successful applicants notified.
- **20 or 23 May 2024**: Required one-day evaluation workshop for all grant recipients.
- **Mid-October 2024**: Progress check-in.
- **8 December 2024**: Total grant budget must be expended by this date.
- **28 February 2025**: Final report due.

Application questions

Your application must be completed through the [2024 Good Grants form](#).

The Good Grants platform will allow you to save your application progress as you go and submit the final application once it's complete. However, if you wish to prepare your responses to the application questions prior to completing the online application form, please find these below.

You can access a [PDF of the application form](#) should you want to see the questions ahead of time.