



ACDS Teaching and Learning Grants 2021

INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

About the ACDS

The Australian Council of Deans of Science (ACDS) was constituted in 1995 to be the voice of science teaching and research in the university system. It comprises the deans of science faculties and senior representatives of science from across Australia's universities. The ACDS has a strong commitment to 'be a national forum for developing and sharing ideas of best practice in research, education and industry/community interaction, in Australia's science faculties and schools.'

In 2013 the ACDS established the ACDS Teaching and Learning Centre to inform science faculties and their stakeholders about quality teaching and learning in science and mathematics, promote innovation in teaching and learning, and foster widespread improvement in practice. The Centre seeks to identify and promote consensus, providing a strong national voice on teaching and learning. Its members consist primarily of Associate Deans Learning and Teaching, discipline education networks and other recognised learning and teaching leaders.

ACDS Teaching and Learning Grants scheme

The ACDS Teaching and Learning Grants scheme is to fund projects to advance learning and teaching in science and mathematics in Australian universities, addressing priority areas identified by the ACDS.

Every year project funding is available to the amounts of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 and between \$10,000 and \$20,000, for small and large projects respectively.

Project applications must be endorsed by the Executive Dean (or equivalent).

ACDS Priority areas for teaching and learning 2021

Project proposals should align with one or more of the following themes:

1. Teaching delivery and assessment post pandemic;
2. Improving employability outcomes of science graduates; and
3. Innovative science curriculum design at degree or program level.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Funding

In 2021 a total of \$50,000 funding will be available for small and large projects to a maximum amount of \$10,000 and 20,000 respectively.

Applicants are expected to include a fully itemized budget and justification for the funds requested. Expenditure may include, but is not limited to: relief from normal duties, research and

administrative assistance, other research and development costs, travel expenses for dissemination and engagement with other institutions.

Funds provided to successful applicants will be administered by their home institutions.

Eligibility

Individuals or teams who are employed by member organisations of the Australian Council of Deans of Science may apply for an ACDS Teaching and Learning Project funding with the support of their home institution. Project leaders will normally be staff employed within a Faculty of Science or equivalent for at least the duration of the project.

The list of eligible institutions is available from the ACDS website.

Selection criteria and assessment of applications

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Clearly articulated proposed outcomes that align with the aim of the ACDS Teaching and Learning Grants scheme and the 2021 priority areas. These outcomes must be tangible and of potential value to ACDS members. This could include for example, a teaching resource, a publication, a policy document, or guidelines for good practice.
- A sound plan to carry out the project within the given timelines and budget.
- Capacity for the project to influence best practice in science and mathematics learning and teaching within and beyond the home institution.
- Capacity of the nominee to deliver the project.

Applications will be assessed on the basis of documentary information provided, including:

- The written proposal;
- Endorsement from the Executive Dean (or equivalent);
- Applicant's short curriculum vitae.

The selection panel will comprise members of the ACDS Executive, the Director of the ACDS TL Centre and a nationally acknowledged senior expert in science and mathematics education.

The design and delivery of the successful proposal may be modified through discussion with the successful applicant to maximise the likelihood of success.

Dissemination

Successful project leaders are expected to attend and contribute to ACDS Teaching and Learning events during the fellowship year including:

- ACDS Teaching and Learning Leadership Conference and/or webinars;
- Australian Conference for Science and Mathematics Education (ACSME).

Application requirements

Applicants must submit:

- A written proposal addressing the selection criteria, and including a fully itemised budget with justification. The proposal should not exceed four pages.
- A completed [application form](#), including endorsement of their Executive Dean (or equivalent)
- A short curriculum vitae.

Reporting and accountability

Successful project leaders will be expected to provide regular short updates on progress throughout the project, and a final report.

A detailed final report setting out:

- The project activities and outcomes
- An assessment of the actual and likely future impact of the project within and beyond the institution.
- Financial report and acquittal.

Important Dates

Call for applications: February 2021

Applications close: March 30, 2021

Selection: April 2021

Project commence: May 2021

Final report: June 2022

Enquiries

[ACDS Teaching & Learning Centre.](#)