

# MARC Interdisciplinary Research Support Funding Schemes: 2019 Guidelines

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## Background

The Monash Addiction Research Centre (MARC) brings together world-leading expertise from across Monash University and the sector to provide solutions to the challenges of addiction. With addiction affecting individuals, communities and multiple areas of government, including acute and community health, law, education and social services, it is critical that research in this area is multidisciplinary and multifaceted.

In recognition that addiction is one of the greatest challenges the Australian community faces, Monash University has invested in growing addiction research at Monash through MARC. MARC facilitates the growth of collaborative, high-impact research across the university, in addition to the collation and dissemination of addiction-research within the university to build stronger multidisciplinary collaborations, and provides a cohesive overview of activity for external stakeholders.

The MARC hub is based at the Monash Peninsula campus in Frankston, an area characterised by both pockets of wealth and entrenched disadvantage. MARC was established here in recognition of the significant alcohol, other drug and gambling related harms experienced in this region.

## Program funding available

The Monash Addiction Research Centre (MARC) Research Support Funding Scheme is designed to facilitate innovative and collaborative research, and provides specific funding opportunities for early to mid-career addiction researchers. Through this funding scheme, MARC will provide up to \$400,000 in Seed-funding and PhD Top-up Scholarships over two funding rounds.

Research that addresses priority areas that are relevant to the Frankston-Mornington Peninsula (FMP) region are encouraged. For more information on the FMP priority areas, see FMP Frankston Mornington Peninsula Alcohol and other drug catchment based plan (available upon request). To seek information on how specific proposals align with these priority areas, applicants are encouraged to contact Krista Crawford prior to the closing date on: [marc.info@monash.edu](mailto:marc.info@monash.edu)

Currently there are three types of funding opportunities offered on a competitive basis to support applicants conducting addiction-related research: (1) Collaborative Seed Funding Project grants, (2) Post-doctoral Seed Funding Project Grants, and (3) PhD Top-up Scholarships.

The aim of these grants is to strengthen addiction-related research at Monash University, to support the development of new interdisciplinary collaborations, and to position researchers at Monash to submit highly competitive major (e.g. Category 1) funding applications.

If you are seeking information on researchers in other disciplines conducting addiction-related research at Monash University, please check out the [MARC members list](#). If you would like assistance in identifying potential collaborators, please contact: [marc.info@monash.edu](mailto:marc.info@monash.edu)

## (1) **Collaborative Seed Funding Project Grants**

We aim to support research that will lead to future competitive funding applications that leverage the collaborations established through this work. The maximum funding for each individual application is **\$50,000**.

### **Eligibility criteria**

1. The lead Chief Investigator(s) must be **level C-E** Monash University academic employee and a MARC member<sup>1</sup>. They must hold appointments at, or greater than, 0.5 FTE with an expectation of employment for the duration of the grant, and must be able to dedicate sufficient time to the project to ensure its completion. There may be joint CI-As on the application, each representing a different discipline (e.g. CI-A [faculty x], CI-A [faculty y]).
2. Applicants can only be co-lead CI on ONE application per funding type, per round.
3. Adjunct staff are NOT eligible to be the lead CI on any application.
4. Each application must represent an interdisciplinary collaboration (e.g. a collaboration across schools, disciplines or faculties).
5. Each application must include the involvement of at least one Early-to-Mid Career Researcher (EMCR) who has completed their PhD within the last 10 years.
6. Maximum proposed project duration 18 months.
7. Applications will not be considered for research projects that are the subject of existing successful or requested competitive grants (ARC, NHMRC, etc.) or industry projects of the CIs. Thus, they cannot be used to cover shortfalls in funding or expand existing funded research projects.
8. Research must be addiction-relevant.

### **Desirable criteria**

1. Research addresses priority areas in the Frankston & Mornington Peninsula region.

### **Application to include** (all in PDF format):

- Completed and signed application form
- Investigator CVs (2 pages)

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<sup>1</sup> Please contact Krista Crawford if you are interested in becoming a MARC member via [marc.info@monash.edu](mailto:marc.info@monash.edu)

## **(2) Post-doctoral Seed Funding Grants**

These grants are awarded to outstanding Post-doctoral fellows. The maximum funding for each individual application is **\$15,000** for a project of up to 12 months in duration.

### **Eligibility criteria**

Applicants must:

1. Have less than 10yrs passed since PhD completion (excluding career disruption).
2. Be employed at least 0.5 EFT at Monash University.
3. Have not previously held a competitive Category 1 Research Grant as a CI (excluding fellowships).
4. Be a MARC member<sup>2</sup>.
5. Be conducting research that is addiction-relevant.

### **Desirable criteria**

1. Research involves collaboration with at least two Monash University research groups (across schools, faculties or disciplines).
2. Research addresses priority areas in the Frankston & Mornington Peninsula region.

**Application to include** (all in PDF format):

- Completed and signed application form
- Investigator CVs (2 page)
- Evidence of date of PhD conferral
- Evidence of career disruption (if applicable)

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<sup>2</sup> Please contact Krista Crawford if you are interested in becoming a MARC member on [marc.info@monash.edu](mailto:marc.info@monash.edu)

### (3) **PhD Top-up Scholarships**

PhD Top-up Scholarships are provided in addition to existing internal or external PhD scholarship funds. The MARC 2019 PhD Top-up Scholarships are offered to outstanding PhD students. The Top-up Scholarship will provide a **\$10,000 per annum** stipend (to be used flexibly for salary, conference attendance or research costs; on the agreement of the student and primary supervisor). The scholarship can be held for a maximum duration of **3 years**, which will not exceed the duration of the PhD (i.e. a final year student can only apply for one year of funding).

#### **Eligibility criteria**

Applicants must be:

1. A full-time PhD student enrolled at Monash University, with an interest in addiction research.
2. Already awarded, or notified of successful application for competitive PhD scholarship funding.
3. Working with a supervisor who is a MARC member<sup>3</sup>.
4. Conducting research that is addiction-relevant.

#### **Desirable criteria**

1. Research involves collaboration with at least two Monash University research groups (a collaboration across either faculties, schools or disciplines).
2. Research is relevant to the Frankston & Mornington Peninsula region.

**Application to include** (all in PDF format):

- Completed and signed application form
- PhD Student CV (2 page)
- Supervisor CV (2 page)
- Evidence of successful application for competitive PhD scholarship funding

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<sup>3</sup> Please contact Krista Crawford if you are interested in becoming a MARC member on [marc.info@monash.edu](mailto:marc.info@monash.edu)

## Assessment criteria

Funding applications will be assessed by the following criteria<sup>^</sup>

<b>1. Team Capability (25%)</b>
CI track records matched to the needs of the grant
<b>2. Research Quality &amp; Significance (20%)</b>
Novelty of project Quality of Design Social Outcomes
<b>3. External funding potential (25%)</b>
Prospects of scaling up project Likelihood of securing competitive funding (e.g. ARC, NHMRC) and/or philanthropic funding
<b>4. Strategic Alignment (30%) – Interdisciplinary Collaboration and/or Relevance to Frankston and Mornington Peninsula (FMP) region</b>
<b>Interdisciplinary collaboration</b> Number of disciplines represented New interdisciplinary collaboration Novelty of interdisciplinary collaboration Strength of interdisciplinary relationship
<b>Relevance to FMP region and/or relevant to the needs of the FMP region</b> Project conducting research in FMP region Research related to FMP needs

<sup>^</sup>For PhD Top-up Scholarships, the criteria apportioning is as follows:

35% team capability (assessed primarily on the potential of the PhD applicant, and in consideration of their supervisory team)

30% for research quality and significance

5% external funding potential

30% interdisciplinary collaboration within the CI team and/or FMP relevance

## Grant Reporting

### Collaborative Seed Funding Grants

Expenditure should be broadly in accordance with the budget proposal submitted in the application. All funds awarded under this scheme must be committed and expended by **MID MAR 2021**. Any remaining funds will be returned to the Monash Addiction Research Centre. Successful applicants will be asked to submit a final report by **MID APR 2021**. Submission of annual reports by the deadline is required to be eligible to apply for future rounds of this scheme.

### Post-doctoral Seed Funding Grants

Expenditure should be broadly in accordance with the budget proposal submitted in the application. All funds awarded under this scheme must be committed and expended by **MID SEP 2020**. Any remaining funds will be returned to the Monash Addiction Research Centre. Successful applicants will be asked to submit a final report by **31 OCT 2020**. Submission of annual reports by the deadline is required to be eligible to apply for future rounds of this scheme.

### PhD Top-up Scholarships

Expenditure should be broadly in accordance with the budget proposal submitted in the application. All funds awarded under this scheme must be committed and expended by **MID Sep 2022**. Any remaining funds will be returned to the Monash Addiction Research Centre. Successful applicants will be asked to submit the following reports;

Report type	Due date
Year 1 annual report	31 OCT 2020
Year 2 annual report	31 OCT 2021
Final report	31 OCT 2022

Submission of annual reports by the deadline is required to be eligible to receive funds in the following year.

## How to apply

Applications must be submitted using the MARC Funding Scheme application form in accordance with the eligibility criteria and other instructions set out in this document.

## Submitting the application

Applications should contain:

1. Project proposal – complete application form
2. CVs for each project nominee – CVs should be no longer than 2 pages which includes (a) current position, (b) expertise relevant to the proposed role in the project proposal, (c) track record demonstrating capacity for interdisciplinary collaboration, and (d) summary of major funding, key publications and awards in areas relevant to the proposal. See application form for full listing of CV requirements.
3. Additional documents as specified above for Post-doctoral Seed Funding and PhD Top-up Scholarships

**NOTE: Each proposal is only eligible to apply for ONE funding type per project.**

Please submit applications in PDF format via email to [marc.info@monash.edu](mailto:marc.info@monash.edu) by **5pm Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019**.