University of California San Diego – Monash University
2019 Seed Fund Program
Request for Proposals

1. Background

Social and scientific challenges of global interest require solutions that draw on a range of research disciplines, infrastructure, and research strengths of international teams. Reflecting this, Monash University, Melbourne Australia (Monash) and University of California San Diego (UC San Diego) seek to build a mechanism for collaborative bilateral research whereby the complementary capabilities of the universities are leveraged.

UC San Diego and Monash are seeking proposals to foster collaborative, sustainable, and cross-disciplinary research programs. The 2019 Seed Fund has been created to provide seed monies to faculty groups to develop plans for long term programs integrating postgraduate students and faculty from both universities. Proposals are expected to focus upon program development to enable future collaborative efforts, including work on preliminary research to demonstrate proof-of-concept and not to perform the in-depth effort with these funds.

This program round is open to faculty members affiliated with Monash and UC San Diego in all disciplines. Successful proposals will (i) involve a clear collaborative effort between faculty members on both Monash and UC San Diego sides, and (ii) demonstrate a path to sustainability through external funding sources.

2. Program funding available

(i) Approximately 8-10 seed grants worth up to AU$40k (US $28k) are available.

(ii) The duration of the grant is 12 months – the funds should be expended by 1 August 2020.

(iii) The grant is a 50% cost share from UC San Diego (Office of the Chancellor) and Monash (Office of the Provost)

(iv) The seed grant funds cannot be used for faculty salary or stipend, indirect/administrative costs, to hire a consultant or contractor, or for general equipment expenses (laptops, ipads, printers, etc.). Please inquire with your university contact for clarification if an expense is allowable.

(v) Allowable expenses include staff/student exchange (in-coming or out-going), direct research support costs (including support for existing student researchers, postdocs or technicians), equipment/facility/platform access fees, travel, and other expenditures in support of the long term project development.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for support:

(i) The designated Monash team lead must be a Monash academic employee;

(ii) The designated UC San Diego team lead must hold an appointment with automatic PI eligibility;

(iii) Affiliates and externals may be included in the Monash and/or UC San Diego teams. However, they are unable to be named as the ‘Designated Lead’;

(iv) The minimum number of investigators at both Monash and UC San Diego is one and the maximum is four.
4. **Proposal Evaluation**

A panel of faculty and administrators from UC San Diego and Monash will evaluate and select the projects to be funded. Funding priority will be given to projects that:

(i) Are truly multidisciplinary

(ii) Advance self-supporting collaborative scholarship of high academic value

(iii) Strengthen the connectivity and relationship between Monash and UC San Diego

(iv) Create teams with multiple faculty and graduate/postgraduate students at each university

(v) Involve shared postgraduate supervision (informal) and mobility

The evaluation criteria and weighting:

(i) Team and collaborative plan (20%)

(ii) Program idea and quality (40%)

(iii) Potential to create a self-supporting, sustainable collaboration program after the seed money expires (40%)

5. **Proposal Format**

(i) Complete the Seed Fund application form.

(ii) Obtain 2 page CVs of the project designated co-leads (participants)

(iii) Combine all documents into one pdf.

6. **Dates**

(i) Seed Fund released: April 2019

(ii) **Proposal submission due by:** 21 May 2019, 4.59 pm in Melb (20 May at 11:59 pm in San Diego)

(iii) Anticipated award announcement: July 2019

(iv) Funding awarded: August 2019

(v) Final Report submission due: 1 September, 2020

7. **Application Submission**

The consolidated pdf submission should be emailed to Monash University and copied to UC San Diego:
Submit to [vp.research-noe@monash.edu](mailto:vp.research-noe@monash.edu), cc to [seedfund@ucsd.edu](mailto:seedfund@ucsd.edu) by 21 May 2019, 4:59 pm in Melbourne (20 May at 11:59 pm in San Diego).

8. **Contacts**

**Website:** [https://www.monash.edu/ucsd-partnership](https://www.monash.edu/ucsd-partnership)

**Monash University**

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**UC San Diego**

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