Seed Funding 2018 Information Pack

The Networked Society Institute is seeking innovative and exciting applications from researchers for new interdisciplinary research projects related to the networked society. These seed funded projects are a primary way for the Institute to foster, support and enable interdisciplinary research collaborations at the University of Melbourne.

Seed funded projects are small, 12–18 months in duration and valued at $20–40,000. In 2018, the Institute is seeking to invest up-to $300,000 across a number of projects. To date, the Institute and its predecessor have supported over 100 projects.

In 2018, we have updated the process to apply. Please read this Information Pack and the Terms and Conditions carefully.

We have an open call for projects that focus upon *understanding* the impacts and opportunities of the networked society and in *creating* solutions to further the networked society. We seek to support projects that deliver positive social outcomes. We welcome applications from across the University for exciting proposals that align with the mission of the Institute.

We are specifically seeking interdisciplinary applications led by researchers from faculties that have been under-represented in Institute Seed Funding with special attention being given to applications from: Architecture, Building and Planning; Business and Economics; Education; Fine Arts and Music; Law; Science; and Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences.

In addition to the open call we welcome proposals that align with our emerging focus areas:

- **Digital Ethics:** exploring the ethical, social, legal and political issues surrounding the use and uptake of connected people, places and things in the networked society.

- **Cybersecurity:** examining the security challenges of networked society and creating solutions to ensure and enhance cybersecurity.

- **Future of Work:** researching how the networked society is transforming how we structure and arrange work and participate across the economy.

- **Internet of Things:** understanding and developing how increasing connectivity can deliver new services and business opportunities across domains such as health, agriculture, and urban spaces.

Seed Funding 2018 Workshop

To support applicants, we are hosting a Seed Funding Workshop on Friday 27 April 2018 at 2pm. This is an opportunity for you to present your research interests, meet other researchers and kick-start the collaboration process.

Additional Information

We are available to assist you in your application and encourage all applicants to contact the Institute to discuss their proposals beforehand.

- Adam Lodders, Executive Officer: alodders@unimelb.edu.au

Application Process and Timeline

Timeline

Date	Item	Details
26 March 2018	Applications Open	Application details are available on the Institute's website.
27 April 2018	**Seed Funding Workshop**	Opportunity to hear about research funding process and meet new collaborators.
Sunday 13 May 2018	Application Deadline	All applications for consideration must be submitted by this date in the prescribed format.
Monday 4 June 2018	Project Interviews	Short listed projects will be invited to pitch their proposals to the NSI Executive Committee.
August–November 2018	Projects commence	

Selection Criteria

We are looking to fund projects that meet the following criteria:

- Potential to generate high impact and engagement
- Project novelty and innovation
- Alignment with the Institute
- Demonstrated potential to build interdisciplinary research capacity
- Feasibility, scope and budget
- Ability to scale and to obtain future funding

Instructions for Applying

The following guide provides instructions to support you in your application. To apply for seed funding in an appropriate manner, answer all questions on the application form and append a 1-page (max) CV for each researcher, PhD student and external collaborator working on the project.

This must be sent as a **single .pdf** document to networked-society@unimelb.edu.au by **11:59pm Sunday 13 May 2018.** *Applications in a format other than that provided above will be deemed invalid and not eligible for assessment.*

1.   Project Title

What is the title of your project?

2.   Elevator Pitch

How would you explain your idea briefly to a politician?

3.   Total Funding Requested

Provide the total funding amount requested from the Institute.

4.   Proposed Commencement Date

What date do you wish the project to commence? Ideally, projects will start between August–November 2018. However, the Institute is willing to accept alternative dates on a case-by-case basis.

5.   Research Team and External Collaborators

Provide details of the research team and external collaborators. In the contribution column please note what contribution to the project they are making, for example

Researcher	School/Department	Email	Contribution
Jill Namey	Computing and Information Systems	jane@unimelb.com	Software Development
Fiona Namey	Law	fiona@unimelb.com	Privacy law and theory
Josh Namey	Media and Communications	josh@unimelb.com	Industry practices
External Collaborator	**Organisation**	**Email**	
Bill Namey	Australian Government	bill@gov.au	Access to data and policy makers

6.   Project impact and engagement

Provide a brief (100 word) overview of the impact of this project and how it generates engagement.

7.   Project Overview

This section is for you to outline the project in greater detail. Please ensure that there is a clear structure to your project and keep references to literature to a minimum.

8.   Project outcomes

What will be achieved at the end of the project?

9.   How is the project new and innovative?

The Institute's mission is to enable new and innovative work. This question asks you to explain how the project is new and innovative. We are seeking to support ideas that have not been pitched or presented elsewhere.

10.   How does the project align with the Institute?

Please let us know how the proposed project aligns with the Institute? Make reference to how the project will help support our research objectives and fits within our mission and priorities.

11.   How does the project build interdisciplinary research capacity?

Demonstrate how the project will increase and enhance the interdisciplinary research capacity at the University of Melbourne.

12. How will the project scale and attract future funding?

Seed Funding is provided to support fledgling ideas in their development. A strong application will have an ultimate objective. Let us know how seed funding will enable the project to scale and attract future funding.

13. Has this, or a similar, proposal been submitted to, or received funding from, any funding body?

We are seeking new and innovative ideas. We would like to know whether the proposal, or one similar has been submitted for funding elsewhere. Please provide details outlining the project title, grant scheme/funding body amount applied for and the outcome.

14. Project Plan, Timeline and Deliverables

Seed Funding projects that have a clear sense of purpose and a comprehensive plan are in a strong position to deliver positive outcomes to both the researchers and the Institute. In this section we require you to provide details regarding how the project will operate. For each phase of funding we request the following:

- Deliverable: What will be delivered at the end of the Phase?
- Plan and Timeline: What work needs to be completed and by when.
- Budget: What resources are required to meet the deliverable?

A note on budgets

Seed Funding is to build the University's interdisciplinary research capacity for the networked society. As such, Seed Funding will be expended to meet this objective. When drafting your budget please be mindful of what exact resources you require. Preference is given to well thought out and logical requests where the Institute can assist as opposed to ambit claims of $19,999 per phase. Throughout the application period Institute staff will be available to assist researchers with budgeting and applications.

15. Acknowledgement

This section is new in 2018. We are asking for the Chief Investigator to acknowledge:

1. I have read the Seed Funding Information Pack
    - That you have actually read this document, including this text
2. I have read and agree to the Seed Funding Terms and Conditions
    - That you agree to be bound by the Seed Funding Terms and Conditions
3. All information contained in this application is correct
    - That the information you have provided is true and correct
4. There are no actual or perceived conflicts of interests in this project
    - This section often arises with external collaborators. Chief Investigators need to ensure that any external organisations are participating in a research capacity.

To complete the acknowledgement please provide your name in ***bold italic*** text. We do not require a signature.