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UNE Animal Welfare Grant Scheme (UNE AWGS)

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

1. Introduction

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research advises that UNE strategic research funding will be made available to support the implementation, discovery or development of methodologies, techniques and/or technologies that enhance 3Rs principles:

- Replacement of animals with alternative methods
- Reduction of number of animals used and
- Refinement of techniques to minimise the potential impact on animals.

Applications are accepted year-round and applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss the proposed project with the UNE Animal Ethics Committee Chair prior to submission to the AWGS.

2. Aims of the Scheme

2.1 To support the development of methodologies to replace animals in research and teaching

2.2 To reduce the number of animals used in research and teaching.

2.3 To refine the use of animals in research and teaching (reduce pain and suffering or enhance the welfare of animals used in projects).

3. Funding Allocations

3.1 Total funding for the scheme will be subject to availability and assessed annually.

3.2 Applicants are required to submit a well-justified budget which represents good value for money.

3.3 Funding requested may not be awarded in full if the UNE AWGS Review Panel deems components non-essential to the completion of the project, of a minor nature, and/or are not satisfactorily justified.

4. Eligibility

4.1 Applicants must be:

- Academic or professional staff holding full-time or fractional appointments at UNE at the time of the award, or
- Postgraduate and/or Honours students enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis at the time of the award.

4.2 Team applications may include in-kind contributions, internally and from other institutions/organisations.

5. Criteria for Selection

5.1 The primary criteria used for assessment are:

Quality of the project – 50%

- Novelty, soundness of methodology, feasibility including value for money, and the identification and mitigation of key project risks.

Future impact of the project – 50%

- Advancement of an area of research that may allow application of one or more of the 3Rs to future projects.

6. General Conditions

6.1 Funds must only be used on approved budget items, as outlined and justified in the application. Where the UNE AWGS Review Panel has determined budget items that are non-essential to the completion of the project and/or are not satisfactorily justified, funds may not be spent on these items and the awarded amount will be reduced accordingly. This will be communicated to the UNE AWGS grant recipient prior to commencement of the project.

6.2 UNE should be acknowledged in the project outputs, even if the project lead leaves UNE.

6.3 A substantial component of the work must be conducted by UNE staff.

6.4 If animal use occurred, the work must be conducted under a UNE Animal Ethics Committee approval.

6.5 The University reserves the right not to proceed with the award.

6.6 The decision of the judging panel shall be final.

7. Administration of Grants

7.1 Grants will be allocated a project code (research funding account) by the central Research Finance team with a budget equal to the value of the award. All expenditure against this project code will be subject to UNE financial delegations and the availability of funds in the account.

7.2 Over-expenditure is not permitted. Any costs incurred in addition to what was approved in the original budget are the responsibility of the grantee.

7.3. If a grantee leaves the University, and as soon as their notice of resignation is announced, all unexpended funds are to be returned to the DVCR portfolio for possible reallocation.

7.5 If a variation to the project is required (e.g., change to budget etc.), the grantee should seek approval from the DVCR Delegate or panel via email to the Grants team (grants@une.edu.au), who will notify the grantee of the outcome. Please note that any such requests will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and must be consistent with the AWGS Guidelines.

7.6 Funds must be expended within 12 months of award. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis, which should be made via email to the Grants team (grants@une.edu.au). The request should include a justification addressed to the UNE AWFS Review Panel.

7.7 Any equipment purchased through the UNE AWGS remains the property of UNE and cannot be transferred to another institution.

8. Assessment of Applications

8.1 The AEC Chair will chair the UNE AWGS Review Panel and will be assisted in the review of the proposals by:

- The UNE Animal Welfare Officer/Veterinarian or Director of CART
- Lay person from the Animal Ethics Committee
- Person external to animal research (i.e. Director of Research)
- Alternative panel members can be determined by the DVCR at their discretion.

The UNE AWGS Review Panel will make recommendations to the DVCR regarding the outcome for applicants.

8.2 The UNE Grants Team will provide administrative support

8.3 Outcomes and any special conditions will be provided to the successful application/team by email.

8.5 Conflicts of interest will be managed in accordance with the UNE Conflicts of Interest Policy.