

ROUND 3 GUIDELINES

HASS Partnership & Collaboration

Seed Funding Scheme 2026



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

1. Overview

The *HASS Partnership and Collaboration Seed Funding Scheme* (PCSFS) is designed to promote research collaboration through two complementary pathways:

- External partnerships: collaboration between HASS researchers and industry partners to conduct preliminary work that will support highly competitive proposals for external industry-focused funding opportunities.
- Inter/transdisciplinary collaboration: novel collaborative work between HASS researchers and researchers from other faculties or disciplines that breaks new ground and positions the team for competitive external funding.

Both pathways aim to strengthen research capability, build strategic networks, and enhance the competitiveness of HASS researchers for major external funding opportunities.

Why Both Pathways?

External partnerships remain crucial for engaged research and Category 2/3 funding opportunities. However, we recognise that groundbreaking inter/transdisciplinary work within the university can also position researchers for major competitive schemes while building rich cross-faculty networks.

2. Objectives

The objective of this scheme is to fund research or research development activities to:

- Improve the competitiveness of substantial research proposals to external funders.
- Encourage the establishment or development of active research partnerships with external industry partner(s) led by HASS researcher(s), OR
- Enable novel inter/transdisciplinary collaboration between HASS and non-HASS researchers at UQ that demonstrates potential for significant research outcomes and future competitive funding.

3. Funding Details

The HASS PCSFS is open for 2026, with up to \$10,000 available per project. Expenditure of funds must be completed by the end of the year awarded.

Eligible budget items include research assistance, infrastructure equipment, industry workshops/meetings, and travel.

Ineligible budget items include teaching relief, investigator salaries, academic publication and dissemination costs, abstracting services, projects which consist substantially of conference travel, and student support (including stipends).

4. Application Process (details on specific dates for the round available in below Timeline section)

- Complete the *HASS Partnership and Collaboration Seed Funding Scheme* application form in consideration of the Guidelines and Conditions of Award (located on the [HASS Partnership and Collaboration Seed Funding Scheme website](#)).
- Submit your completed and signed application form to the HASS Faculty Research Office via email to research@hass.uq.edu.au by 9 March 2026.
- Recommendations will be provided by the HASS PCSFS Review Panel to the Executive Dean. The Executive Dean will make the final determination of the awards.
- Applicants (along with Heads of School and Director of Research) will receive notification on the outcome of their application.

5. Eligibility

- The lead applicant must be employed in a continuing or fixed-term role within the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

- The lead applicant must demonstrate (in the application) the capacity to undertake the project in their current role and the likelihood of being able to submit and undertake an externally funded project following the completion of the HASS Partnership and Collaboration project.
- For external partnership projects: applicants must identify a confirmed external industry partner.
- For inter/transdisciplinary collaboration projects: applicants must include at least one UQ co-investigator from outside HASS whose disciplinary expertise is demonstrably different from the lead applicant's.

6. Selection Criteria (evenly weighted)

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria (evenly weighted):

- **Quality of the project: Why this project?** What are you planning to do and how will it lead to meaningful research outcomes?
- **Quality of the applicant/team: Why you/this team?** How are you positioned to undertake the project and who (if there are other investigators involved) are you working with to make it happen?
- **Quality of the partnership/collaboration:**
 - For external partnerships: **Why this partner?** How is this partner relevant to this project, what is your history with them, and how would they be relevant to a future external scheme application?
 - For inter/transdisciplinary collaborations: **Why this collaboration?** What makes this combination of expertise novel or groundbreaking? How does bringing these disciplines together create new possibilities?
- **Pathway to impact and scale: How will this project position you (and your partners/collaborators) for future research development?** What pathways to scaling, extending, or translating this work have you identified?

Note on Pathway to Impact and Scale

Applicants should articulate a clear strategy for how this seed project could be scaled, extended, or translated beyond its initial scope. This might include competitive funding opportunities (particularly Category 2 and 3 schemes), research consultancy pathways, collaborative partnerships, or other mechanisms for developing the work further.

Example: "From this seed project we will [build a team/develop a methodology/establish proof-of-concept/create pilot data] that positions us to [pursue competitive funding/offer research consultancy/expand the partnership/establish a research program] with [government agencies/industry partners/not-for-profit organisations/national funding schemes/international collaborators]."

Note on Inter/Transdisciplinary Projects

Applications for inter/transdisciplinary collaboration must demonstrate why this work is novel and goes beyond routine interdisciplinary cooperation.

Consider:

- Are you combining methods in new ways?
- Addressing questions that neither discipline could tackle alone?
- Creating new theoretical frameworks?
- Simply working with someone from another School is not sufficient.

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7. Timelines

Round 3- 2026 (subject to change)

- Scheme opens: December 2025
- Scheme closes: Monday 9 March 2026
- Outcome notification: Late March 2026
- Project Meeting- Progress Update 1* June 2026
- Project Meeting- Progress Update 2* September 2026
- Funds must be fully expended: 1 December 2026
- Reports* due: 15 February 2027

*more details available in 'Conditions of Award' document.

8. Further Information and Contact

All information regarding the *HASS Partnership and Collaboration Seed Funding Scheme* will be available on the [HASS Partnership and Collaboration Seed Funding Scheme website](#).

Please direct questions regarding the *HASS Partnership and Collaboration Seed Funding Scheme* to the HASS Faculty Research Office at research@hass.uq.edu.au.