

## GEMPASS Education Grants Program Stream 3: Major Education Research Collaboration Project Grant 2026

### APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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#### 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 online 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. Major Education Research Collaboration Project Grant Overview and Objectives

2.1 The Major Education Research Collaboration Project scheme's objectives are to:

- a) Foster excellent research in medical education that addresses a significant problem or gap in knowledge, including but not limited to selection processes of medical students;
- b) Strengthen research collaboration amongst GEMPASS schools;
- c) Expand research capacity by supporting researchers across career stage and teams;
- d) Create new knowledge that has benefits for healthcare in Australia, which includes education, economic, and social benefits;
- e) Encourage educators primarily involved in teaching to participate in research.

2.2 One Major Education Research Collaboration Project grant will be awarded annually. In the event that the review panel deems that none of the applications sufficiently meet the assessment criteria, then no award will be provided in that year. In the 2026 Round, for funding commencing in 2027, the total amount awarded will be up to \$300,000.

- a) The grant period is 3 consecutive years.
- b) Funding will be released in annual instalments, with each instalment representing approximately one-third of the total grant amount (first instalment must be between

\$50,000 - \$90,000; second instalment between \$90,000 – 120,000; and third instalment between \$90,000 – 120,000).

- c) The Applicant will be expected to provide an annual Progress Report and meet progression milestones provided in the application. In the first year, an Interim Report is also required in September (at the six-month mark). Any variations to the timelines and intended milestones must be reported to the GEMPASS Secretariat.

### 3. Eligibility Criteria

- 3.1 Applications must include at least 2 GEMPASS member schools (see Section 10).
- 3.2 Applicants can only be from Eligible Organisations. Eligible Organisations are GEMPASS member schools, other Australian university medical, health science, public health, and related schools. Applicants can also be from 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, and should be the first Investigator named on the Grant Application.
- 3.5 The Lead Investigator must have capacity to manage the project as evidenced in the application and have a continuing or fixed-term appointment that is until at least 6 months post the stated project completion date.
- 3.6 The Administering Organisation is responsible for liaising with its university research office in regard to finance, contractual, and governance requirements for the project.
- 3.7 Administering Organisations can only submit one application to this grant Stream.
- 3.8 Applications must include at least one Investigator from the named collaborating Eligible Organisations.
- 3.9 All Investigators must be employees of at least 0.2 FTE of an Eligible Organisation or hold an honorary academic appointment/adjunct or co-joint academic appointment.
- 3.10 Submitted applications require the sign-off of the Lead Investigator's Dean or Associate Dean or their delegate.

### 4. Budget Guidelines

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

#### **Eligible expenditure items:**

- a) Salary support for personnel, for example, research assistants.
- b) Teaching relief for up to a total of \$15,000 per Investigator per year.
- c) Travel costs associated with the project up to \$5,000 per Investigator per year.
- d) Necessary equipment such as computers, recording devices, transcription services, software and consumables will be considered with appropriate justification.

**The following expense items are not supported by this scheme:**

- a) Costs not directly related to the project, including but not limited to professional membership fees, professional development courses.
- b) Salaries for Investigators; university research levy indirect-costs; clinical loading for RAs; HDR stipends.

## 5. Assessment Criteria

The following assessment criteria must be addressed in the application.

Please note: Throughout this document and in the accompanying Grant Application Template, 'outputs' refer to research products such as publications, while 'outcomes' refer to the broader impacts of the project.

### 1. Project Quality and Innovation 40%

- Contribution to a significant problem or gap in knowledge in medical education, including but not limited to selection processes of medical students;
- Novelty/originality and innovation of the proposed research;
- Cohesiveness of the project design and implementation plan (including the appropriateness and clarity of the aim, research questions, conceptual and/or theoretical framework, methodology, data and analyses); and
- The extent to which the research can enhance collaboration amongst GEMPASS member schools and other medical schools.

### 2. Benefits and Impact 30%

- Cost-effectiveness of the research and its value for money;
- Potential benefit of new or advanced knowledge resulting from outcomes of the research; and
- Potential benefits for healthcare in Australia, which includes education, economic, and social benefits.

### 3. Feasibility and Investigators/Team Capability 30%

Taking into account research opportunity,

- The feasibility of the project for timely completion of stated objectives and outputs and status of ethics applications' approvals;
- Time and capacity of the investigators and team to undertake the research;
- Extent to which the project's design including data collection procedures, named participants, timelines, requested budget, and project governance create confidence in the timely and successful completion of the project;
- Record of high-quality research outputs appropriate to medical education, in particular previous experience with large externally funded research projects and the dissemination of these projects' findings e.g., publications and presentations;
- Evidence of collaboration amongst the research team and/or their capability as a team to address the research questions;
- The capability of the research team to build collaboration across the GEMPASS member schools, and other medical and health professions education schools nationally; and
- Evidence of excellence in research training, mentoring, and supervision (where appropriate).

## 6. Application Process

Complete the Application Template and send it as a PDF to [info@gempass.org.au](mailto:info@gempass.org.au) with the subject: **Major Education Research Grant Application – Name of Lead Investigator and Administering Organisation** by the Closing Date and Time (see 8. Grant Timeline). An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent.

## 7. Grant Selection Process

Each application will be assessed by members of the GEMPASS Grants External Review Panel (ERP). The ERP and Grants Committee will consider the reviews and form their recommendations to the GEMPASS Board.

## 8. Grant Timeline

Friday 1 May 2026	Applications open
Friday 31 July 2026, 9.00am (AEST)	Applications due
Mid-August to mid-September 2026	Assessment of applications
Thursday 26 November 2026	Outcomes announced
End of January 2027	Grant Agreement issued
March 2027	2026 Major Education Research Collaboration Project Grant commences
End of September 2027	Interim Progress Report due
End of March 2028	Progress Report 1 due
End of March 2029	Progress Report 2 due
End of March 2030	2026 Major Education Research Collaboration Project Grant expected to finish
End of September 2030	Final Report and Budget Expenditure Report due

## 9. Grant Conditions

- 9.1 Grant offers must be accepted by the Lead Investigator and their Head of School/Department by means of a fully completed and signed acceptance form.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 The Lead Investigator will be the contact person for all administrative matters to do with the project.
- 9.4 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 ethical (if data are to be collected) or other required clearances have been obtained.
- 9.5 The GEMPASS grant funding must be acknowledged in any presentations and publications resulting from the project.
- 9.6 The Lead Investigator must provide Progress Reports in March (each year). In the first year, an Interim Report is also required in September (at the six-month mark). A report template will be provided.
- 9.7 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. Eligible Organisations

### a. GEMPASS Members

<b>Australian National University</b>	<b>University of Notre Dame Australia</b>
<b>Deakin University</b>	<b>University of Queensland</b>
<b>Griffith University</b>	<b>University of Western Australia</b>
<b>Macquarie University</b>	<b>University of Wollongong</b>
<b>University of Melbourne</b>	

### b. Other Organisations

- Australian university medical, health science, public health, and related schools.
- Health services.