



# EDUCATION HORIZON: FIRST NATIONS RESEARCH

## Guidelines for Applicants

### Introduction

The Department of Education (the Department) values high quality research that generates evidence relevant to its portfolio priorities of early childhood and school education. Evidence is used by the Department every day to deepen knowledge about the impact of our services and to help continually improve our policies, decisions and performance.

The Education Horizon research grants facilitate the generation of local Queensland-based evidence by funding projects closely aligned with the Department's strategic priorities. For this round of Education Horizon, researchers are invited to submit a research proposal to answer one of the following questions:

1. What factors are associated with educational success for First Nations students in Queensland state schools, and how do each of these factors influence school attendance, achievement, retention and attainment?
2. What role do schools play in culture and connection for First Nations students and how does this influence educational outcomes?

A pool of up to \$250,000 will be distributed across the research questions. A Research Project may be awarded a funding grant of up to \$150,000 and must be between 6 and 18 months in duration. There may be no or multiple successful applicants in response to any research question. Applicants may submit an application for each research question.

Sponsors may submit multiple proposals per research question to this round of Education Horizon.

Applications for this round close on **Monday, 14 October 2024**.

## Eligibility criteria

### Project eligibility

An intention of the Education Horizon program is that grant funding will be spent in Queensland to benefit the Queensland economy. For any project that takes place in Queensland and other jurisdictions, the application must be able to demonstrate the value for Queensland of the project. The research project may receive funding from other sources for the costs of the activities in other jurisdictions.

### Lead researcher eligibility

Applications must demonstrate potential to deliver outcomes for the Department. To be considered for an Education Horizon grant, the lead researcher (the applicant) must:

- be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander researcher or have demonstrated experience in First Nations research
- be an Australian citizen, or hold permanent/temporary Australian residency for the duration of the grant
- be a Queensland-based researcher enrolled in or employed by an eligible Sponsor organisation
- have ethics approval or be likely to receive ethics approval from the relevant ethics committee at the Sponsoring organisation.

Other members of the research team do not need to meet the lead researcher eligibility criteria.

### Sponsor eligibility

Eligible sponsoring organisations are:

- Queensland universities
- universities with significant campuses in Queensland.

Sponsoring organisations must have an ABN and be registered for GST.

### Co-Sponsor eligibility

Eligible co-sponsoring organisations are:

- individuals
- businesses/companies
- universities
- Australian commonwealth, state and territory government organisations that conduct research
- not-for-profit, charitable or philanthropic organisations.

You may also have one or more eligible co-sponsoring organisations. It is not mandatory for an application to have a Co-Sponsor.

Co-Sponsors may be based outside Queensland or Australia. While businesses, companies, and not-for-profit, charitable or philanthropic organisations are not eligible to be Sponsors, they are encouraged to participate as Co-Sponsors.

The Department may be a Co-Sponsor. In this instance, the Researcher/Sponsor must negotiate any Co-Sponsor arrangement with the relevant area(s) of the Department.

## Funding types

Cash Contribution means the cash from a Sponsor or Co-Sponsor of the Research Project which is transferred to and managed by the Sponsor.

In-Kind Contribution means a contribution of goods, services, materials or time to the Research Project from a Sponsor or Co-Sponsor organisation. Values should be calculated based on the most likely actual cost of the labour, work spaces, equipment and databases. The calculations covering time and costs should be documented by the Sponsor as the Queensland Government may require these calculations to be audited.

## What can the funds be used for?

The Department will release the grant payments to the Sponsor to administer the grant funding against agreed milestone payments. The funding may be used for the following eligible project costs:

- salary costs for key research staff and other dedicated research/technical staff for time spent on the project
- costs directly related to the Research Project
- project consumables
- travel within Queensland that is an essential requirement of the Research Project and that has been approved in writing by the Department as part of the Education Horizon Application (excluding attending conferences or award ceremonies).

## What are the funds NOT to be used for?

Items not eligible for funding include:

- institutional overheads
- costs associated with the ongoing programs of work and/or core business of the Sponsor or Co-Sponsor organisations
- costs associated with administrative support staff
- operational costs
- infrastructure costs
- travel and registration fees to attend conferences and award ceremonies
- unapproved travel within Queensland, interstate travel, and/or overseas travel
- incentives and compensation for participation

## Other conditions

- In cases where a Researcher cannot complete the Research Project, the grant may be transferrable with the written approval of the Department.
- Researchers are expected to complete the Research Project over the grant period, unless agreed otherwise with the Department as part of a planned program of research. Research suspensions of up to three (3) months (maximum) may be considered under exceptional circumstances, and will be treated on a case-by-case basis, unless otherwise negotiated with the Department.
- Researchers must disclose all current and future, decided and undecided, funding applications for the same Research Project.
- If the Researcher wishes to conduct research at departmental sites, with departmental data, or with the participation of departmental staff, students and school communities, the Researcher must also submit to and have approved by the Department a separate research application through the [Queensland Education Research Inventory](#) (QERI) website (Department Access Research

Application). The Researcher must submit the QERI application within two weeks of notification of the approval of their Education Horizon grant application.

- Research funded by the grant can only begin following ethics approval from their institution and, if applicable, the Department's approval of their Department Access Research Application.
- The grant cannot be used primarily to develop or evaluate a commercial product or departmental program.

### **How will applications be assessed and decided?**

Applications will be assessed in a competitive, merit-based process by an Assessment Panel comprising Departmental officers with education, research, industry, and/or policy backgrounds. The Assessment Panel may also include independent experts external to the Department. Applications will be assessed against the Assessment Criteria (see Section 3 of this Application Form), and the Panel will also take into consideration the responses under all other sections.

The Deputy Director-General, First Nations Strategy & Partnerships, Department of Education will approve recipients for this grant scheme on advice from the Education Horizon Assessment Panel.

The Queensland Government Science and Innovation Investment Principles (refer to page 7 of the [Science and Innovation Investment Framework](#)) and the research needs of the Department may also be considered in finalising the order of merit of Applications.

### **Submitting your Application**

The closing date for submitting Applications is **Monday, 14 October 2024**. The proposed Research Projects must commence as soon as practicable, pending ethics approval from the Sponsor organisation and, if applicable, the Department's approval of a Departmental Access Research Application.

Education Horizon Applications should be completed in full and submitted via email, as outlined on the Application form. Application documentation will remain strictly confidential.

Do NOT attach any additional material to your submission. All information must be included in the Application itself. Any attachments to the Application will not be considered.

You must advise the Department, within five (5) working days, of changes which are likely to impact on your proposed Research Project, via email at [education.horizon@ged.qld.gov.au](mailto:education.horizon@ged.qld.gov.au).

Applicants may be contacted during the assessment process to clarify any information provided in the Application and/or to request further information to enable a due diligence and probity assessment.

There is no implicit guarantee of approval at any stage in the process, and you will be notified in writing of the outcome of your Application.

### **Research Project agreements**

If your Application is successful, and once it is signed by the Department, you and your Sponsor organisation will have entered into a legally binding Service Agreement (Agreement) with the State of Queensland acting through the Department of Education. The Agreement will consist of your Application (this form, including any schedules), the Education Horizon Terms and Conditions, the Guidelines for Applicants and, if applicable, the Department Access Research Application.

Copies of the Education Horizon Terms and Conditions and the Guidelines for Applicants can be obtained at <https://education.qld.gov.au/about-us/reporting-data-research/research/research-funding/education-horizon> or by contacting [education.horizon@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:education.horizon@qed.qld.gov.au). No discussion will be entered into with respect to the Education Horizon Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.

You must have appropriate agreements with the Sponsor and all Co-Sponsors in place to formalise arrangements for the disbursement of funding and to clarify other issues, such as intellectual property rights. These agreements are separate to the Agreement with the Department, and are to be consistent with the Agreement.

You may also be required to submit copies of all signed Co-Sponsor agreements before the Research Project payment is released. You must not enter into any legally binding arrangements with other parties which prevent you/them from meeting obligations under the Agreement.

### **Timelines**

The Department will announce the outcomes of the Education Horizon grant round at a timing at its discretion.

The start date for each successful Education Horizon project will be agreed between the Researcher and the Department.

The funding will be released as per Schedule 1 of the Application form.

### **Privacy statement**

The Department is collecting the information requested in the Application form to:

- evaluate your Application for funding under the Education Horizon priority research grants scheme; and
- if your Application is successful, administer the Agreement between you, the Sponsor, the Co-Sponsor/s (if applicable) and the Department in relation to the funding.

The information, including any personal information, may be disclosed or published in a manner that is permitted under the Agreement. For example, broad details of a successful Application, including agreed outcomes, research progress and the level of funding awarded may be published by the Department. Some information may also be used to promote funded Research Projects.

Your personal information will not otherwise be disclosed to any other person without your consent, unless permitted or required by law. For audit purposes, the Department is required to retain the Applications and other supplied support material.

The provisions of the [Right to Information Act 2009](#) (Qld) apply to documents in the possession of the Department.

### **Contact**

For more information please visit the website <https://education.qld.gov.au/about-us/reporting-data-research/research/research-funding/education-horizon> or contact:

Director, Research Services

Department of Education

Telephone: 07 3034 5929

Email: [education.horizon@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:education.horizon@qed.qld.gov.au)