



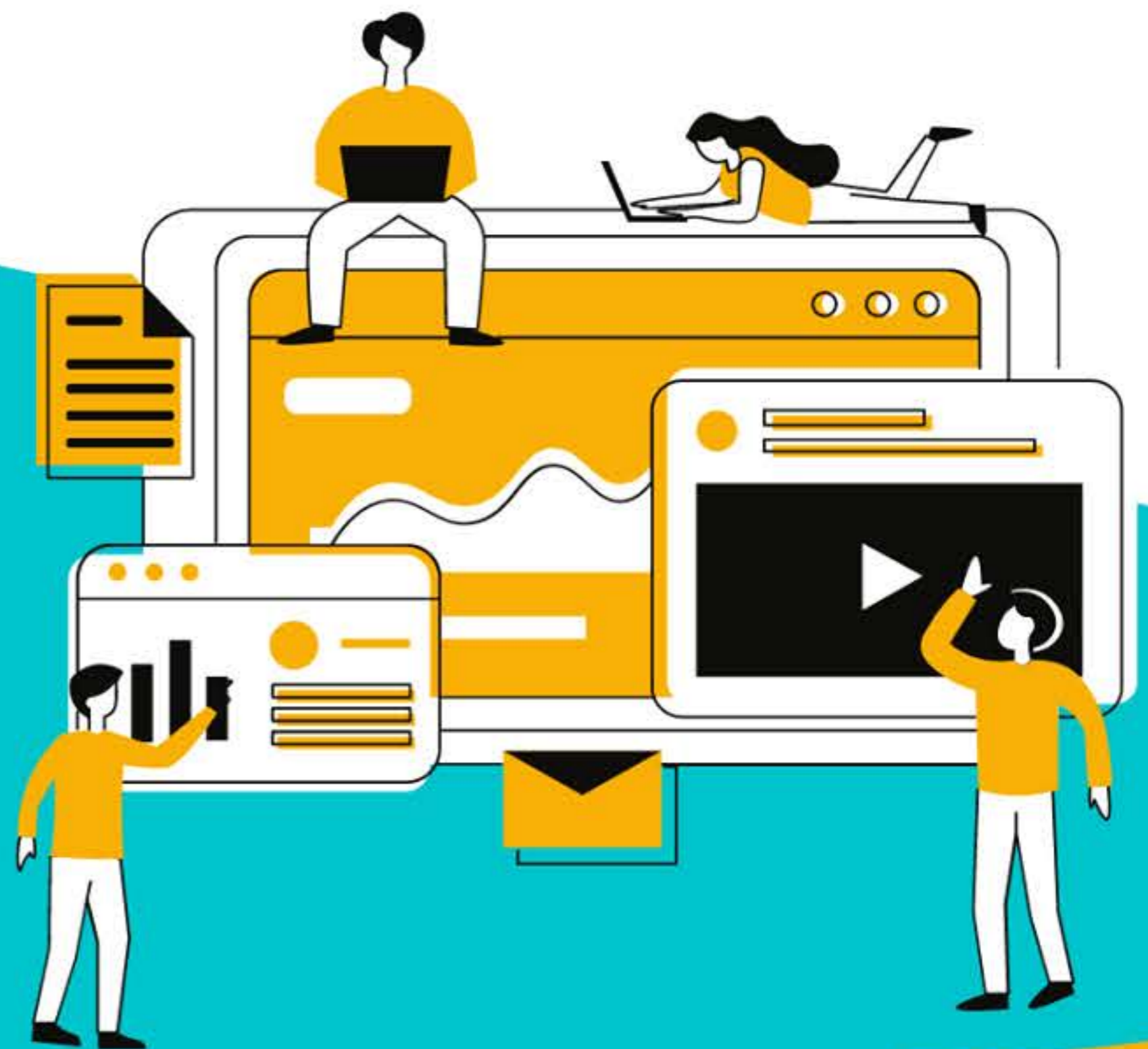
Grants Scheme for Australian University Graduates

COVID-19 Response Research Grants Scheme

The Research Grants Scheme will enable Australian University Graduates to collaborate with peers, other individuals and organisations to undertake research that contributes to the public discourse and policy development in support of recovering from issues brought about by COVID-19.

A grant of up to USD10,000 per proposal is available for a suitable research proposal.

Where a research project is in partnership with an Australian organisation or institution, an additional USD2,000 may be available.



Download the guidelines and details to apply at:
bit.ly/researchcambodia

Submit your proposal to:
alumni@ausatraliaawardscambodia.org
by no later than 22 January 2021

For more information, please contact:
alumni@australiaawardscambodia.org

**Funded by the
Australian Government**



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COVID-19 Response Grants Scheme (Research)

Program Overview

The Australian Embassy Cambodia (via Australia Awards Cambodia [AAC]) is inviting applications for funding research initiatives under the COVID-19 Response Grants Scheme (the Scheme) to address emerging challenges brought about by the COVID-19 crisis.

These grants will enable Cambodian Australian alumni to collaborate with peers, other individuals and organisations to undertake research that contributes to the public discourse and policy development in support of recovering from issues brought about by COVID-19. Grants will be awarded through an open and competitive process.

The Scheme aims to:

- provide alumni with opportunities to enhance and use their knowledge and skills;
- develop, maintain and strengthen professional linkages and partnerships between alumni and the Australian Government, Australian businesses, public and private organisations and educational institutions;
- connect alumni to each other across disciplines and professions, organisations and institutions, and geographic areas in order to share good practice and create opportunities for collaboration, and
- showcase Australia's excellence as a global provider of high-quality education and research.

Objectives

The Scheme will be launched in December 2020. Through an open and competitive process, alumni will be awarded grants to undertake research to provide a better understanding of COVID-19 and how to respond to current challenges brought about by the pandemic. Using their knowledge and skills gained from their Australian education or training.

Grantees will:

- generate research evidence that will help inform policy development and decision making on relevant issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- help contribute to the limited body of knowledge and literature on COVID-19 which affected communities especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors; and
- help predict and respond to current development challenges in Cambodia and in vulnerable sectors of society.



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Key dates

Application stage	Date
Call for proposals	December 2020
Deadline for applications	Friday 22 January 2021
Notification of results	February 2021
Commencement of the activity	February/March 2021 (subject to negotiation with grantee)

Priority themes

Research grants will be awarded to successful proposals that are aligned to one or more of the following priority themes:

- Policy Development
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRR)
- Public Health
- Inclusive Development (Gender Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion - GEDSI)
- Supply Chain Management
- Public-Private Partnerships in DRR
- Foreign Direct Investment

The Australian Government has a strong commitment to support initiatives that protect the most vulnerable sectors of society, including women and girls, persons with disabilities, children, displaced populations, the elderly, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups and strongly encourages proposals from alumni supporting these sectors.



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Eligible proponents

The Scheme is open to all Cambodia nationals who have:

- graduated from a recognised Australian tertiary education, including Australia Awards, other Australian Government funded scholarships (e.g. Endeavour and ACIAR) or those that self-funded their study in Australia.
- alumni who have graduated from a short course or fellowship program from a recognised Australian institution.
- Australian alumni of other funded scholarship programs (e.g. World Bank).

Applications must be submitted by an alumnus (individual), group of alumni or a research organisation headed by an alumnus as the Team Leader or holding a key position in the team.

Applications are also open to individuals and organisations who can work collaboratively with alumni and who demonstrate the ability to conduct quality research and manage grant funds according to AAC's policies. Alumni should either be a Team Leader or at least hold a key position in the team. If the alumnus is based in another country, he/she should co-lead with Cambodia-based alumni. The research must be done in Cambodia.

Alumni and their partner individuals and organisations must demonstrate that they are ethically sound and, where necessary, seek prior approval of an appropriate review/technical board.

Funding and duration

The Scheme will provide financial support of up to USD10,000. Where a project is in partnership with an Australian organisation or institution, an additional USD2,000 may be available.

The Scheme will not provide funds for:

- the conduct of masters or doctoral projects,
- payments to non-Cambodia nationals for services rendered; and
- salaries and/or compensation of alumni proponent (individual, team leader and alumni members).

The amount of the research grant will depend on the scope of study and the research approach.

The grant may be used as a counterpart to other grants provided by local or foreign organisations. Scheme funds are to be fully acquitted and the Grantee is expected to maintain sound administrative and financial systems capable of providing evidence of actual expenditure, delivery of activities, services and goods purchased.

The research activity should conclude no later than 31 December 2021. Proposals which exceed the funding limit and/or duration may be considered subject to merit and assessment.



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Assessment of application

A. Process

- Only applications received on or before the application deadline will be assessed for consideration under the scheme.
- AAC will shortlist the proposals based on the criteria identified below (see Table 1).
- AAC will submit the proposed list of qualified applications to the Research Selection Committee (RSC) within two (2) weeks after shortlisting.
- Proposals will be assessed by the RSC consisting of representatives from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and external members with appropriate expertise and experience in research and the topic of the study. The RSC shall be chaired by a DFAT representative.
- The RSC will select the final list of COVID-19 Grants Scheme awardees.
- Applicants will be notified of the selection outcome in writing.
- The assessment process will ensure clear and transparent mechanisms and any potential conflict of interest will be identified and addressed.

B. Instruction to applicants

- The application is a one step process. Applicants may not make any changes in their submissions but may withdraw their proposal at any time through a formal letter stating such intent.
- Proposals must be submitted via: alumni@australiaawardscambodia.org by the closing date.
- The proposal should not exceed 10 pages (excluding relevant documents submitted as attachments), and should follow these guidelines:
 - a) Proposal must describe original research that covers the themes identified above.
 - b) Proposals must be clear and succinct. Technical jargon and acronyms should be avoided.
 - c) Proposal must clearly define the following:
 - i. purpose and relevance of the research project (including potential users of the research),
 - ii. problem statement,
 - iii. related studies,
 - iv. beneficiaries of the research,
 - v. research design (detailing methods for sampling, data gathering and analysis),



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- vi. budget.
- vii. communication and engagement strategies (with potential users and beneficiaries of the research).

d) Proposal must indicate the target print journals, papers, magazine or online platforms where the research output might be published.

- Proposals must contain all required information. All information must be current, accurate and complete at the time the proposal is submitted, or, it will not be considered for funding.
- All information provided by grant applicants will be treated as confidential.

Pre-screening criteria

Individual and/or Team*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The individual must have a relevant degree in the specific field of study of the proposed research;• The individual can be supported by research associates / assistants. Fees/salaries for work/tasks carried out by these associates / assistants should be within the acceptable industry compensation and supported by clear terms of engagement.
Research Team*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The team leader must have a relevant degree in the specific field of study of the proposed research;• Team members must have qualifications and extensive experiences in the proposed specific field of study and (at least) one member has published research findings (either individually or as a group).• The track record of all team members supports the proposed research objectives and design.• Capacity to undertake and manage the proposed research is shown.• Evidence of strong people-to-people links with Australia and in-country collaboration with partner institutions and/or private sector organisations.



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Table 1. Assessment criteria

Criteria
Rationale / significance and innovation
Relevance
Research design
Communication and engagement
Budget and value for money

Submitting research proposal

All applications must be submitted via email to alumni@ausatraliaawardscambodia.org. AAC will not consider any submissions received after the prescribed deadline, regardless of reason.

Application components

Research proposals must contain the following information as a minimum:

- A. Abstract
- B. Title of the Research Paper
- E. Research Questions
- F. Rationale/Significance and Innovation
- G. Relevance of Study
- H. Research Objectives with clear success indicators
- I. Research Design and Methodology
- J. Outputs and Deliverables of the Research Project (including potential users and beneficiaries)
- K. Risk Assessment and Management Plan
- L. Communication and Engagement Strategies
- M. Workplan and Budget (describe fund sources and uses if research is co-financed)
- N. Curriculum Vitae of Individual (if Individual) or profile of Organisation and Respective Team Members (if research organisation). This includes performance of key personnel with regards to the quality of research products and publication record
- O. Results of Review of Ethics Committee (if appropriate).



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Expectations from awardees

Aside from submitting the final research paper, awardees are also expected to:

- A. Submit their work to refereed journals;
- B. Publish their work in an open access journal or make pre-publication versions of their work available to their peers;
- C. Present their work in a research colloquium or Knowledge Sharing Series of event/s to be organised by AAC, and
- D. Submit selected outputs to AAC for uploading in Australian Embassy or AAC's website or Facebook page.

Awardees are also encouraged to optimise the use of research findings to help in public discourse and in the development and/or improvement of policy and processes.

Monitoring and evaluation

Successful applications are required to submit the following reports:

- A. A final report based on the outline proposed by the applicant in its proposal.
- B. Conference paper or video recording of research presentation, in case presentation via colloquium is not possible.
- C. Succinct Policy Briefs outlining key findings and policy recommendations.

Successful applications

Successful applicants will sign a Grant Agreement with AAC. Work must commence in the first one (1) month of signing. A delay of more than one (1) month without approval will result in the grant being cancelled. Any funds advanced will have to be returned to AAC within 30 days. Extensions of time will only be granted in unforeseen circumstances beyond the research team's control.

Other Provisions

Fraud Control

Fraud is described as “dishonestly obtaining a benefit by deception or other means”. The scheme strictly adheres to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Fraud Control Policy and the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines with a “zero-tolerance” to any form of fraudulent activity. This means that the scheme will not condone any form of fraudulent behavior in its operations such as payment of bribes, facilitation payments or “hidden” commissions for any reason.



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Child Protection

Organisations or institutions whose applications propose working directly with children must have a clearly articulated and functional child protection policy in place. This policy shall be provided to AAC prior to commencement of the research. The child protection policy shall include procedures for protecting children in the proposed activity, amongst other things, from any potential sexual, mental and physical abuse by staff members or other adults involved in the activity.

Terrorism Financing Risks

All organisations or institutions must make all reasonable efforts to identify and understand the level of terrorism-financing risk that a proposed activity may be exposed to across its entire life cycle. Where a specific risk is identified, necessary actions must be taken to manage and reduce this risk. Grants will not be provided where there is non-mitigated risk of financing terrorism.

Record Keeping

The proponent shall ensure that records including all official forms and templates, minutes of evaluation proceedings and related meetings, reports (progress, mid-term, terminal, and acquittal) are properly maintained and kept. This allows easy and ready access of records should an audit arise.

Further Information

Please contact:

Alumni Engagement Coordinator

Australia Awards Cambodia

Email: alumni@australiaawardscambodia.org

Phone: +855 12 635 306 / +855 15 301 127