

Centre for Pathogen Genomics Seed Grant Scheme 2025

Overview

The Centre for Pathogen Genomics at the University of Melbourne (Doherty Institute) was established in 2022 as an academic and training hub to advance integrated pathogen genomics programs and create collaborative opportunities for translational research, genomics-informed regional infectious disease surveillance, capacity building and training. Researchers and research affiliates of the Centre comprise of people working and interested in pathogen genomics from across the University of Melbourne, the Doherty Institute and Partners nationally and internationally. The Centre's program of work is focussed on nine core scientific themes:

- Antimicrobial resistance
- Microbiome
- Emerging and Neglected Infectious Diseases
- Surveillance and Genomic Epidemiology
- One Health
- Evolutionary and Statistical Genomics
- Genomic Diagnostics for Infectious Diseases
- Implementation and Evaluation
- Data Sharing, Governance and Legal Frameworks

The Centre is committed to fostering research excellence and innovation in the field of pathogen genomics and building research capacity across Australia and the Asia Pacific region. The Centre for Pathogen Genomics Seed Grant Scheme will support early to mid-career researchers to:

- Explore novel ideas and develop new research initiatives aligned with the Centre's core scientific themes;
- Build and strengthen partnerships with research groups across the Asia-Pacific region; and
- Promote the Centre's vision and objectives.

Grant Guidelines

Key dates:

- Applications open: Monday 14 July 2025
- Applications close: Friday 15 August 2025
- Notification of outcomes: Late September

Eligibility:

- The lead applicant must be a Level A-C Academic who is currently a member or willing to become a member of the of the Centre for Pathogen Genomics. Membership is open to individuals whose research interests align with the Centre

and who are willing to commit to engaging in Centre activities and initiatives. To become a member of the Centre please contact Centre-PathoGen@unimelb.edu.au

- Each application must include researchers from at least two different research groups and/or institutes, with at least one applicant based in the Asia-Pacific region (excluding Australia).
- Applications that include Partners in Thailand, Bhutan, Fiji, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal and Cambodia are highly encouraged.

Project duration:

- Grants are intended to support projects for up to 18 months (grant period October 2025 – March 2027).

Funding:

- Maximum of \$20,000 AUD on direct research costs.
- Access to up to an additional \$10,000 AUD to support travel for in-person collaboration to promote the establishment of long-term partnerships across institutions.
- Eligible direct research costs include reagents and consumables, sample collection and transport, and consulting services (e.g. sequencing conducted by the CPG Innovation Hub, bioinformatics).
- Funds cannot be used for salaries, infrastructure, conference attendance or publication fees.
- Institutional indirect costs will not be covered.
- Funds will be paid to one applicant, with project expenditure to be agreed upon by all co-applicants.
- Any unspent funds will be returned to the Centre.

Application process:

- The following documents must be submitted electronically to Centre-PathoGen@unimelb.edu.au by 11:59 pm on Friday 15 August 2025.
 - Completed application form
 - Applicant CVs (maximum 1 page for each applicant)
 - Please combine all files into a single PDF and name the file as follows: Lead Applicant Surname_CPG Seed Grant 2025 Application.pdf
- The submission email must use the Subject line: 2025 CPG Seed Grant Scheme – Lead Applicant Surname.
- Late applications will not be considered.

Application review:

- Applications will be reviewed by an independent committee against the following criteria:
 - Scientific quality
 - Innovation
 - Alignment with the Centre Research Strategy
 - Collaboration
 - Feasibility
- Preference will be given to projects that promote skills transfer and build genomics capacity in partner countries.
- A detailed scoring rubric is also attached.

Reporting:

- A final report will be required 3 months after completion of the funding.
- The lead applicant will be required to present the results of the project at a CPG organised event 6-8 months after funding commences and at project completion (e.g. CPG Symposium, Research Forum, Scientific Advisory Board meeting).

On completion of the award:

- Findings from the project must be published in an open and accessible manner in a format agreed to with the Centre.
- The Centre must be acknowledged in any publications and presentations related to the project.
- Details of any publications, conference papers or presentations, seminars, media coverage or additional grants arising from the project and for three years after completion of the funding must be provided to the Centre.

Revocation:

- Seed funding can be revoked due to:
 - Unsatisfactory project performance;
 - Failure to commence within 6 months of receipt of funding;
 - Provision of false or misleading information; or
 - Failure to adhere to these rules.

Contact/further information

- Please direct question about the scheme to Centre-PathoGen@unimelb.edu.au
- All correspondence to applicants will be via email