

EDUCATION HORIZON RESEARCH GRANT SCHEME

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 and that positively impact student outcomes. For this round of Education Horizon, researchers are invited to submit a research proposal to answer one of the following questions:

1. What are parent perspectives regarding enrolment and participation in kindergarten programs in Queensland? How do these perspectives influence enrolment and participation in kindergarten programs?
2. What factors influence outcomes for students enrolled in schools located in rural and remote communities including factors outside of the schooling environment and complexity related to accessing and participating in education?

A pool of up to \$400,000 will be distributed across the research questions. A research project may be awarded a funding grant of up to \$200,000 and must be concluded by 1 May 2028. There will be a maximum of one successful applicant in response to each research question. Universities may submit multiple proposals per research question, up to a maximum of 5 projects per sponsor.

Applications for this round close on **13 April 2026**.

All projects must be completed by 1 May 2028.

Project eligibility

An intention of the Education Horizon program is that grant funding will be spent in Queensland to benefit the Queensland economy. Any project that takes place in Queensland and other jurisdictions 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

To be considered for an Education Horizon grant, the lead researcher (the applicant) must:

- 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
- reside in Queensland for the duration of the grant
- 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 are not required to meet the lead researcher eligibility criteria.

Sponsor eligibility

Eligible sponsoring organisations are:

- Queensland universities
- interstate universities with significant campuses in Queensland.

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

Co-Sponsor eligibility

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

Eligible co-sponsoring organisations are:

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

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 or 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, databases etc. 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 in the research project.

Other conditions

- In cases where a Researcher cannot complete the research project, the grant may be transferrable to another Researcher 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 [Research Services'](#) website (Research Access Application (RAA)). The Researcher must submit this 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 appraisal committee comprising Departmental officers with education, research, and/or subject matter expertise (Appraisal Committee). Applications will be assessed against the Assessment Criteria (see Section 3 of the Application Form), and the Committee will also take into consideration the responses under all other sections. 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 will also be considered in finalising the order of merit of Applications. Applications must also demonstrate potential to deliver outcomes for the Department.

The Research Team must demonstrate that they have the professional, research, research translation and project management skills to undertake and complete the proposed research project.

The Deputy Director-General, Strategic Policy and External Relations, Department of Education will approve recipients for this grant scheme on advice from the Appraisal Committee.

Submitting your Application

The closing date for submitting Applications is **13 April 2026**. Applications are to be submitted via email to education.horizon@ged.qld.gov.au. Sponsor organisations may have their own internal processes in relation to Education Horizon grants, so please check with the relevant office.

Applications must 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 within 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.

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 (including any schedules), the Education Horizon Terms and Conditions, the Guidelines for Applicants and, if applicable, Research Access Application.

The Education Horizon Terms and Conditions can be obtained by contacting Research Services at education.horizon@ged.qld.gov.au or online at <https://education.qld.gov.au/about-us/reporting-data-research/research/research-funding/education-horizon>. No discussion will be entered into with respect to the Education Horizon Terms and Conditions.

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.

It is expected that successful research projects will commence upon execution of the Agreement by all parties, pending ethics approval from the Sponsor organisation and, if applicable, the Department's approval of a Research Access Application. If a delayed start date is necessary, this may be agreed between the Researcher and the Department.

All projects must be completed by **1 May 2028**. Researchers must factor this end date in when planning the research project.

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

Project governance

For each funded research project, a reference group comprising Departmental officers and members of the research team will be formed to provide guidance on the project's implementation.

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 researcher names, 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 and record-keeping obligations, 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:

<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