

QUEX Institute Workshop Grant Scheme

2024 Round guidelines for applicants



Background

The University of Queensland and the University of Exeter believe that the most complex of global challenges – ranging from food and water security, to political instability, healthy living and digital worlds – require interdisciplinary research that spans institutions, countries and even continents. To achieve true impact, the two Universities therefore joined to create the QUEX Institute, through which our talented academic staff can work together so that their distinct perspectives and expertise can be brought to bear on global challenges.

In support of this vision, the QUEX Institute will offer three funding schemes each year to promote a broadening of collaboration between UQ and Exeter – the Workshop Grant Scheme, the Accelerator Grant Scheme and the Strategic Grant Scheme.

The 2024 round two of the Workshop Grant Scheme is now open to applications, with a closing date of 8 July 2024.

For more about the QUEX Institute, visit:
global-engagement.uq.edu.au/quex

or
exeter.ac.uk/quex

Objectives

Workshop Grants are intended to support delivery of, and attendance at, joint workshops and symposia. They can be used to initiate collaboration and/or to support the development of projects suitable for the Accelerator or Strategic Grants Schemes. The Workshop Grants support joint applications between academics from UQ and Exeter. The need to travel over virtual attendance must be justified.

A Workshop Grant can be used as a stand-alone award but where possible should be seen as a step towards applying for external funding. Workshop Grants may support collaborative events across the QUEX themes and strengthen links and foster new joint projects. In summary, the key aims are:

- to support enabling activities that bring together academic staff with excellent and complementary expertise and capability
- to address challenges with potential for significant impact that could not be as effectively carried out by one partner on their own
- to facilitate exploration of novel concepts to a point at which external funding can be sought
- to promote and facilitate groundbreaking interdisciplinary research
- to facilitate the development of new, shared educational provision leading to significant enhancement of the curriculum and student experience
- to demonstrate clear added value from the QUEX Institute.

Applications are sought from the four themes of the partnership:

- Healthy Living
- Global Environment Futures
- Digital Worlds and Disruptive Technologies
- Mineral Security and Sustainability

Funding details

Applications up to a maximum £3,500/A\$6,500 are invited.

Funding will be provided to the nominated overall lead applicant, who will be responsible for management of the project, the budget for both institutions and reporting on outcomes.

Up to three Workshop Grants per institution will be awarded in 2024. All funded applications will be promoted via the QUEX Institute websites and

must be completed in a nine-month period from the award date, after which any remaining funding will be lost. Exeter lead applicants will need to be aware that the project timeline transects financial year-end (31 July). Careful consideration will be required to project spending both before and after the 31 July. For further details, please visit the Exeter website.

Eligibility criteria

The Workshop Grants will be available to the whole academic community at the Universities of Exeter and Queensland.

Funding awards can also be used to support digital collaborations and other costs as listed below. Eligible events and costs include:

-- Digital collaborations. hosting online workshops, seminars, symposia etc for the purposes of

- Networking
- Showcasing our shared research strengths and expertise
- Sandpits - Exploring new ideas (research, education, entrepreneurship)

-- Development of joint education initiatives

- Interactive (undergraduate and postgraduate students / ECR) experiences i.e. Hackathons, grand challenges
- Virtual guest lectures (pre-recorded content) teaching into existing modules content.
- Education sandpits - bringing academics together to explore new joint education ideas/concepts (joint-online courses, in-person exchange experiences, field-trips, summer / winter schools etc).

-- Co-Creating of digital resources

-- Directly incurred labour costs of staff directly employed to deliver the core elements of the proposed activity.

-- Venue and Catering costs

-- External speakers/facilitators to participate in events

-- If international travel is supported by both partner Institutions: Travel, visas, accommodation and subsistence.

International travel must be justified. You can read the latest University policy updates on international travel here:

Exeter: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/internationaltravel/>

UQ: <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/travel-policy-0>

The following items are not eligible for funding under this scheme:

- academic salaries
- student fees/tuition
- indirect costs and overheads
- publication costs
- costs associated with internal research facilities.

Application process

Lead applicants should discuss their application with the appropriate QUEX Theme Lead at their home institution in advance of submission.

Applicants must complete the Workshop Grant application form in conjunction with their counterpart(s) at the partner institution. An overall lead applicant must be nominated for each application, to whom Workshop Grant funds will be transferred if successful.

Applicants should ensure that activities are planned and scheduled to enable completion within nine months. No extensions will be possible.

Applications should be submitted to both institutions at the following email addresses by 5pm (GMT), 8 July 2024.

Exeter: QUEX@exeter.ac.uk

UQ: quex@uq.edu.au

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed via a competitive selection process using the following criteria:

- quality of initiative/activity
- perceived value for money of the initiative
- potential to develop sustainable connection/collaboration
- achievability and strength of envisaged outcomes
- alignment with QUEX theme(s)
- alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Please refer to the appendix for further information regarding the assessment criteria.

All applications will be jointly assessed and shortlisted by each University's Stage One Review Panel. Shortlists will be submitted to the QUEX Institute Strategy Board for final funding decisions. Lead applicants will be notified within the specified timeframe (see Key dates, below).

Key dates

Date	Activity
7 June 2024	Calls for applications issued
8 July 2024	Application deadline
8 August 2024	Applicants notified of outcome
8 May 2025	Project completion deadline
8 July 2025	Report submission deadline

Feedback and resubmissions

Please note that feedback is not provided for Workshop Grant project applications. Resubmission is by invitation only. Please refer to Pitfalls and top tips on the following page to assist with preparing your submission.

Grant acquittal and reporting

Awardees must agree to comply with all terms and conditions related to the receipt of funding including deadlines and procedures for acquittal of funds and reporting on outcomes.

Awardees will have up to a maximum of nine months after the award date to utilise the funds. Funds that are not utilised within the specified period will be withdrawn.

Upon completion of the project awardees will have a maximum of two months to submit a brief report outlining the successes and outcomes of the project. Report forms will be provided to Project Leads. Any outputs from the funding are to be reported a year after the project completed.

This report will be used by the QUEX Institute for the follow up of potential opportunities and reporting on outcomes, and will potentially be highlighted on the QUEX Institute, The University of Queensland and University of Exeter websites.

If a funded project includes international travel, award-holders must abide by the official reporting, insurance and registration requirements as outlined Exeter and UQ policies..

Exeter: exeter.ac.uk/finance/policies/expenses

UQ: <https://travel.uq.edu.au/>

Contacts

Please contact your home institution contact if you would like any additional information.

The University of Exeter
James Smith
Head of Global Partnerships
E: j.w.smith2@exeter.ac.uk

The University of Queensland
Brett Lovegrove
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Partnerships)
Global Engagement
E: globalstrategy@uq.edu.au

Theme Leaders

Applicants are encouraged to contact the relevant QUEX Theme Lead at their home institution to discuss their submission and its alignment with the theme.

Exeter	UQ
Healthy living	
Professor Rob Anderson	Associate Professor Nicolas Gilson
Professor of Health Services and Implementation Research, Director of Research Impact (Institute of Health Research)	Director of Partnerships and Engagement, School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences
E: R.Anderson@exeter.ac.uk	E: n.gilson1@uq.edu.au

Global Environmental Futures	
Dr Ruth Thurstan	Professor Peter Mumby
Senior Lecturer in Marine Social-Ecological Systems	VC Research and Teaching Fellowship, School of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science
Centre for Ecology and Conservation	E: p.j.mumby@uq.edu.au
E: r.thurstan@exeter.ac.uk	
	Dr Sarit Kaserzon
	Senior Research Fellow, Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences
	E: k.sarit@q.edu.au

Digital Worlds and Disruptive Technologies	
Professor Achim Brucker	Associate Professor Stephen Viller
Professor in Computer Science (Chair in Cybersecurity) and Head of the Cybersecurity Group	Associate Professor, School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology
E: A.Brucker@exeter.ac.uk	E: viller@itee.uq.edu.au

Mineral Security and Sustainability	
Professor Karen Hudson-Edwards	Professor Daniel Franks
Professor in Sustainable Mining, Camborne School of Mines & Environmental & Sustainability Institute	Deputy Director (Research), Sustainable Minerals Institute
E: K.Hudson-Edwards@exeter.ac.uk	E: d.franks@uq.edu.au

Pitfalls and top tips

1. Added value: failing to articulate, and therefore persuade the panel, of the added value of your partnership.

Ask your team – what can be achieved as a QUEX Institute collaboration that could not be achieved as a single institution? Your answer needs to be strongly and clearly articulated in the application, and evidenced where appropriate.

2. Step change: failing to envisage and articulate the potential step change that can be achieved through your project.

This connects to #1 Added value - linking the added value of your partnership to the step-change made possible by the unique resources available through the QUEX Institute i.e. what will you do differently: academics, infrastructure, training, external partners etc?

3. Leveraging external funding and other tangible outcomes: panel members need to be persuaded of the application's value for money. They are looking for clear anticipated outcomes and realistic, cost-effective plans and leadership to achieve them.

Articulate specific details of any potential external funding sources that can be leveraged (amounts, submission deadlines). Provide the same level of detail for other anticipated outcomes e.g. publications, industry links, staff development etc. Provide details about managing the project itself, how you will achieve the project goals in the time and with the funding available.

4. Sustainability: applications fail to articulate how the momentum and successes achieved will be sustained in the longer term.

Outline a clear sustainability plan. Consider and articulate issues such as ongoing partnership meetings/communications, future links with industry or other external partners, leveraging further funding, expanding the network, raising the profile and influence of the group both internally and externally.

Appendix: Detailed assessment criteria for Workshop Grant scheme

This guidance has been drawn up to assist applicants when completing their Workshop, Accelerator, and Strategic Grant Scheme application forms. The purpose is to explain what type of information and evidence is required to satisfy the assessment criteria.

Assessment criteria	Evidence required
Quality of initiative/activity	How well the application has been considered and planned, and the strength of its potential for taking forward a development or collaboration. Are the goals stretching but achievable? Using data to substantiate, the bid identifies the need for and value of the proposed research and how this ties in with University of Exeter and The University of Queensland research objectives. Include supporting details on how the project would be significantly enhanced as a result of it being undertaken through the QUEx Institute rather than by an individual academic or institution.
Potential to expand upon existing or newly identified collaboration	Evidence of strength and potential of the relationship. How can the group and its work develop beyond the project? What mechanisms will be used to ensure ongoing communications and interaction? Clear sense of potential trajectory for the project and the relationship.
Strategic fit	Clear information on how the proposed research would enhance the development of one of the established themes and subthemes.
Alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	Does the project align with one or more of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to provide a blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all? If so, state the goal/s and explain how the project will aim to advance the goal/s.
Value for money	Is the proposal offering value for money? Is it communicating strong evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a unique research opportunity that is in line with the QUEx Institute's purpose • mobilising a new or already interested, but perhaps disparate, research group, or disciplines, to come together and collaborate for the purpose of step change quality research • project management capabilities of the proposers -reassurance that, if funded, the project will run on time, to budget and deliver against agreed aims, activities and outcomes • tangible and quantifiable outcomes and impact for the benefit of the institutions as well as the more immediate group • the potential to publish high quality papers, influence policy, and leverage external funding as part of the QUEx Institute • sustained development of the QUEx Institute and collaborative research in the longer term.
Anticipated outcomes and benefits	Specific reference to outcomes and benefits that are anticipated to be a direct result from this project, with timetable. How likely are these? How significant?
Leveraging funding (desirable but not required for Workshop Grants)	Clear details of how the project aims to leverage external funding as a direct result of this award.
Impact (desirable but not required for Workshop Grants)	Communicates how this project will create impact in a way that will benefit both the University of Queensland and University of Exeter. What is this potential impact (internal/external) and when might it be felt. Examples of impact could include leverage of external funding/measures of academic esteem such as publications/ raised profile of the research and the QUEx Institute both internally and externally with industry, local communities and government.