



RAA SEED FUNDING GUIDELINES

Purpose

Seed Funding may be provided by Rock Art Australia to suitable applicants to foster the development of innovative, high impact or pilot-scale research projects that align with the RAA priority areas.

The Foundation will consider applications for research that effectively address relevant aspects of the following priority areas:

- Interpret and understand Australia's rock art and the people and cultures that produced it
- Reconstruct past climate and environments
- Understand the production and composition of Australia's rock art
- Understand the durability and resilience of the rock art and how to conserve it
- Establish the antiquity of engraved and pigment art in Australia and understand its variability across space and time
- Establish the chronology of human occupation in Australia in the context of archaeological and genetic data

About Seed Funding from RAA

The RAA seed funding will be provided for research projects that will be normally be undertaken over a 12-month period. Typically, funds available for each project will be around \$20,000, and up to a maximum of \$40,000 in special cases. All requests for funding are to be made through the RAA Seed Funding Application Form and follow the process set out in these Guidelines.

Eligibility

Chief Investigators (CIs):

- Each project must have a nominated CI who is associated with a recognised research institution (e.g. a university or other tertiary education provider)
- The CI will be responsible for the conduct of the project and for submitting a final report.
- If a CI leaves their position during the project, the team will be responsible for nominating a replacement, which could be an existing or a new team member.
- Individuals can be named as a CI on only one application per year.
- Applicants will be deemed ineligible if their report on a previously RAA funded project has not been received.

Replicating/supplementing other funding:

A RAA Seed Grant is not intended to supplement other, current grants held by members of the research team, but may be used as support to obtain additional funding such as through ARC Linkage Projects.

Duration:

Projects must normally be completed within 12 months from the receipt of funds.

Assessment Criteria**Project Team:**

Projects will be assessed on the quality and composition of the project team including the suitability of the skills or networks of team members. The research track record of CIs and other members of the team will also be examined, although the inclusion of an ECR or PhD student will be looked upon favourably. Here, an ECR or “early career researcher” is defined as a person who has completed their PhD within the last 5 years at the application submission date.

Impact:

Projects with demonstrable impact beyond the academic community will have priority; for example, demonstrating how the outputs of the project will be communicated to the broader community, or how stakeholders outside of the academic community will be engaged with the project.

The project will also be assessed to determine the potential for the work to lead to future funding proposals, domestic or international, to grant funding bodies or industrial organisations. Is there scope for further development or expansion by means of coordinated activity by the team?

Project Relevance:

A key criterion is how relevant the proposed project is to the objectives of RAA. Included in this is the identification of and engagement with the relevant key stakeholders.

Project Quality:

The novelty of the topic, the conceptual framework and the method, or design of the proposed research and the track record of the investigators are all important criteria. Is there a single project purpose or unified set of purposes, with outcomes stated accordingly?

Feasibility:

Have the applicants put together a realistic project schedule and with a realistic and reasonable costing?

Use of funds

All RAA Seed funding will be administered by the host organisation of the CI. RAA does not wish to unnecessarily restrict what can be applied for, but budgets must be fully justified to serve the project objectives. Typical examples of supported budget requests might include:

- Employing casual or fixed-term staff to perform a scholarly, operational, or other support roles in the project, including grant development and writing.
- Costs of staging facilitation workshops or similar events (catering, venue hire, equipment hire, facilitator fees, etc.)
- Travel costs (flights and accommodation): modest travel expenses for the CIs and/or

project team members where essential to the conduct of the research.

- Fieldwork support costs, including logistics, field equipment and subsistence.
- Purchase of minor equipment (hardware, software, consumables) if specifically required for the project.
- Analytical costs if specifically required for the project.
- Honours/Masters/PhD student scholarships of up to \$5,000 to support their project.
- Materials for public engagement and dissemination of the research outputs beyond academia (for example, creating a website, a small travelling exhibition, running workshops for the general public or school children).

Application Submission Process

Sign-Off:

All applications should be signed off by the Head of the School or organizational unit to ensure that applicants have the time, resources to conduct the research.

Submission:

All project applications must be submitted by email using the Application Form with any necessary attachments. These are to be emailed as a single file (pdf or Word doc) named in this format: [SURNAME]-RAA-20[YEAR]. Applications are to be submitted to the RAA Office <hello@rockartaustralia.org.au>

Assessment Process

- Applications will be assessed by the RAA Science Advisory Council, who will then provide recommendations to the Board. The Board will make the final decision and applicants notified of the outcome through the RAA Office.
- The SAC reserves the right to seek other expert opinion about an application if it considers that necessary in its assessment.
- The RAA Science Advisory Committee also reserves the right to seek further information from an applicant prior to making a final recommendation.
- The RAA Science Advisory Committee reserves the right to recommend that applications that have overlapping research objectives be combined into a single project.

Conditions of Grant

- The Research Grant should be accepted by responding to the Letter of Offer.
- The CIs must comply with any instructions or conditions in the letter of offer relating to approved items of expenditure.
- The CIs will be responsible for all correspondence relating to the project, will liaise with RAA on administrative matters, and will ensure compliance with reporting requirements.
- The CIs will ensure that research is conducted in accordance with their host institution's policies, including compliance with relevant codes of conduct, policies on human and animal research ethics, health and safety, and intellectual property. The relevant clearances and approvals are required before the project may proceed.
- The CIs are responsible for ensuring that expenditure of grant funds is broadly in accord with the indicative budget submitted in the application, and that expenditure is consistent with the nature and aims of the approved project.

- The CIs will be required to provide a Summary Report of one-page on the outcomes of the project within two months of the completion of the project.
- Project teams may also be requested to present their work to the RAA Science Advisory Committee or at other RAA events.
- RAA reserves the right to use project information for its own reporting and promotional purposes and to feature the project on the RAA website.
- Project teams and members will acknowledge the support of RAA in any publications, presentations or media communications and other promotions relating to the RAA-funded project.

Key Dates

Applications can be made to the RAA Office at any time and will be considered at the next available meeting of the Science Advisory Council.

Enquiries & Contact Details

General Enquiries: hello@rockartaustralia.org.au

or the Chair of the RAA Science Advisory Council, Prof Andrew Gleadow

(gleadow@unimelb.edu.au)

Further information:

The RAA Website <https://rockartaustralia.org.au/what-we-do/apply-for-research-funding/>