UNE Internal Research Funding Scheme (IRFS) FAQs

Q: Does the Momentum stream close with the Launch and Propel streams? No. The Momentum stream does not run on the standard scheme deadline. If a researcher has a near-miss result (ranked top 10% of unfunded applications in a major competitive round like the ARC or NHMRC), they can apply to refine and resubmit. Because of the ARC NCGP changes, please contact the Grants team directly (grants@une.edu.au) in the first instance to discuss how the target scheme fits the criteria.

Q: Can casual staff lead an IRFS application? No. To lead a Launch or Propel project, the applicant must have confirmed employment arrangements with UNE for the entire duration of the proposed project (as per Section 4.3 of the Guidelines). However, casual staff can certainly be included as co-investigators or team members where appropriate.

Q: Can I apply if I am currently waiting on confirmation of my employment contract for 2027? Yes, but with strict conditions. You may proceed with submitting your application while waiting for contract confirmation. However, as per the guidelines, you must keep the Grants team informed of your employment status. If your employment for the full duration of the project is not confirmed by the time outcomes are announced, you will not be eligible to accept the award, and the funds will not be transferred.

Q: If I have previously led an IRFS project, can I lead an application for this round? No, unless your previous grant was more than three years ago. If a researcher is within that three-year exclusion window, they cannot lead an application, but they are welcome to join another team's application as a co-investigator.

Q: Do I need to secure Head of School or Faculty approval before submitting my application? No. The deadline is strictly for submitting your complete, ready-to-review application and supporting documents via the Pure Portal. School and Faculty approvals (checking workloads and resource support) will be actively managed and routed via the Pure workflow process *after* your submission. We would encourage you to discuss your application with your Head of School before submitting via Pure - as a professional courtesy and helpful 'heads-up'

Q: Can an IRFS application include team members from other UNE Schools or Faculties? Yes. Cross-faculty collaboration is welcome. However, because the Pure workflow primarily seeks approval from the Lead Investigator's School and Faculty, you must ensure any other participating Schools or Faculties have explicitly agreed to their researchers' time and any proposed contributions. You should obtain this approval via email from the relevant Head of School (or Faculty delegate) and attach it as a supporting document to your application in Pure.

Q: If I was previously successful with IRFS funding in the Launch (formerly ECR) category, can I now apply for the Propel (formerly MCR) category? Yes and No. If you received your funding more than three years ago, then you are able to apply for Launch funding (providing you meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the grant guidelines). However, if your funding in the ECR category was less than three years ago, you are not eligible to apply as lead for any category of funding. Per the guidelines, you may still join another application as a co-investigator.

Q: Can I request funding for software or equipment? Potentially, provided the expense is essential to the proposed work, appropriately justified and represents value for money. Software must be used in accordance with UNE's IT and procurement requirements, including where it is installed on a UNE-issued computer. Equipment purchased with scheme funding remains UNE property.