UQ HERA Collaborate

Guidance

Description and Purpose

The University of Queensland (UQ) has committed $50million to the HEalth Research Accelerator (HERA) — through this initiative, HERA Programs are delivering collaborative solutions that amplify the impact on human health.

The seven-year investment was made in response to an increasingly challenging global health environment and the opportunity and need to develop a new research model that was far more synergistic and multidisciplinary in its approach to achieve more collectively than what could be accomplished within a traditional research model.

HERA Collaborate has been established to support ambitious research endeavours by HERA Programs/Researchers that are aligned to medium-term outcomes. The aim of HERA Collaborate is to:

- drive impact and translation,
- facilitate meaningful partner engagement and research collaboration
- expand research opportunities available across the HERA's network and UQ research community
- drive ambitious funding pipelines

The intended outcomes from the scheme are for HERA Programs to:

- Co-develop and deliver research programs/projects with meaningful partner engagement;
- Embrace new UQ research collaborative opportunities for knowledge exchange, impact and innovation;
- Engage in research activity to lay the groundwork for research funding pipelines into competitive grant funding, philanthropy, consultancy, and contract research.

Funding Available and Duration of Support

- Applications are invited for funding up to $20,000.
- Funds awarded in 2026 must be expended by 31st December 2027.
- A final summary will be expected as part of HERA annual reporting.

Eligibility Criteria

Criterion Number	Criterion
1	The project must be in connection to a HERA Program research focus area.
2	The project team must include at least one HERA researcher (funded by HERA.)
3	The project team may include up to 10 individuals with at least one new UQ collaborator(s) not currently working in the HERA Program team.
4	The application must contain a planned approach to submit for a large-scale programmatic grant with a 12-month timeline.
5	The project must have the endorsement of the affiliated HERA Program Lead and Head of School/Centre Director.

Budget

Eligible Costs

	Activities supported by HERA Collaborate
Partner Landscape	Collaborative activities with partners – examples provided ▪ Networking events with partners ▪ Knowledge exchange workshops ▪ Collaborative activity to co-produce evidence, and/or mechanisms to ensure the uptake of that evidence
Research and Innovation **Individuals**	Collaborative activities with research collaborators – examples provided ▪ Networking events with national and international collaborators ▪ Hosting a seminar/showcase where researchers from different disciplines exchange ideas and collaborate ▪ Collaborative workshops to co-produce evidence ▪ Workshops to establish cross disciplinary research partnerships
Research landscape	Activities to develop large scale funding opportunities – examples provided ▪ Research strategy/planning days

Ineligible Costs

The following funding items are ***not*** supported under HERA Collaborate:

- The supplementation of projects being funded by other agencies;
- Basic facilities and infrastructure (refer further information below);
- Subsidy of general ongoing salaries and administration expenses.
- Projects which consist primarily or substantially of conference travel;
- Fees of overseas students;
- Grant writing costs;
- Publication costs; and
- Indirect costs.

Areas of Work Not Supported

Funding under HERA Collaborate is not available to any research activities which are purely academic (i.e. a work of art, scholarly investigations, teaching materials or research aids/tools, data compilation.)

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed by the University on a competitive basis and in accordance with the University's research and innovation strategy and with respect to the HERA Collaborate selection criteria. Applications will first be assessed for eligibility, and then considered according to the following criteria:

- Demonstrates alignment to the objectives of HERA and the HERA Program
- Drives impact and translation
- Facilitates meaningful community and partner engagement
- Expands research opportunities available across the HERA's network and UQ research community
- Drive ambitious funding pipelines

Application Process

Submission of Applications

- Applications are to be submitted via Checkbox.
- Applications require a completed Project Proposal document submitted as a PDF or Word document, this is available for download on the HERA website.
- Applications must be submitted by close of business 22nd May 2026.

Assessment Process

Applications will be assessed by a panel consisting of Associate Deans of Research/Deputy Directors of Research, HERA Steering Group representation and the Research Office.

All applications will be assessed against the selection criteria listed above. Each application will be considered on its own merit against all other applications.

Once the final selection of successful applicants has been made, applicants will then be notified of the outcome of their application.

Conflict of Interest

Applications must be consistent with the University's Conflict of Interest Policy (PPL 1.50.11) and its Responsible Conduct of Research Policy (PPL 4.20.01).

Contacts for Assistance

Queries regarding the initiative should be directed to hera@research.uq.edu.au.