

Commercialisation Grant: Application Guidelines

Purpose



Funding research advancement and testing during the early stage of exploration of market potential.

These research grants are designed to support researchers by:

- accelerating the translation of university research into real-world impact while leveraging additional co-funding opportunities and eliminating funding delays; and
- reducing time-to-market by bridging a critical funding gap in the earliest stages of research commercialisation.

It will do this by:

- funding **research** and **research enablers** that help progress early-stage inventions; and
- identification and safe-guarding valuable assets through the application of research and analysis.

Types of projects



- **Early-stage projects:** Early concept stage Invention disclosure through to exploratory stage.

Example: where there is an idea that needs support to prepare it for a KiwiNet PreSeed Accelerator funding (PSAF) application, and the researcher may need funding for further data collection or undertake exploratory experiments to test the idea (proof of concept) in different fields.



- **Exploration development (acceleration):** Support gaps in projects that are in exploratory phase advancing towards preventure development/investor ready stage.

Example: where additional development is required to strengthen a PSAF application case and/or enable targeted proof of concept (data) development/accelerate opportunities for patent development and IP protection or application development beyond PSAF funding.

Who can apply?



Permanent academic staff members of the University.

Fixed-term academic staff, including postdoctoral fellows, whose contracts cover the disbursement period and do not imply full-time commitment to another research project.

Pre-requisites



Applicants need to have either:

- undertaken early engagement with a WUV Commercialisation Manager about the invention and research development field; or
- submitted an Invention Disclosure related to the proposed idea; or
- be in process of submitting an Invention Disclosure with the application.

What can be funded?



Grants are up to \$20,000 per project over 6-12 months for the researcher.

Examples of eligible costs are outlined below:

*All costs will be reviewed with

Commercialisation manager as part of application assessment and budget review.

- Salaries/contracting fees for researcher resourcing for example, postdocs or other technical or subject matter experts *including oncosts. Note: Can not fund applicant's salary
- Equipment, and other assets associated with the research projects/invention development.
- Research consumables.
- Lab or Prototyping development costs to a point of investor-readiness
- Pre-clinical studies (e.g., small animal trials).

Other activities associated with progressing technology research development towards investor readiness.

Note: Researcher would consult with Commercialisation Manager on funding plan, so it integrates into PSAF funding/ project budget

Application process



Applications must be submitted to WUV on the standard form and must include one of the following:

- An outline of the invention /research proposal; or
- A Full Invention Disclosure, or
- A reference to the previously submitted one (see pre-requisites).

Applications initiate engagement with WUV to develop a project pitch (regardless of pathway).

Assessment process



Early-stage projects: Applications will be assessed by the Wellington UniVentures Screening Committee who will make funding decisions. Researchers will be invited to present their projects at an open panel session, led by our Screening Committee, where selected proposals are discussed and reviewed.

Exploration development

(acceleration): Applications will be reviewed by the Wellington UniVentures Investment Advisory Panel at their quarterly meeting and make funding decisions. Researchers will be invited to present their projects with their Commercialisation Manager at the meeting.

Assessment criteria



Applications will be evaluated on:

- Funding contribution to research development?
- Potential Impact: Economic, social, environmental and societal benefits.
- Roadmap to Readiness: Evidence of initial data, feasibility of proposed work.
- Budget & Timeline: Appropriate and justified/ provides enhancement to project delivery.
- Team Capability: Skills and resources to deliver.

Funding conditions



Successful applicants must agree to work on the Commercialisation Plan with WUV if they accept the commercialisation grant.

Questions or wanting to apply?

You can talk to one of the WUV Commercialisation Managers – find their details at

<https://www.wellingtonuniventures.nz/about-us/>

Or email: info@wellingtonuniventures.nz

You can also find the application form at:

<https://www.wellingtonuniventures.nz/our-services/our-investors/commercialisation-grant/>