

SEED GRANT SCHEME GUIDELINES



Sydney Cancer Partners

Sydney Cancer Partners (SCP) was formed under the auspices of Sydney Health Partners (SHP) in 2021 following the award of a Cancer Institute NSW Translational Cancer Research Capacity Building Grant.

The goal of SCP is to foster a culture of innovative, collaborative research, embedded across the full spectrum of cancer care, with a clear aim of improving cancer outcomes. It brings together over 700 cancer researchers and clinical teams from across the University of Sydney, 11 affiliated medical research institutes, 16 major public and private hospitals and health precincts in north, west and central Sydney and in rural and regional NSW.

Purpose of the Sydney Cancer Partners Seed Grant Scheme

The purpose of the SCP Seed Grants is to support **Early and Mid-Career Researchers (E/MCRs)** to complete a project that will assist them to make competitive applications for Fellowships, or other research funding.

Eligibility

- Researchers from all disciplines of cancer research are invited to apply. This includes all fields of clinical, laboratory, psychosocial, public health research and data science.
- Applicants must be SCP members and take up the SCP Seed Grant at a [Sydney Health Partners \(SHP\) member institution](#).
- Applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent, and be within 10 years of award excepting periods of career disruption.
- Applicants must be Australian citizens, permanent residents or have requisite work visas in place to enable satisfactory completion of the proposed research.

Research objectives

Research proposals must outline a project that can feasibly be completed within a 12-month timeframe, and with funding available through the SCP Seed Grant Scheme.

Proposals should be aligned to the principles of [translational research](#) promulgated by the Cancer Institute NSW, and the SCP goal of improving cancer outcomes.

Expected outcomes

It is expected that applicants will complete a semi-independent research project, leading to presentation and / or publication of results.

Support available

- The term of a SCP Seed Grant is 12 months.
- Each applicant can request direct research cost support (non-salary) to a maximum value of \$20K.
- Applicants can request an **additional amount of up to \$30K** to access equipment or services such as those provided by [core research facilities](#) that levy fee-for-service charges to SCP Researchers. This request will be a separate line item in the application budget, and must be supported by a written quote from each proposed provider.
- The total maximum value of a SCP Seed Grant is \$50K.

Application process

- A completed Sydney Cancer Partners Seed Grant Application Form must be submitted by email to sydneycancerpartners.admin@sydney.edu.au before the application deadline.
- Mandatory attachments to the Application Form are:
 1. A 4-page applicant curriculum vitae
 2. A letter of support from the applicant's Laboratory Head or Supervisor.
 3. Written quotations from facility or service provider(s) if relevant as detailed above.
- Incomplete or ineligible applications will not proceed to review.

Evaluation criteria

- **Applicant:**
 - Research track record relative to opportunity 20%
 - Potential for a SCP Seed Grant to advance stated career goals 10%
- **Research proposal:**
 - Scientific quality 40%
 - Alignment to translational research goals 10%
 - Feasibility within scope of the award 10%
- **Research environment:**
 - Evidence of a supportive research environment 10%

Conditions of Funding

Grant administration

The SCP Seed Grant Scheme is funded by a Cancer Institute NSW Capacity Building Grant (CBG) awarded to SCP in 2021 and administered by the University of Sydney. Funds awarded will be administered by SCP and payable on presentation of an invoice from the host institution for direct research costs, or core facility where funding is awarded for such purpose.

Use of funds

The use of research funds must be consistent with terms of the [Cancer Institute NSW Competitive Grants Agreement](#). These include that funds awarded cannot be used for any purposes associated with basic (e.g., desk, stationery, phone etc.) or overhead infrastructure costs (i.e., institutional overheads or administrative levies). Funds should not be used to support research conducted outside of NSW.

Commencement date

Successful applicants must commence the award by 30 June 2023.

Reporting Requirements

At the completion of the funding period, a written report must be provided that will allow SCP to fulfil its reporting obligations to SHP and the Cancer Institute NSW.

At the end of the funding period, all Seed Grant recipients will be invited to present outcomes of their research to SCP members at a 'Rapid Fire' research symposium.

SCP contribution

A reasonable level of participation in SCP procedural committees, education and promotional activities is a condition of the award.

SCP Acknowledgement

SCP Seed Grant recipients are required to acknowledge support from SCP and the Cancer Institute NSW in research presentations and publications arising from research supported by the scheme.

Key dates

Applications open	7 September 2022
Applications close	5pm, 19 October 2022
Notification of outcomes	By 15 December 2022

Enquires

Enquires can be submitted by email to: sydneycancerpartners.admin@sydney.edu.au