UNSW and Tsinghua University have each agreed to provide funding for a collaborative research seed grant program. The fund will be used to provide seed grants to identify, promote and encourage opportunities for collaborative research and development in areas of common interest, provide facilities for this purpose and enhance the activities, profiles and reputation of each party.

**SEED GRANT FUNDING AND PURPOSE**

The purpose of the seed grant is to establish a joint research collaboration leading to long term collaboration beyond the scope of the seed project. The collaboration is intended to include and lead to:

* at least 2 reciprocal visits for staff and/or students to be conducted within the duration of the award (i.e. at least one visit by UNSW staff and/or students to Tsinghua and one visit by Tsinghua staff and/or students to UNSW);
* the submission of at least one joint co-authored publication (or equivalent output); and
* the targeting of a suitable scheme for the submission of a joint application for external research funding.

**Theme areas to be supported in 2019/2020:**

* Advanced Materials
* Ageing
* Digital Grids

**Funding**

* Grants of up to $15,000 per annum may be awarded for a duration of 12 months.
* A progress report will be required 11 months after receipt of funding providing evidence of outcomes to date.
* Seed grants may be renewed for one further period of 12 months subject to performance in fulfilling the objectives of the scheme.
* Grants should be spent within the period indicated.
* Each institution will provide funds to its own researchers (i.e. UNSW will award a grant of up $15,000 to the UNSW lead investigator)
* Funds may only be spent at the home institution/country.

**Eligible items for funding:**

* Travel costs of researchers and/or research students associated with the project
* Reimbursement of living and hosting costs of visiting researchers from each institution
* Workshop or meeting costs
* Minor research costs associated with the project. Not to exceed 25% of grant.

**Items not eligible for funding:**

* Salaries (for professional or academic staff)
* Scholarships

**Other eligibility requirements:**

* Past awardees are not eligible to apply as a Lead Investigator for this round but may be included as an ‘Other Investigator’ on an application if it is for a different project.
* Lead Investigators must be researchers holding a salaried appointment with UNSW, or on a formal conjoint position if from one of UNSW’s affiliated Medical Research Institutes.
* Applicants are only permitted to apply as a Lead Investigator on one application. A Lead Investigator may be included as an ‘Other Investigator’ on a separate application if it is for a different project.
* Applications are welcome from academic staff at all levels at UNSW.

**APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

Teams of researchers with one lead researcher from each institution should submit an application using the provided Application Form by 5pm (local time), Monday 16th September 2019.

Applications will be assessed by a Steering Committee with representatives including the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), UNSW and the Vice-President (Research), Tsinghua University or delegates.

**Selection criteria:**

1. Quality, expected outcomes and impact of proposed research program
2. Strength of research team relative to opportunity
3. Alignment of proposal with purpose and expected outcomes of the fund

**SUBMISSION**

The Lead Investigators from UNSW and Tsinghua need to work together to prepare a joint application, with each submitting the relevant application form to their own institution. The application needs to be submitted to both UNSW and Tsinghua to be eligible for consideration.

Applications will only be accepted via email in either PDF or Word format.

**UNSW applicants:** Submit form to internationalresearch@unsw.edu.au

**Tsinghua applicants:** Submit form to Luxiaojun@tsinghua.edu..cn

Deadline: 5pm (local time) on Monday 16th September 2019 *(Please note that this is a hard deadline and late applications will not be accepted)*

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS**

End October 2019, with grants starting in November 2019

**QUERIES AND FURTHER INFORMATION**
Please email internationalresearch@unsw.edu.au (UNSW) and Luxiaojun@tsinghua.edu.cn (Tsinghua)

**Project Title:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Project Team**:

|  |
| --- |
| **Lead investigator (UNSW)** |
| Name: | Department: |
| Email: |
|  |
| **Lead investigator (Tsinghua)** |
| Name: | Department: |
| Email: |

**Other named investigators: UNSW**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | School or Department |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Other named investigators: Tsinghua** |
| Name | School or Department |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Theme Area**:

[ ]  Advanced Materials

[ ]  Ageing

[ ]  Digital Grids

**Project Details**:

In one page, provide details of:

* Proposed research collaboration and activity
* How the project will lead to long term collaboration beyond the scope of the seed project
* Expected outcomes of seed grant funding:
* the submission of at least one joint co-authored publication (or equivalent output)
* at least 2 reciprocal visits for staff and/or students to be conducted within the duration of the award (i.e. at least one visit by UNSW staff and/or students to Tsinghua and one visit by Tsinghua staff and/or students to UNSW)
* target a suitable scheme for submission of a joint application for external research funding

**Track Record of Personnel**

For each investigator named in the Project Team, please provide the following in no more than 2 pages per investigator:

1. Resume
2. List of 10 most significant career Publications
3. List of Research Funding for grants awarded in the years 2017-19

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description**(all named investigators on any proposal or grant/ project/ fellowship in which a Participant is/was involved, project title, source of support and scheme) | **First year** | **Duration (years)** | **Total Value ($’000 or RMB)** |
| *Example: X. Wang and J Smith, New Energy Materials, National Research Corporation, Fundamental Projects* | *2017* | *4* | *$500,000* |
|  |  |  |  |
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