

Research Grant

Scheme Guidelines

Goals:

The aim of this grant scheme is to provide support to researchers in their projects.

Start of the Project:

The Research project needs to start not more than 6 months after the initial award and not last more than one year from that date.

Potential awardees:

The scheme is open to all researchers based in African Universities who are meeting the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility:

- Applicants need to be a citizen of an African country
- Applicants need to have completed a PhD in the last 10 years
- Applicants cannot submit more than one application per round
- Applicants who received grants previously are not eligible
- The research focus can be any subject matter within the earth and planetary sciences.
- The Grant Scheme Proposal online application form needs to be completed and sent with all requested documents before the application deadline
- No more than one grant will be awarded per organisation
- This year an additional grant will be awarded to a WAXI-affiliated project excluding WAXI module leaders (see <http://WAXI4.org> for details of that project) however you do NOT have to be a WAXI partner to apply for an Agate Project Research Grant.

Applications:

- Applicants need to complete the Grant Proposal Application Form and upload a letter of support signed by their head of department or, if submitted by the head of department, by their immediate superior.
- Upload a scan of a form of government ID.
- The application can be submitted in English or French

Calendar:

- Call for projects: 1st April 2025
- **Application deadline: 1st June 2025**
- Review of applications by the evaluation committee: 15th June to 31st August 2025

Results:

- Results will be reported to applicants via email the first week of September 2025 and will be published on the Agate Project website.
- The decisions of the review panel are final.

Amount / Duration

- The research grant may be allocated up to the submitted budget but may be less than the initial requested amount.
- The maximum budget is AU\$ 10,000 for one year.

Use of funds

- Stipends, analytical costs, fieldwork, small equipment items including software, conference costs to present Agate-funded research results, Publication costs, bench fees, other research costs with justification.

Funds Cannot be used for:

Computer hardware, bench fees, conference registration fees unrelated to the current project, travel to conferences, departmental costs/overheads, access charges, medical insurance, excess baggage, expenses relating to accompanying dependents, and costs incurred by project participants not associated with the applicant organisations.

Activity Report and Financial Statement:

- All applicants are required to submit a **6-monthly activity report in English** that will include a financial statement.

Confirmation of Acceptance:

All researchers chosen to receive a grant will need to confirm their acceptance. The Researcher will receive a Research Grant Agreement with the agreement conditions. This document must be signed and returned.

Acknowledgements

- All publications must acknowledge Agate Project

Distribution of Funds:

- Distribution of funds will be made in two payments, The first one after the receipt of the signed agreement and the second one after receipt of the mid-project report. Non-receipt of the mid-project report will result in the blocking of the second payment.
- An expense summary with receipts must be joined to the mid-project report to validate the distribution of funds.
- The applicant will have to provide relevant bank details of an account held in his name and which the applicant controls and all information to enable Agate Project to transfer the grant funds.

Assessment criteria

Before completing the form, please ensure you have all the necessary information
ALL questions must be completed on the online form, as submission of incomplete forms or submissions that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated.

The application will be assessed as follows:

1. **Rationale for project** (contributes **30%** to project score), no more than 300 words
A brief rationale of the purpose and benefits of the projects

The scientific background to the proposed project:

- Previous work in this research topic and research methods
- If a field study, previous work in this geographic area;
- how the anticipated outcomes will address an important problem

The research question, including:

- Importance of research question
- How the research project will address the problem.

2. **Project Description** (contributes **40%** to project score), no more than 300 words
Description of the project activities

The extent to which the project is significant including:

- any new methods or technologies to be developed;
- how the anticipated outcomes will address an important problem

The research approach including:

- the methods and
- analyses

3. **National Benefit** (contributes **10%** to project score), not more than 75 words
Please describe how this project will help the country in which you are based in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

4. **Budget and budget justification**, no more than 200 words (contributes **20%** to project score)
 - i. All budget items MUST BE IN **AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS**
 - ii. Exchange rates available from <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>
 - iii. Budget is only for one year
 - iv. For each item that costs more than AUD1000 you will need to explain the need for the expenditure in the Budget Justification section.
 - v. Please refer to the Use of Funds section above for eligible expenditures

5. **CV**
Upload your CV (as a pdf, less than 5MB), which includes:

- i. Biographic Information
- ii. Current position
- iii. Previous Education
- iv. Awards
- v. References, publications or external research talks

Review Process

All applications to the Research Grant Scheme are reviewed and assessed by two (or more) members of the selection panel who have the most appropriate scientific expertise using the criteria detailed above.

Documents to be uploaded with the grant proposal application

- CV
- Some form of Government ID (Identity Card, Passport, driving licence etc.)
- Letter of support of the project signed by the Head of School or Equivalent
- PhD Certificate