Thinking of applying for an ALTC Competitive Grant?

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Key dates

Round 1

21 September, 2009  Head of School and Executive Dean endorsed Full Proposals submitted to Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) via ALTCinfo@uws.edu.au
w/o 5 October, 2009  ALTC Liaison Group meets to consider applications
13 October, 2009  Applicant advised of outcome of ALTC Liaison Group consideration
26 October, 2009  UWS Closing Date for submission of Full Proposals under Competitive Grants Program
2 November, 2009  ALTC Closing Date for submission of Full Proposals under Competitive Grants Program

Round 2

19 April, 2010  Head of School and Executive Dean endorsed Full Proposals submitted to Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) via ALTCinfo@uws.edu.au
w/o 3 May, 2010  ALTC Liaison Group meets to consider applications
13 May, 2010  Applicant advised of outcome of ALTC Liaison Group consideration
27 May, 2010  UWS Closing Date for submission of Full Proposals under Competitive Grants Program
3 June, 2010  ALTC Closing Date for submission of Full Proposals under Competitive Grants Program

Funding Priorities

The funding priorities for 2010 are:

- Priority One: Research and development focussing on issues of emerging and continuing importance
- Priority Two: Strategic approaches to learning and teaching that address the increasing diversity of the student body
  Applications for 2010 must address the issues of student diversity directly. Applicants should not assume that projects addressing students are by implication addressing the “diversity of the student body”
- Priority Three: Innovation in learning and teaching, particularly in relation to the role of new technologies

Presenting the Project Full Proposal

1. PROJECT NAME-  No more than 15 words long
   - Clearly describes what the project will be doing
   - Includes discipline or field of study (if appropriate)

2. PROPOSALS - 12 A4 pages (including references) and in 12pt font (exclusive of the Application Form & attachments)
   - 160 word abstract
   - Project Outcomes and Rationale - Clearly articulate outcomes and develop a clear argument demonstrating how the project will address one of the Competitive Grants Program priorities and contribute to the enhancement of learning and teaching in higher education. (NB. The application will be assessed against others identifying this priority. It is no advantage to indicate that the application meets more than one priority.)
   - Approach the Project will take- Include:
     - A strong theoretical framework
     - A set of strategies which is considered, coherent and appropriate to the outcomes the project is designed to achieve
     - An approach that is in general alignment with the commitments of the ALTC
     - Plans for the dissemination/embedding of the successful strategies and outcomes that are integrated within the project design
   - Value/Need for the Project - Include:
     - Potential usefulness of the project and its outcomes to the higher education sector as a whole, particular kinds of organisations within the sector, and/or the development of national approaches or policies related to learning and teaching in higher education
     - Ways in which the project both utilises and advances existing national and international knowledge relevant to the program priority or priorities
     - If appropriate to the project, strategies to assess the scalability and sustainability of the model or process proposed
   - Project Management and Budget - Include:
     - A thorough approach to project management with information including processes and structure underpinning the management of the project, how the project team will establish a clear vision, clear goals, financial and staff management, and evaluation strategies
     - Budget justification appropriate to the project outcomes and importance
     - An allocation of $3000 for attendance at ALTC events
Applying for an ALTC Competitive Grant 2010

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Budgets can include:

- Salaries, and on-costs (28%)
- Teaching relief – max $35,000 per year per institution associated with a project, with a letter of agreement from the relevant Head of School
- Dissemination activities
- Travel associated with the project's conduct and/or dissemination
- Technical and expert support, evaluation and resources essential to the conduct of the project
- Up to 10% for administration costs and overheads
- Commissioned independent evaluation for projects >$150,000

Budgets cannot include

- Building works (including the purchase, construction, lease, renovation or fit out of premises)
- Purchase of motor vehicles
- Purchase of assets unless in exceptional circumstances specifically agreed to by the ALTC (Restriction includes computers, small digital devices etc which should be provided by the institution/s as a contribution to the project)
- Travel not directly related to achieving the outcomes of the project
- General recurrent funding

An Evaluation Framework

Name and endorsement of the PVC (Learning and Teaching)

For collaborative projects – type of collaboration, the project collaborators and their anticipated contributions

Attachments:

- Letter of endorsement from PVC/DVC (Academic) or equivalent of partner institutions (for collaborative projects)
- A budget and a timeline (limit 4 A4 pages in total). See ALTC website for the budget format.
- The qualifications and experience of the project leader(s) and project team (limit 3 A4 pages). The statement on the project leader/s should include a list of all current projects, research, and fellowships and give an estimate of the time that the leader/s can contribute to the proposed project. Project teams are encouraged to include one or two early career academics as substantive members of the project team.
- A design brief (1 page) of design specifications for applications proposing technological developments, addressing the following:
  - User interface and useability issues - a brief site map or story boards (if the proposal includes website design); user scenario; or
  - Technical design specifications - the functionality, sustainability and scalability of what is being proposed; the technical expertise available to the project team; and availability of required technology/infrastructure

Applications proposing software development should aim to develop open-source software

Reporting Requirements

- Regular Performance Reports (Progress Reports) signed by PVC (Learning and Teaching)
- Comprehensive Final Report signed by PVC (Learning and Teaching) - including Financial Statement re acquittal of funds (or at agreed milestones for projects in excess of 1 year) and documenting ways in which the program outcomes have been met (see ALTC website 'Grants and Projects/Managing your Project')

Submission of Full Proposals

- Directly via ALTC online grants application system (see www.altc.edu.au ‘Grants & Projects/How to Apply’ for more information).
- Include completed Application Form (see sample of the Application Form and guidelines for its completion at www.altc.edu.au Grants & Projects/How to Apply).
- If problems are experienced in submitting an application, contact ALTC Grants Scheme staff immediately on the phone contact provided.
- All applications will be receipted automatically. An email receipt, including an application reference number will be despatched within 3 business days. If a receipt of application is not received please ring the phone contact provided.
- The documents should be named as follows: program.institution.contact.year. For the Competitive Grants Program, please use ‘cg’ to indicate the program e.g. cg.uws.sinclair.2010. If the computing program used does not support a document name of this length please abbreviate but retain the elements.
- Applications must be received by 5pm (AEST) on the closing date. An application that does not meet the deadline for application may not be considered. A delay in receiving a response to a request for information will not be considered a valid reason for a late application unless the request for information was received at least 7 days before the application date. (Reference: ALTC (2009). Competitive Grants Program Guidelines and Supporting Information 2010)