

GEMPASS Education Grants Program Stream 1: Seed Funding Grants 2026

APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2026

1. About GEMPASS and the Education Grants Program

The Graduate Entry Medical Program Application and Selection Service (GEMPASS) Australia consists of nine Australian member universities who collectively develop and administer a shared approach to managing applications for entry to their medical schools. This includes the development and administration of the Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) and the management of a transparent, fair, and equitable admissions process known as the national Graduate Entry Medical School Admissions System (GEMSAS) which offers an on-line application and matching system for applicants to member universities medical programs.

The GEMPASS Education Grants Program aims to stimulate and support initiatives and innovations with the goal of advancing medical education in Australia through relevant and collaborative education research and scholarship. These grants are funded through surplus cashflow from GEMPASS operations.

2. Seed Funding Project Grants Overview and Objectives

The Seed Funding project grants aim to support an individual or team including one or more member schools and eligible organisations (see the eligibility) to undertake high-quality research or scholarly projects. Examples may include developing a scoping or literature review, developing a teaching innovation, or conducting a pilot project. The objectives of these grants are to:

- Enable the groundwork for a larger potential project, such as the GEMPASS Major Research Collaboration Project.
- Build research and scholarship capacity in health professions education.

Funding

Five (5) grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded for the 2026 grant round. Grant funding will be awarded for 12 months, anticipating that the projects will be completed by July 2027.

3. Eligibility Criteria

- 3.1 Applications must include at least one GEMPASS member school (see Section 10).
- 3.2 Applicants can only be from eligible organisations. Eligible organisations are GEMPASS member schools, other Australian medical, health science and public health schools, and health services.
- 3.3 The GEMPASS member school that submits the application is the administering organisation.
- 3.4 The person who submits the application on behalf of the GEMPASS member school is the Lead Investigator.
- 3.5 If the Lead Investigator is in the first two years of their first academic appointment, they should identify a mentor in their application. The mentor does not need to be from the same institution.
- 3.6 More than one grant may be awarded to the same GEMPASS member school.

3.7 Submitted applications require the sign-off of the Lead Investigator's Head of School/ Department.

4. Budget guidelines

The grant funding can only be spent on eligible expenditure items that directly support the project.

Eligible expenditure items:

- Personnel to support the project (research assistance or other administrative tasks).
- Travel that is directly connected to the project (e.g. meetings, conference, forum, and dissemination of findings).
- Catering/venue costs that are directly connected to an activity for the project.
- Incentives for participants.

Ineligible expenditure items:

- Lead Investigator's salary and/or on-costs.
- Institutional overhead costs.
- Open Access Publication Fees.

5. Assessment Criteria

The following assessment criteria must be addressed in the application:

1. Project quality and innovation (50%)

Cohesiveness of project design and implementation plan (contribution to an important gap in knowledge or significant problem, appropriateness and clarity of the aim and objectives, approach, timeline, and appropriateness of the budget).

2. Team or Investigator experience relative to career stage and opportunity (30%)

The capability of the team/Investigator to conduct the project, including whether the Lead Investigator is supported by a mentor (if applicable). Evidence of research and/or scholarship in medical education, including awards, presentations, and publications considering research opportunity.

3. Benefit (20%)

How the project meets the objective(s) of the Seed Funding Grant scheme and the broader purpose of the GEMPASS Education Grants Program.

6. Application Process

Complete the Application Template and send it as a PDF to info@gempass.org.au with the subject: **Seed Funding Application – name of Applicant and Organisation** by the Closing Date and Time. An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent.

7. Grant Selection Process

Grant applications under the Seed Funding stream will be reviewed by the GEMPASS Grants Committee, who will make recommendations to the GEMPASS Board. The GEMPASS Board reserves the right to make reasonable adjustments to the budget of an awarded project.

8. Grant Timeline

Monday 23 February 2026	Applications open
Monday 30 March 2026, 9.00am (AEST)	Applications due
April 2026	Assessment of applications
By 1 May 2026	Outcomes announced
May 2025	Grant agreements issued
June 2026	2026 Seed Funding Grants commence
July 2027	2026 Seed Funding Grants expected to finish
31 December 2027	Final report and budget expenditure report due

9. Grant Conditions

- Grant offers must be accepted by the university's authorised person and the Lead Investigator by means of a fully completed and signed grant agreement.
- The Lead Investigator is responsible for the project, its concept, the strategic decisions called for in its pursuit, and for the communication of the results.
- The Lead Investigator will be the contact person for all administrative matters to do with the project.
- The Lead Investigator must ensure that the project is conducted in compliance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018). Projects cannot proceed until appropriate ethics (if data are to be collected) or other required approvals have been obtained.
- The GEMPASS grant funding must be acknowledged in any presentations and publications resulting from the project.
- The Lead Investigator must provide a final report including budget expenditure within six (6) months of project completion. A report template will be provided.

The GEMPASS Secretariat will not provide any secretarial, logistical, or advertising support to the funding awardee.

10. GEMPASS Members

Australian National University

Deakin University

Griffith University

Macquarie University

University of Melbourne

University of Notre Dame Australia

University of Queensland

University of Western Australia

University of Wollongong