Strategic Research Fund – Application

Please submit completed applications to the Higher Education and Tertiary Policy directorate of the Department of Education by **6PM AEST Monday 11 October 2021** by email to [higher.education@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:higher.education@det.nsw.edu.au?subject=Strategic%20Research%20Fund%20-%20Application).

Please include all necessary attachments with your email and clearly state ‘**Strategic Research Fund Application**’ in the subject line.

Please do not handwrite your application.

If you have any questions about the Strategic Research Fund or the application process please contact Dr Brydan Lenne, A/Leader Strategic Initiatives and Reform on (02) 7814 1206 or [brydan.lenne@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:brydan.lenne@det.nsw.edu.au).

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| **1.** **Research project title** |
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| **1.1 Funding stream** | |
| Please indicate which funding stream you are applying for: | |
| NSW Priority Projects | Building the Evidence Base |

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| **1.2 Eligibility questions** | | |
| Please indicate your proposed research project’s alignment to the Statements of Opportunity listed below (select which Statement applies). | | |
| **Research Statement of Opportunity** | **Outcomes** | **Category (Please X)** |
| *Curriculum differentiation for students with different learning needs* | * Support clearer and easier ways for teachers to break down a range of syllabus outcomes such that they can cater to a wide range of students in one class/across a school. * Ensure that every student's needs are identified and directly targeted by effective differentiation of syllabus and curriculum. * Reduce workload on teachers in managing differentiation issues * Translate lessons learned about curriculum differentiation in the disability sector to improve outcomes for all students. |  |
| *Building the evidence relating to the connection between physical and digital learning environments and student outcomes and wellbeing* | * The development of educationally-relevant measurement tools that can be used to assess effective learning environments * The measurement of student capabilities that reflect the type of learning and teaching that we intend for these environments to facilitate (i.e., the general capabilities) |  |
| *The factors that impact on mathematics subject selection in stage 5 and how it impacts on a student's ability to study stage 6 mathematics* | * The Department would like to better understand the factors influencing student decision making for Stage 5 and 6 mathematics courses, in order to better understand how to better support students to make robust decisions about their future. * Are there factors that can be addressed at an earlier age that sets a student on the path of selecting higher level mathematics in stage 5/6? * More broadly, what are the factors that go into subject selection decision making for students, and how can the Department support more informed student choice? |  |
| Is the Lead Researcher employed at a NSW public university? (Y / N) | | |
| Does the proposed research project have ethics approval, or is it likely to receive ethics approval, from the relevant ethics committee at the lead researcher’s university? (Y / N)  **Please note**: If a research project does not secure required ethics approval, the proposed research project will not be funded. | | |
| Does the proposed research involve schools? Y / N (If No, go to 1.3)  If Yes: I am aware that a condition of funding is a successful application to the NSW State Research Applications Process (SERAP) team in NSW Education.  **Please note**: If a SERAP application for research involving schools is unsuccessful, the proposed research project will not be funded. | | |
| Have you read the *Guidelines for Applicants* and *Funding Deed*? (Y / N) | | |

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| **1.3 Research project summary**  (Please provide a brief synopsis including description, rationale and key objectives – approximately 300-400 words. Further detail is requested below) |
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| **1.4 Anticipated outputs and outcomes**  (Please list the anticipated outputs of your research project. For example, any teaching and learning resources, professional development tools or reports, publications and presentations, new datasets, statistical analysis, linked datasets and/or dashboards.) |
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| What do you expect the short, medium and long-term outcomes of your research project will be? |

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| **1.5 Research impact and engagement**  (As well as academic impact, this could include engagement with Department staff and research end-users throughout the research project to maximise the outcomes and translation impacts of the research) |
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| **1.6 Total funding requested** | | **Total research project cost** |
| $ | | $ |
| **1.7 Administering Organisation** | | |
| University name |  | |
| Contact person |  | |
| Title |  | |
| Position |  | |
| Postal address |  | |
| Telephone number |  | |
| Email |  | |
| **Partner University** (If required, copy and paste this table for additional partner universities) | | |
| University name |  | |
| Contact person |  | |
| Title |  | |
| Position |  | |
| Postal address |  | |
| Telephone number |  | |
| Email |  | |

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| **1.8 Research Team** | | | | | |
| **Lead Researcher** | | | | | |
| First name | |  | | | |
| Surname | |  | | | |
| Title | |  | | | |
| Position | |  | | | |
| Postal address | |  | | | |
| Phone number | |  | | | |
| Email address | |  | | | |
| Time commitment to project (FTE) | |  | | | |
| **Research team** | | | | | |
| Name | Current Organisation | | Contact email | Contact Phone | Time Commitment (FTE) |
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| **2. Assessment criteria**  Please indicate below how your research project addresses the assessment criteria |
| **2.1 Researcher(s) capability (around 300 words)** |
| * Time and capacity to undertake the research * Evidence of experience in research training, mentoring and supervision (where appropriate) * The capability of the lead researcher or team to build collaborations both within NSW and nationally, and access to data (if applicable). |
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| **2.2 Project quality and innovation (around 600 word summary)** **Note: a project description of up to 2 pages can be included as an attachment to your application.** |
| * Contribution to an important gap in knowledge or significant problem * Novelty/originality and innovation of the proposed research (including any new methods, technologies, theories, data linkages or ideas that will be developed) * Clarity of the hypothesis, theories and research questions * Cohesiveness of the project design and implementation plan (including the appropriateness of the aim, conceptual framework, method, data and/or analyses); and * Research that demonstrates benefits to more than one NSW government department. |
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| **2.3 Benefit (around 600 words)** |
| * New or advanced knowledge resulting from outcomes of the research * Social and/or cultural benefits against economic, state and national priorities * Potential for translation into priority policy settings including NSW Education, Premier’s and state priorities, for example as articulated in NSW Education’s Strategic Plan * Suitability of proposed project and research translation into NSW context * Research impact and engagement, and anticipated outputs (summary) |
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| **2.4 Feasibility (around 300 words)** |
| * Cost-effectiveness of the research and its value for money * Availability of the necessary facilities/resources to complete the project; and * Extent to which the project’s design, participants and budget create confidence in the timely and successful completion of the project. |
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| **3. Departmental support**  Please describe any support you will require from the department (for example, if you plan to undertake research in schools, or if you need access to departmental data), and any steps you have taken to secure that support. |
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| **4. Project budget for NSW funding** | | | |
| Please outline the proposed budget for your research project below. (Insert ‘0’ if zero and additional lines where necessary) | | | |
| Please include a brief justification of the project budget (no more than 600 words) | | | |
| **4.1 Research Project income (exclusive of GST)** | **CASH** | | **IN-KIND** |
| **Cash income** | | | |
| Strategic Research funding requested FY2021/22 | | $ |  |
| Strategic Research funding requested FY2022/23 | | $ |
| Administering organisation total contribution (if applicable) | | $ |
| Partner university total contribution (if applicable) | | $ |
| Total cash income | | $ |
| **In-kind support** | | | |
| Administering organisation in-kind support (estimate of $ value) | | N/A | $ |
| Partner university in-kind support (estimate of $ value of in-kind support if applicable) | | $ |
| Total in-kind support | | $ |
| **Total research project income** | | **$** | |

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| **4.2 Research project expenditure** | **CASH** | **IN-KIND** |
| **Labour costs related to this research project** | | |
| Lead Researcher commitment (applicant, expressed as FTE in-kind) | N/A | $ |
| Research team member 1 (name, FTE) | $ | $ |
| Additional project labour costs (total FTE) | $ | $ |
| Total salary and labour costs | $ | $ |
| **Other costs directly related to the research project** | | |
| Project consumables (insert additional lines as necessary) | $ | $ |
| Equipment (either through purchase or in-kind access to equipment, facilities, or infrastructure necessary for the execution of the project) | $ | $ |
| (Insert additional lines as necessary for other project-related costs) | $ | $ |
| Total other costs directly related to the research project | $ | $ |
| **Total research project expenditure** | $ | |

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| **5. Research project timeline** | | | | | | | | | |
| Research project start date: | | | | | |  | | | |
| Research project end date: | | | | | |  | | | |
| Total project time: | | | | | |  | | | |
| Please provide an overview of **key research activities** below. (Mark (x) or colour the relevant box to illustrate the duration of individual tasks). | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Year 1** | | | | **Year 2** | | | | |
| **Activity** | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q1** | | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** |
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| **6. Letters of support and evidence** |
| Please attach the following documents to your application: |
| 6.1 A signed letter of endorsement from the administering organisation confirming:   * The Lead Researcher is currently employed by the university * The university supports the proposed research project application (all applicants) * Funding levels of cash contributions and levels of in-kind contributions to the proposed research project (if applicable) * That research ethics approval is likely to be or already has been granted. |
| 6.2 A signed letter of support from any partner universities clearly indicating the following:   * Levels of cash contributions to the proposed research project (if applicable) * Levels of in-kind contributions to the proposed research project (if applicable) |
| 6.3 A summary CV for each member of the research team demonstrating evidence of “Researcher capability” as a single file (with a maximum of 2 pages each). |