

Competitive Grants Program Guidelines - 2006

Competitive Grants Program

The *Competitive Grants Program* is one of three programs included within the Carrick Institute's Grants Scheme. Details of the overarching Grants Scheme may be found at <http://www.carrickinstitute.edu.au/carrick/go/grants>. Details of the *Leadership for Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education Program* and *Priority Projects Program*, may be found at <http://www.carrickinstitute.edu.au>. Prospective applicants for funding under the *Competitive Grants Program* are advised to familiarise themselves with these guidelines and the Grants Scheme Guidelines.

The Competitive Grants Program supports research, development and innovation related to the enhancement of learning and teaching in higher education. It specifically addresses the following objectives of the Carrick Institute to:

- a. promote and support strategic change in higher education institutions for the enhancement of learning and teaching, including curriculum development and assessment.
- b. raise the profile and encourage recognition of the fundamental importance of teaching in higher education institutions and in the general community.
- d. develop effective mechanisms for the identification, development, dissemination and embedding of good individual and institutional practice in learning and teaching in Australian higher education.
- f. identify learning and teaching issues that impact on the Australian higher education system and facilitate national approaches to address these issues.

The Institute encourages submissions that are designed to extend the scope of successful work already undertaken, or to assist in the further implementation of demonstrated good practice.

Funding Priorities 2006 - 2008

The funding priorities for this Program have been developed in accordance with the strategic directions set out in the *Strategic Directions 2006-2008*, available at www.carrickinstitute.edu.au

The funding priorities for 2006-2008 are:

- Research and development focussing on issues of emerging and continuing importance (eg the nexus between teaching and research; performance indicators for learning and teaching)
- Strategic approaches to learning and teaching that address the increasing diversity of the student body
- Development of robust methods of identifying and rewarding excellence in teaching (excluding awards schemes)
- Innovation in learning and teaching, particularly in relation to the role of new technologies

Project Criteria

Projects to be funded under the *Competitive Grants Program* in 2006-2007 should demonstrate the following:

- Clearly articulated outcomes and a clear argument demonstrating how the project will address one or more of the program priorities and contribute to the enhancement of learning and teaching in higher education
- A set of strategies which is considered, coherent and appropriate to the outcomes the project is designed to achieve
- Potential usefulness of the project and its outcomes to any of the following:
 - the sector as a whole
 - particular kinds of organisations within the sector
 - the development of national approaches or policies related to learning and teaching in higher education
- If appropriate to the project proposed, strategies for the dissemination/embedding of the successful strategies and outcomes that are integrated within the project design
- Ways in which the project both utilises and advances existing national and international knowledge relevant to the program priority or priorities
- If appropriate to the project, strategies to assess the scalability and sustainability of the model or process proposed
- A thorough approach to project management, and
- Budget justification appropriate to the project outcomes and importance.

Program Deliverables and Timelines for the Program

Deliverables

In addition to the deliverables that arise from the project design, a comprehensive report for publication should document the ways in which the project outcomes are met.

The report should include:

- a description of the approach with reference to the above criteria
- information on how the project uses and advances existing knowledge in relation to the topic of the project
- an analysis of the factors that were critical to the success of the approach and of the factors that impeded its success
- an analysis of the extent to which the approach or findings could inform policy and/or practice in higher education institutions or the Carrick Institute
- a description of the ways in which the project outcomes have been or will be (using project funding) shared across the higher education sector, both nationally and internationally
- appendices with any proformas or other material produced for or used in the project.

Funding and Project Duration

Approximately \$2 million will be available in 2006 for distribution under this Program. Project funding will be available in the range from \$60,000 to \$200,000. Projects may be designed to take between 1 and 2 years however those designed to go beyond one year must be designed around stages of one year duration with specific deliverables associated with each stage. Small projects should be completed in one year.

Expressions of Interest / Full Proposals

Only one general call for expressions of interest and project proposals will occur in 2006.

Institutions may elect to submit either an expression of interest or a full project proposal (see Grants Scheme Guidelines). If a full proposal is submitted, it will be assessed and a decision as to whether it will be funded will be made in the first funding round in 2006. The Carrick Institute will assess the expressions of interest submitted and from these will seek full proposals to go forward to the second round of funding in 2006. At least \$1 million will be reserved for the projects short-listed from the expressions of interest submitted.

The Carrick Institute reserves the right to ask for a full proposal to be modified and re-submitted for decision at the second funding round.

Time-lines

<i>Funding Rounds</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>Close</i>
Calls for expression of interest/full proposals	March 1	April 20
Second funding round (full proposals arising from short-listed projects only)		July 17

Guidelines Review Date: November 2006