Australia India Research Collaboration Grants

(Unnati Research Collaboration Grants)

GUIDELINES

Applications open	17 April 2023
Applications close	17:00 AEST, 18 May 2023
Administered by	Australia India Institute / ARCH-India (Australian Researcher Cooperation Hub – India)
Enquiries	Please contact admin@arch-india.org

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1. Overview

The Australia India 'Unnati' Research Collaboration Grants (**Unnati Research Collaboration Grants**) aim to boost and deepen research collaborations between Australia and India in four research fields that have been determined by the Australian and Indian governments as mutual priorities.

The Grants are anchored on the principle of *unnati*, striving to advance the impact and outcomes of research collaborations.

Grants to the value of $30,000 will be awarded to Australian researchers working in the four eligible research fields who meet the eligibility criteria. Up to three grants are available for each research field with a total of 12 grants available.

Preference will be given to applications that extend or enhance existing research collaboration activities. Consideration will be given to applications requesting seed funding to facilitate new research collaboration opportunities between Australia and India.

The Grant period is from 8 June to 8 December 2023. All grant activities must be completed within that timeframe and a final report submitted to the AII by 15 December 2023.

The Grants are being administered by the Australia India Institute (AII) and are funded by the Australian Government Department of Education (DE).

2. Grant Aims

The Unnati Research Collaboration Grants aim to:

Boost and deepen existing collaborative research in the priority fields

Expand and deepen Australian researchers' connections with Indian researchers and industry

Strengthen institutional linkages between Australia and India

3. Priority research fields

The four research fields were identified during the fifth Australia-India Education Council (AIEC) meeting in 2019, when the education ministers of both countries agreed to deepen research collaboration to strengthen the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:

- Food, soil, and water security
- The future of healthcare
- Environmental change and energy frontiers
- Digital humanities and intelligent futures.

These research fields are also the focus of a complementary set of four research collaboration workshops being delivered by the AII, with the support of the Australian Government Department of Education. Workshops on food, soil and water security, and the future of

healthcare were held in 2022. The remaining two workshops on environmental change and energy frontiers, and digital humanities and intelligent futures will be held in 2023.

4.   Grant Funding

Three grants to the value of $30,000 each will be awarded for each research field. This amount is inclusive of any GST payable and indirect costs associated with grant administration by the home institution.

A total of 12 grants are available across the four research fields.

Use of grant funding

The funds may only be used for activities that directly support the collaborative research project outlined in the application, such as:

→ additional **research and technical staff** specifically employed for carrying out grant activities

→ **essential travel** between India and Australia for pursuing the collaborative activities outlined in the grant application (travel costs and allowances should be in line with Australian Taxation Office guidelines (https://atotaxrates.info/allowances/ato-reasonable-travel-allowances/)

→ **essential services, consumables and specialised research equipment** for conducting the stated activities

→ **other costs essential** for completing the project within the grant period.

Applicants are required to submit an **itemised budget** which will be reviewed by the Selection Panel alongside the description of the proposed grant activities.

A Progress Report with an itemised expenditure statement is required by **8 September 2023**.

A Final Activity Report with full itemised expenditure statement is required by **15 December 2023**.

Funds unexpended by 8 December 2023 must be reimbursed by **15 December 2023.**

Ineligible uses of grant funding

Grant funding cannot be used for teaching relief, production of teaching material, student fees, top-up of existing researcher salaries, publication costs of completed research, professional memberships, entertainment, conference fees, office equipment and supplies.

5.   Eligibility criteria

Who can apply?

- Applications must be made by an **Eligible Principal Investigator** (PI) who meets the following criteria:

  - an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia.

- A researcher employed in an Academic (teaching/research) position at an onshore campus of an Australian university, and who undertakes research in one of the abovementioned four priority research fields.

- An individual or member of a research group who is:

  - undertaking existing funded research collaboration in India with an Indian Co-Investigator,

  - expanding the scope of their existing funded research to include collaboration with an Indian Co-Investigator, or

  - initiating new collaborative research with an **Indian Co-Investigator**.

NOTE: Existing research collaboration may include projects that have been completed within the past 5 years. This offers an opportunity for researchers to enhance completed research through the addition of a complementary research component in collaboration with Indian research partners.

Ineligible to apply as Principal Investigator:

- Researchers holding adjunct or honorary appointments at Australian universities,
- Indian citizens on fixed term research contracts at Australian universities.

Indian Co-Investigators

The PI must nominate a minimum of one, and no more than three, **Indian Co-Investigator/s (CI)**.

The Indian CI must be employed at an Indian higher education institution, Indian research institution or India-based industry.

They may be a member of the Principal Investigator's existing research collaboration project or a new research collaboration partner.

6.   Grant activity

Grantees will complete all activities within the grant period from 8 June to 8 December 2023.

Reporting

Grantees are required to submit a **Progress Report** of grant activities by 8 September 2023.

Grantees must submit a **Final Activity Report** by 15 December 2023.

The Progress Report and Final Activity Report should each include:

- Collaborative activities undertaken

- Research progress

- Significant technical outcomes

- Significant collaborator/relationship outcomes

- Significant publications submitted/accepted/published

- Research collaboration group workshop on the research grant activity
- A reflection on the engagement, impact and value of the grant activities for research collaboration with India
- An itemised expenditure statement following the original budget along with appropriate justification.

7.   Outputs

Grant activities should deliver tangible outputs that enhance research collaboration between Australia and India and add value to the ongoing bilateral research collaboration in the four fields. For example:

- New, expanded or open access data sets
- Application of novel methodologies or techniques
- Wider geographical scope of the research
- Research commercialisation potential, such as patents
- Significant publications submitted/accepted/published
- Activities promoting outputs to relevant stakeholders
- Other measurable impacts and engagement activities.

8.   Key Dates

Applications open	17 April 2023
Applications close	**17:00 AEST, 15 May 2023**
Grant information session	27 April 2023
Notification of outcomes	**31 May 2023**
Submit Grant agreement documents	By 8 June 2023
Progress report and expenditure statement due	8 September 2023
Completion of Grant activity	**8 December 2023**
Final Activity report and expenditure statement due	15 December 2023
Return of unexpended grants funds	By 15 December 2023

9.   Ready to apply.

Applications are to be submitted using the online application form: https://arch-india.org/form/unnati_research_collaboration_grants

The Principal Investigator must complete the online form and upload all required documents on behalf, and with the consent, of their Indian Co-Investigator/s.

To submit an online application, you must first register as a researcher on ARCH-India. **Unregistered users will not be able to access the application form.**

You can preview the application form here to prepare your answers.

Additional documents

The Principal Investigator and all Indian Co-Investigator/s are required to submit resumes with the application. Resumes must be no longer than three pages and include the following details: education and employment history, relevant research experience, honours and awards, professional affiliations, and a list of no more than five relevant publications pertaining to the project.

10.   Assessment criteria

Selection Panels for each of the four research fields will assess applications and supporting documents and recommend grantees to the AII.

In assessing applications, the Selection Panels will consider the following:

- Alignment with project aims:
    - Potential to boost and deepen collaborative research in the identified fields.
    - Potential to expand and deepen connections between Australian researchers and Indian researchers and industry.
    - Potential to strengthen institutional linkages between Australia and India
- Strength of the proposal in alignment with the identified research fields, innovative ideas, research plan, and methods
- Scope of the research collaboration between Australia and India
- Realistic budget and activity timeframe for completing activities within the grant period which ends on 8 December 2023
- Outcomes and impacts of research and strengthening of collaboration.

11.   Notification of outcomes

The Australia India Institute will advise the outcome of applications by 31 May 2023.

12.   Acceptance of Grant

The Grantee will be required to sign an offer letter and Terms & Conditions with the counter signature of an authorised officer of the grantee's home institution by 8 June 2023.

The Grant Agreement is between the grantee's home institution and the AII (part of the University of Melbourne).

The Terms and Conditions can be viewed [here](#).

13.   Payment of Grant

The maximum total amount of the Grant is $**30,000** and is inclusive of any GST payable and indirect costs associated with grant administration by the home institution. The requested amount will be paid into the bank account of the grantee's home institution in two instalments.

- First instalment of up to $20,000 will be paid on AII's acceptance of the signed agreement documents and an invoice from the grantee's home institution. Documents are to be submitted to AII by 8 June 2023.

- Second instalment of up to $10,000 will be paid on AII's acceptance of the grant activity progress report, expenditure statement, and second invoice from the grantee's home institution. Documents are to be submitted to AII by 8 September 2023.

14.   Scholarship Produced by Grantees

Research activities undertaken during the grant period are intended to further, deepen, and strengthen research collaborations between Australian and Indian researchers. Grantees will be encouraged to publish work resulting from their grant project, including publications, reports, and short communications on the ARCH India platform and the AII website.