

Founders' Fellowships

Guidelines 2017

About the program

Advance Queensland focuses on growing the economy and creating jobs. This includes investing in science and innovation in order to:

- build Queensland's reputation and capacity to conduct innovative research and development,
- deliver new products and services for Queenslanders, and
- establish new industries that will provide jobs for the future.

The Advance Queensland Founders' Fellowships program supports entrepreneurial scientists, researchers and clinicians to take 12 months away from their normal job to develop their early stage novel and innovative ideas with commercialisation prospects into new products, processes or services.

Funding of up to \$100,000 (excluding GST) over a 12-month period is available to support Fellows to develop their innovations into practical commercial outcomes and to access appropriate support and skilling.

The program is managed by the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (the department).

Benefits

The Advance Queensland Founders' Fellowships program aims to:

- increase startup formation and spin outs based on Queensland research
- contribute to increased business growth, exports and high-value jobs
- improve productivity and increase the competitiveness of existing and emerging key sectors

- increase the business and entrepreneurial skills of scientists, researchers and clinicians, and
- expand the pool of entrepreneurial-minded scientists, researchers and clinicians.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for funding you must:

- be a scientist, researcher or clinician currently employed in a Queensland-based university, research organisation or hospital who is looking to take an innovative idea to market.
- Have, or acquire prior to commencement, an ABN which is registered for GST.
- propose to, or have established, a Queensland-based business to commercialise project outcomes.

Other conditions

- The fellowship must commence within 90 days of the applicant being advised they have been successful, and be completed within 12 months of the commencement date.
- The Fellow may be required to undertake an entrepreneurial skills or business development activity (e.g. mentoring or training) during the fellowship, where the assessment panel deem it would increase the likelihood of commercial success. In such cases, brokerage to appropriate support would be provided.
- Fellows should attend media/promotion events if requested.
- The Fellow must acknowledge the Queensland Government's funding in all relevant published material, media releases and public statements.

- The department must be advised of any changes that are likely to impact on the fellowship, including changes that may impact on eligibility, milestones, funding or reporting.
- Upon completion of the fellowship, Fellows may be requested to undertake a mentoring role to future Fellows.

Using the fellowship funds

Eligible costs include:

- salary costs (capped at 75% of funding awarded)
- course costs
- services (including testing, design and other professional services)
- legal and intellectual property costs,
- event attendance
- travel and accommodation costs, and
- access to office/laboratory space.

Assessment criteria

1. Commercialisation prospects

The application should:

- explain the novel and innovative idea
- identify the market and the commercial potential of the product, process or service
- provide evidence of potential customers and/or investors
- demonstrate ownership of, or legal rights to commercially exploit, relevant Intellectual Property.

2. Project plan and budget

The application should provide a project plan and project budget to include as a minimum:

- planned activities with aims and outcomes achievable within set timeframes, for example travel, technical services, access to specialist equipment and facilities, product development, formal skills development, event attendance, and market research.
- estimated costs against key activity areas.

3. Track record and entrepreneurial skills

The applicant should outline their:

- professional, project management and industry engagement skills to undertake and complete the proposed fellowship
- current level of entrepreneurial skills and/or interest in developing appropriate skills.

4. Relevance for Queensland

The application should outline how the innovative idea's end product, process or service will provide economic, social, environmental and/or regional benefits to Queensland.

Assessment process

Applications will be assessed in a competitive, merit based process against the program's assessment criteria by panels comprised of independent members with entrepreneurial, commercial and scientific backgrounds.

Applicants may be contacted during the assessment process to clarify information provided in the application and/or to request additional information to enable the appropriate consideration of the application.

Shortlisted applicants may be required to attend an interview.

Applications may also be considered in the context of the government's priorities and the imperative to create jobs for the economy.

Privacy

The Queensland Government collects and collates information from the application form to evaluate applications for the program. Only authorised departmental officers and approved grant assessors have access to this information under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* for the purpose of assessing the application for funding.

Applicants should note that broad details of successful proposals, agreed outcomes, progress and the level of funding awarded may be published by the Queensland Government.

Some information may be used to promote funded projects.

Your personal information will not be disclosed to any other third party without your consent, unless required by law or for the purposes of the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

For audit purposes, the Queensland Government is required to retain the applications and other supplied support material.

The provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009* apply to documents in the possession of the Queensland Government.

How to apply

Refer to the Advance Queensland website for details on how to apply for a Founders' Fellowship.

Further information

Web: qld.gov.au/advanceqld

Email: advancequeensland@dsiti.qld.gov.au

Facebook: Advance Queensland

Twitter: @AdvanceQld

Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)