



# STATELESSNESS HALLMARK RESEARCH INITIATIVE

## SEED FUNDING SCHEME – ROUND 2

### GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS 2019

**Deadline for applications: 30 September 2019**

*Information meeting on 6 August 2019*

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Hallmark Research Initiatives are intended to enable the maturing of focused research communities that build on existing strengths across the University of Melbourne and have a distinctive interdisciplinary emphasis. The initiatives are in selected areas that have been identified as having significant potential to harness cross-University capabilities with the aim of increasing impact of high-quality research and opening up new funding opportunities.

The Statelessness Hallmark Research Initiative (SHRI) was created in response to the recognition by the University of Melbourne of the significance of the issue of statelessness and the clear gaps in existing research globally. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that statelessness affects at least 10 million people worldwide. The lives of stateless people can often involve struggles with respect to aspects of everyday life that citizens take for granted, including access to medical care, education, employment or the right to travel. In some cases, stateless persons face protracted periods in detention or more extreme forms of persecution.

The aim of the Statelessness Hallmark Research Initiative is to:

- create opportunities for University of Melbourne researchers to engage in academic collaboration and multidisciplinary research on statelessness and citizenship;
- build capacity and understanding of statelessness amongst academic and research communities in the region;
- increase the availability of high-quality data, information, research and training on statelessness to fill knowledge gaps and inform public policy;
- build connections and opportunities for collaboration between University of Melbourne researchers and academic actors working in Asia and the Pacific.

The Statelessness Hallmark Research Initiative is supported by the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness at Melbourne Law School. The Centre was established in 2018 with the objective of undertaking research, teaching and engagement activities aimed at reducing statelessness and protecting the rights of stateless people in Australia, the Asia Pacific region, and as appropriate more broadly.

## 2. PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME

The objective of the SHRI Seed Funding Scheme is to increase cross-disciplinary academic collaboration on statelessness across the University and with external partners. The Scheme serves as an incubator for developing and upscaling small-to-medium sized interdisciplinary research projects that show significant potential for future funding by granting bodies. The Scheme provides support to research teams with the aim of generating new knowledge and insights on topics broadly related to statelessness, citizenship and identity. Innovative research proposals can encompass a wide range of perspectives and methodologies, such as theoretical projects or projects based on empirical study or community engagement with external partners. Proposals are invited on a wide range of topics including, but not limited to, issues around nationality, deprivation of citizenship, legal identity and documentation, risk of statelessness and/or human rights issues connected with the causes and ramifications of statelessness. The Statelessness Hallmark Research Initiative is keen to support and enhance the career development of early career researchers by providing opportunities for them to participate and play a significant role within interdisciplinary research teams.

In considering the SHRI Seed Funding Scheme's role to leverage cross-disciplinary collaboration for generating and upscaling innovative project ideas, the second round offer **two categories** of funding:

- **Category 1** grants aim at providing start-up funding for developing and refining project ideas and/or pilot initial activities. **Up to \$10,000** for 3-5 projects will be available under category 1 funding. Round 1 recipients are not eligible to apply for this category.
- **Category 2** grants are intended to lay the ground for enlarged project designs that demonstrate a clear strategy for targeting specific external funding opportunities. **Up to \$25,000** for 1-2 projects will be available under category 2 funding. While open to all entrants, this category also provides an opportunity for Round 1 grant recipients to expand and refine their projects for the purposes of larger external funding opportunities.

Projects must be completed by 31 December 2020. At the end of Round 2, a workshop will bring together all grant recipients to present the project outcomes and seek critical feedback on concept notes for follow-on funding.

## 3. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER FUNDING SCHEMES

There are a number of University schemes to support projects and applicants should consider which scheme is most suitable for their project. Details of other schemes can be found at <https://research.unimelb.edu.au/support/funding/internal>. Applications which request funds to supplement another current internal University grant, external grant or research contract will generally be excluded from consideration.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY

- Applications are expected to be developed by a proposing team, and each application must nominate one Coordinating Investigator.
- Applicants must disclose if they are submitting this application to other University of Melbourne seed funding grant sources.
- The Coordinating Investigator must hold a salaried academic appointment at the University of Melbourne of at least 0.5 EFT for the duration of the project and the reporting period. If the Coordinating Investigator leaves the employment of the University, this responsibility will be transferred to another member of the team.
- There are no restrictions on other members of the proposed project team, including international team members.

- A simple signoff process will be used. It will be assumed that in submitting an application, all project team members have consulted appropriately with their Heads and Deans and have the time and basic infrastructure resources to pursue the project concerned within the context of existing research, teaching and higher degree supervision responsibilities.

## 5. FUNDING RULES

All requests for funding are to be made through the corresponding Application Forms and associated process. Projects should be costed in line with University policy and are subject to final approval by the Director or Chair of the relevant research body.

### Funds may be used for:

- Employing Research Assistants;
- Employing casual staff to provide development or administrative support;
- Modest and appropriate teaching or marking relief for the Coordinating Investigator and other Investigators on the team (specific justification for the item is required);
- Costs associated with workshops or events, including accommodation and catering;
- Travel costs such as bringing overseas or interstate industry or community partners to the workshops or events;
- Accessibility costs (for example, for inclusive research, events or dissemination of findings);
- Modest equipment (specific justification for this item is required); or
- Consultant costs for workshop preparation, facilitation and/or post-workshop follow-up.

### Funds may **NOT** be used for:

- Salary top-ups to existing University of Melbourne staff for additional workload;
- Extensive overseas travel by University of Melbourne staff; or,
- Retainer fees for consultants.

## 6. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The payment schedule will be linked to key deliverables and agreed between the Coordinating Investigator and the SHRI steering and selection committee prior to the commencement of the project.

## 7. APPLICATION PROCESS

The **application process** has two stages:

- The first stage is for proposing teams to complete the official application form. The Selection Committee will then shortlist applications.
- Shortlisted applications will then be invited to give a presentation to members of the Selection Committee on their project. The Selection Committee will then decide how to allocate the funding.

The **application** consists of the following elements:

- Completed official application form, including proposal and budget (applications must be made on the official application form and include all supporting documentation, i.e. CVs of the Coordinating Investigator and other team members, letters of support from partner organisations).
- For the Coordinating Investigator and for each team member, provide a statement of no more than one page in total including (a) current position, (b) expertise relevant to the proposed role in the current proposal, including track record of prior collaboration, and (c) a representative list of grants and/or publications in areas relevant to the proposal.

An **information meeting** for interested applicants will be held on Tuesday, 6 August 2019, 12:45 to 2pm, Room 224, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham Street. This will provide an opportunity to seek further clarification regarding the SHRI Seed Funding Scheme and the application process.

It is recommended that you **discuss your project proposal with the Academic Convenor**, Christoph Sperfeldt, prior to submitting your application. Contact details can be found at the end of this document.

#### **Submission process and key dates:**

- An information meeting will be held for interested applicants on 6 August 2019.
- Applications must be submitted by close of business **30 September 2019**.
- Proposals should be submitted by the deadline, via email to [law-statelessness@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:law-statelessness@unimelb.edu.au) in a single file (PDF or DOC format)
- Email Subject and Applications must use the filename format: **Year-SHRI-Application-Initial+Last Name** e.g. 2019-SHRI-Application-JDoe
- Presentations of shortlisted applicants will be scheduled in October 2019. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission in early November 2019.
- Projects of Round 2 must be completed by 31 December 2020. The feedback workshop will be held in November/December 2020.
- A project completion report must be filed by 31 January 2021.

## **8. WRITTEN APPLICATION ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

### **Suitability of the project team (30%)**

- Does the proposed research involve an interdisciplinary team of academic staff with appropriate and complementary expertise for the proposed project?
- Does the proposal include a plan for involvement of early career or student researchers?

### **Project quality (50%)**

- Does the project demonstrate innovation in a least one of the following areas: methodology and design; area of focus; conceptual approach and analysis; potential impact and engagement?
- Is the proposal likely to generate new research activities? What are the intended short-and long-term impacts of the project?
- Does it show potential for future funding by granting bodies?

## Feasibility, significance and outcomes (20%)

- Is the proposed project feasible in terms of timelines, budget, staffing and activities?
- Has the project identified and engaged with target audiences?

## 9. CONDITIONS OF GRANT

- Grant Offers must be accepted in writing by the Coordinating Investigator and by their Head of the Department/School.
- Successful applicants must provide appropriate acknowledgement of the Statelessness Hallmark Research Initiative when communicating project outcomes.
- The Coordinating Investigator:
  - Will be the contact person for all administrative matters to do with the project and is responsible for internal reporting requirements.
  - Must ensure that the research is conducted in accordance with University policy, including compliance with the Code of Conduct for Research and policies on human research ethics, animal experimentation ethics, requirements of the Office of Gene Technology Regulator, health and safety and intellectual property. No project may proceed unless the appropriate ethical or other required clearances have been obtained.
  - Must comply with any instructions or conditions in the Offer of Grant relating to approved items of expenditure. This includes entering into a Collaboration Agreement with external parties involved in the project.
  - Is responsible for ensuring that the expenditure of the grant is broadly in accord with the budget presented in the application and is consistent at all times with the nature and aims of the specific project approved and the objectives of the Scheme.
  - Will be required to provide reports and presentations on the progress and outcomes of the project at the times and in the form requested by the Selection Committee from time to time, *with a formal final report required on the outcomes of the project within 1 month of the project's completion (by 31 January 2021)*. Summaries of projects funded and project final reports may be published.
- The Statelessness Hallmark Research Initiative:
  - Will assign a SHRI advisor to oversee and support the project team.
  - Will arrange project kick-off meetings, a mid-term review and an end of project review with the Coordinating Investigator. Other members of the team who wish to attend are most welcome.
  - Will use project information for promotional purposes.
- The project must be completed by 31 December 2020.

## 10. GENERAL ENQUIRIES

If you have any general enquiries about the scheme, please contact:

Christoph Sperfeldt, Academic Convenor, Statelessness Hallmark Research Initiative

T: +61 3 8344 1489

E: [law-statelessness@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:law-statelessness@unimelb.edu.au)