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**The Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education**

**Research Seed Funding Grant**

**Information 2015**

***Vision of the CEEHE***

The Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education undertakes interdisciplinary, international and collaborative research designed to create the highest standards in equity practice locally, nationally and globally.  CEEHE will combine UON's extensive experience of equity initiatives locally with the widely acknowledged research expertise of its staff in this field to offer global leadership.

The University of Newcastle is deeply committed to providing global leadership in the field of equity in higher education, informed by its international and interdisciplinary research profile and agenda. This commitment is rooted in its unique history of providing transformative higher educational opportunities to students from historically underrepresented groups. A key principle guiding CEEHE is that access to and participation in higher education of the highest quality is one of the most powerful ways for a nation to ensure social equity, cultural cohesion and respect for difference, economic stability and democratic participation.

***CEEHE Research Seed Funding***

As a unique, collaborative and interdisciplinary ‘research hub’ the CEEHE is focused on developing a robust suite of multidisciplinary, cutting edge research programs to provide leadership in equity globally. Along with developing innovative methodologies for equity research and practice that reshape and impact educational systems in Australia and internationally

The purpose of the CEEHE Research Seed Funding is to support the development of interdisciplinary research with an explicit focus on equity and a clear connection with one of the four research themes below.

***Research Themes and Focus***

Projects funded under the CEEHE Research Seed Grant scheme in 2015 must align with one of the following ***CEEHE Research Themes:***

***Culture and Agency:*** This theme encompasses research and practice addressing equity in the broader cultural context, including issues of cultural competency, dominant discourses in higher education and education more broadly, diversity, difference and inclusion, and Indigenous students. Key areas of focus might include educational aspiration, attainment and identity formation across educational contexts including schooling, enabling programs, TAFE, higher education and lifelong learning.

***Access and Student Experience:*** This theme encompasses research and practice exploring the student experience in higher education, including issues of access, retention and success, as well as the role of academic and digital literacies in equity. It also explores student experiences of pedagogical and academic practices in relation to access, transitions and ‘belonging’.

***Community Wellbeing:*** This theme explores the role of higher education in contributing to equity and inclusion, the wider benefits of education to society at large, and expands the research, evidence base and evaluation of community outreach and engagement projects. This theme also includes a broader conceptualization of pedagogy, for example through dialogic and participatory (eco)pedagogies and methodologies, in relation to wider community-oriented projects of social justice.

***Governance, Policy and Practice:*** This theme explores the social and economic implications of various national educational policies over time for students, families, communities and society, as well as an evaluation of specific higher education policies and schemes and their impact on higher education access and attainment. It will explore the impact of HE policy reform and globalization on equity, diversity and inclusion and the potential tensions between the aspirations and discourses of ‘excellence’ and ‘equity’.

Projects must also align with the objectives of the Commonwealth Government’s ***Higher Education Participation Programme*** of building the evidence base in relation to ensuring that there is more equitable representation of the Australian community accessing and succeeding in higher education.

***Funding Available***

In 2015 grants of up to ***$20,000*** will be available. Applications for funding will open on ***Thursday 21 May,*** with successful grant holders being notified by mid – later June. **The deadline for applications for funding is Tuesday the 9th June. T**he 2015 funding must be fully spent by 1**9 December 2015.** There is NO carry forward on this funding.

***Eligibility***

To be eligible for a CEEHE Travel Grant, you must be employed at least 0.5 FTE, in a permanent or probationary appointment, or in a fixed term contract of not less than 12 months.

Each project must have at least one team member who holds an academic appointment at the University of Newcastle. Project proposals that bring together more than one disciplinary perspective are encouraged.

Applicants will not be eligible for a CEEHE Research Seed Funding while on leave without pay or Special Study Program (SSP).

***Conditions of the Grant***

As a condition of the CEEHE Research Seed Funding the recipient must be prepared to present a seminar/ workshop as part of the broader work of the CEEHE.

An overview of the research project may also be included in the relevant reporting to the Commonwealth Government as required under the University of Newcastle HEPP Allocation for 2015.

The CI will be required to submit a final report on the project by mid January 2016 on a template that will be supplied.

**Selection Panel**

The CEEHE Research Seed Funding selection panel will comprise of the following:

Global Chair of Innovation Equity in Higher Education & CEEHE Co-Director, Professor Geoff Whitty

Global Chair of Innovation Equity & CEEHE Co-Director, Professor Penny Jane Burke

Dean, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education & Research, Professor Peter Radoll.

One Academic Representative from one Faculty.

***Submitting the application***

The completed application form should be submitted electronically to [ceehe@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:equityanddiversity@newcastle.edu.au), no later than ***Tuesday 9 June***

**The Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education**

**Seed Funding Application Form 2015**

***Details of lead CI***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **First Name:** |  |
| **Surname** |  |
| **Level of current appointment:** |  |
| **Indicate full time equivalent (e.g. 0.5 FTE):** |  |
| **End date of current appointment or indicate ongoing:** |  |
| **Have you received other funding in the past or currently for this project?** |  |
| **School/Unit:** |  |
| **Telephone number:** |  |
| **Email address:** |  |

***Team Members (please insert more rows as necessary)***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Name*** | ***Position*** | ***School/ Unit*** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

***Project Details***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Short Project Title**  *(short, descriptive title, up to 20 words)* |  |
| **Research Theme** | □ Culture and Agency  □ Access and Student Experience  □ Community Wellbeing  □ Governance |

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| ***Project Description*** *–Describe the project rationale, aims and objectives (Max 200 words)* |
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| ***Brief literature review*** *(Max 400 words)* |
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| ***Research Methodology*** *(Max 400 words)* |
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| ***Please identify internal or external collaborators for this project and how they will be involved in the project:*** |
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| ***Summary and significance of project*** *– Describe why this project is of significance and how it supports the objectives of the CEEHE. (Max 200 words)* |
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| ***Please list the intended outputs for the project*** *(including publications and external research grant applications):* |
|  |

**Please briefly describe the activities to be undertaken for this project, including timeframes: (Please note that this funding needs to be fully spent and acquitted by Friday 19 December 2015 - there is no carry forward)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Timeframe** | **Milestones** | **Key Performance Indicators** |
|  |  |  |

(Please insert additional rows as required)

**Budget** (add in additional lines as needed. See guidelines for what is and is not a supported budget item): **Please note that this funding needs to be fully spent and acquitted by Friday 19 December 2015 - there is NO carry forward)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Item*** | ***Cost \**** | ***Justification*** |
|  |  |  |
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\**Where you are including staff costs please email* [*ceehe@newcastle.edu.au*](mailto:ceehe@newcastle.edu.au) *to obtain a copy of the CEEHE Research Grant Budget Excel sheet that will need to be completed.*

**Declaration**

**Lead Chief Investigator**

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Signature Date

**Director/Head of School**

I have discussed with the Lead CI the value of this project and the expected outcomes and benefits and I support the applicants’ intention to undertake the proposed project.

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Signature Date

Please return via email to CEEHE Executive Officer, via email: [ceehe@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:camilla.fisher@newcastle.edu.au) no later than Tuesday 9 June 2015