

Travel Fund for Research Consortia Development

Purpose of the fund:

The pre-seed collaboration fund for consortium building will enable wider groupings of ICT academics to come together in the project formation stage. This initiative encourages ICT academics at NZ's eight universities to collaborate as the norm for their research and aims to build stronger research teams by pulling a wider set of strengths and expertise onto a project team. Such teams will be able to compete more effectively in the big competitive research calls against the more established research groups in other disciplines.

Amounts granted and duration:

Each grant will be for use within a year. It provides for airfares and subsistence for up to four academics for a day meeting to be hosted by one of the institutions. Total expenditure is not expected to exceed \$1,280 (incl GST).

Timing of applications and number of fellowships:

Applications will be considered quarterly at the end of February, May, August and November each year.

Eligibility:

Applications may be made by an academic from any of the BuildIT partners. Applicants must, at the time of application, be a member of the permanent academic or research staff of a participating University with the majority working in the area of ICT (funding for cross-disciplinary consortia are encouraged).

Application process:

Applicants must complete the pre-seed travel application form which includes information on:

1. the planned participants for the consortium building meeting
2. the outline of the domain of the proposed project consortium and its importance in growing the research strength of ICT (or the cross-disciplinary area targeted)
3. an indicative budget for airfares for all attendees

This can be sent electronically to consortium@buildit.csi.ac.nz.

Criteria for selection:

Eligible applications will be ranked using the following criteria:

1. The potential impact of a project in this domain
2. The needs of the proposed consortia in regards to support funding
3. The development of NZ's core ICT strengths

Process for assessment:

Each application will be considered by all members of the full fund panel. The full panel will then meet electronically to consider all applications for the quarter and will rank eligible applications based on the above criteria. They will then decide on the award recipients for that quarter.

Conflicts of interest between members of the panel and applicants must be declared and conflicted members must not participate in the ranking of applications which they have a conflict of interest with. When the panel chair has a conflict of interest the deputy chair will assume the chair while that application is ranked.

Conditions for award recipients:

1. Recipients will have a year from receipt of the grant to convene their consortia.
2. Payment of the grant will be made to the host institution in full once the date of the consortia meeting has been confirmed.
3. Recipients must provide a brief report on the outcome of the meeting.
4. Recipients and their host institutions are responsible for obtaining any additional funding required to support consortia meeting costs in excess of the maximum provided by the grant.
5. Grants will be paid to the host institution which will oversee expenditure and will be responsible for ensuring these conditions are met.
6. Should a consortia meeting be cancelled, or be unable to be held within a year, then the grant must be returned to the fund manager.