1.0 Background and objectives

The Monash-Warwick Strategic Funding Initiative supports the development of the joint research and educational collaboration between Monash University and the University of Warwick, enabled via a joint fund established by the two universities. The initiative is intended to support the mutually beneficial growth in the research and teaching excellence of both institutions, and it has been established with the intention to support initiatives that combine complementary aspects of each institution towards novel research and educational outcomes.

2.0 Funding available

The Monash-Warwick Strategic Funding Initiative (hereafter MWI) will support proposals up to a maximum of AUD40,000/GBP20,000. In 2010, a maximum of AUD200,000/GBP100,000 will be available in total, with activities to take place anytime before 14 September 2011. These grants will be allocated through a competitive selection process. Funding will normally be available to any activity for up to one year only, though a second year may be possible for selected projects if the selection committee deems this to be essential and if key intermediate project milestones have been met. Funding is intended to cover the reasonable direct expenses of the activity proposed and a budget that details these expenses is required with the application.

Funding may be provided in the following forms subject to the maximums above, unless separately specified below:

(i) For early stage collaborations, travel and hosting costs to support a planning meeting. This meeting must produce a collaboration plan that addresses the focus and mode of collaboration, and a plan for gaining funding to support this.

(ii) For collaborations at a more advanced stage, funding may be provided to support a workshop aimed at producing a joint publication, a joint grant application or another specific ‘deliverable’ such as joint teaching units.

In addition to (i) or (ii) described above:

(iii) Funding may be requested in this application towards a follow-up visit or visits between the institutions after the meeting or workshop described at points (i) and (ii), provided a clear justification is given. Follow-up visits must be made before 14 September 2011, the cost incorporated within the maximum funding amount identified above, and details of expenses related to the proposed follow-up visit(s) included in the budget. Funding for approved follow-up visit(s) will be released following the submission of a satisfactory brief interim report following the planning meeting or workshop.
Applicants should note that Monash University and the University of Warwick have recently established a High-Definition video link that, taking in to account various logistical considerations, is capable of supporting virtual seminars and lectures. In addition, high-definition video-conference suites will be available to support standard small group meetings and presentations (groups up to 8-10). Applications that indicate a willingness to use these facilities to supplement, accelerate or extend the project are welcomed.

Projects funded in the 2009-10 round may be considered for further funding by the selection committee if there is (i) clear and demonstrated progress – for example, this might take the form of joint papers or book chapters submitted for publication, joint external funding applications already submitted or which will by submitted by 31 October, 2010, or joint teaching units prepared; and (ii) the project has high prospects for becoming self-sustaining and/or to underpin a major strategic external funding bid. Applications for further funding should be made using the application form and accompanied by a report of the first year of the project, detailing progress made to date.

2.1 Purpose of funding and allowable expenses

The funding is provided to support the development of joint programmes in research and teaching. Activities proposed must have clear objectives that could include generating external funding support, increasing higher degree research students under joint supervision, joint teaching initiatives, acceleration of research via access to special equipment or expertise, professional development of researchers and/or the establishment of cross-institutional research teams.

Costs eligible for support include economy class travel and accommodation\(^1\), and in the case of a planning meeting or workshop arranged in furtherance of these objectives, reasonable venue catering costs.

Participants from third institutions may participate in activities where this is critical to the success of the project. Under normal circumstances these participants must cover their own costs. In the case of participants from developing nations this practice may be varied at the discretion of the selection committee.

Meals and incidentals will not be covered by this fund where they are not part of the formal programme\(^2\). Other costs that will not be covered include:

- teaching/relief teaching or other costs relating to the absence of staff from their home institution for the purposes of discussions supported by this initiative
- Website development (except where this will provide a direct platform for educational and research collaboration)
- Salary supplementation, honoraria or related expenditure
- Salaries for Research Assistants
- Scholarships for students

\(^1\) Based on a reasonable market rates for a business standard hotel in the proposed location and at the normal standard approved by the host institution.

\(^2\) Breakfast provided as part of an accommodation rate is an acceptable expense provided total costs remain within budget.
Course fees for students

Travel to attend fee-based conferences or symposia

Costs of projects undertaken between administrative or services arms of both universities

Infrastructure and equipment costs

2.2 How to apply

Principal investigators/teaching programme leaders from both institutions should submit a single joint proposal, concurrently to Melinda Pipan (Melinda.Pipan@adm.monash.edu.au) at Monash and Marie Smithers (M.A.Smithers@warwick.ac.uk) at Warwick by Wednesday 15 September 2010, using the pro-forma application form supplied. Scanned copies of signed documents are acceptable to facilitate submission by email.

A clear agenda for discussions in the proposed area must be submitted as part of the application. Meetings proposed may be held at Monash or Warwick, or at another location if this is of clear relevance to the proposed collaboration.

2.3 Eligibility and requirements:

2.3.1 Project leads on both sides must be permanent or fixed-term academic staff of Monash University or the University of Warwick. Honorary staff are not eligible.

2.3.2 A minimum of two staff should be involved from each side.

2.3.3 Applications must be endorsed by either the relevant Department Head, or Dean at both institutions.

2.3.4 Activities already fully funded via other sources are not eligible for support.

Cross-disciplinary proposals are encouraged, and applicants must explain the importance/novelty of the project within its field or in terms of the challenges it seeks to address.

Applications must be jointly submitted with a project leader nominated on both sides.

2.4 Selection Criteria:

A Monash-Warwick Joint Selection Committee will be established to review bids and recommend projects to be funded. In assessing applications for funding under the Monash-Warwick Strategic Funding Initiative, the Committee will take into account the following:

a. Technical merit i.e. the importance/novelty of the project within its field or in terms of the challenges it seeks to address.

b. Strategic merit/alignment. The selection committee will be guided by these considerations:
   o how the project advances the interests of both institutions
   o the presence of a clear case of complement/synergy
   o funding potential (e.g. demonstrated fit with funding priorities of funding bodies identified as targets by the applicants)
3.0 Reporting

Successful applicants must submit a report on the grant activities to the Head of Institutional Relations at Warwick and the Manager, European Engagement, Office of International Engagement at Monash, within one month from the end of the event, and no later than 14 September 2011. The report should include a list of participants and a summary of key outcomes and planned follow-on activities.

4.0 Common Research Area of Interest

Areas of focus welcomed under this fund include:

- Multidisciplinary approaches to health improvement and healthcare innovation.
- Advanced materials and green chemistry
- Business, economics, entrepreneurship and commercialisation
- Migration and diasporas
- The humanities, including history, creative writing and languages
- Applications of new teaching and learning technologies
- ICT
- Social Sciences

Applications in other areas that make a clear case in terms of the selection criteria above are welcome and will be considered on merit.

5.0 Applications

Applicants are asked to submit their bids using the form available from the relevant Monash or Warwick websites (see 7.0 below).

Applications for projects submitted by Monash and Warwick staff will then be forwarded to the joint Monash-Warwick joint Selection Committee for assessment.
In order to be considered for a Monash-Warwick Strategic Funding Initiative Grant, the application must have the full support of the relevant Head of School/Department or Dean at both institutions.

Not more than ONE application per round will be considered from each applicant. If a grant awardee does not hold an appointment with Monash/Warwick for the proposed duration of the project, a letter from the Head of School/Department must be included, which clearly describes how the collaboration will be continued for the duration of the project.

Applications must be submitted by Wednesday 15 September, 2010. Further bids will not be accepted after this date.

6.0 Submission Deadline for Reports

The final date for submission of reports is 14 September, 2011.

7.0 More Information / Contacts

Warwick University

- Mrs Marie Smithers, PA to Head of Institutional Relations, International Office
- Email: M.A.Smithers@warwick.ac.uk or Tel: +44 (0)24 7652 3814
- Website for University of Warwick staff: [http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/international/staff/relations/resources/monash-warwickfund/](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/international/staff/relations/resources/monash-warwickfund/)

Monash University

- Ms Melinda Pipan, Project Officer, Office of the DVCGE
- Email: Melinda.Pipan@adm.monash.edu.au or Tel: +61 3 9905 0909
- Website for Monash University staff: [https://secure.monash.edu/odvci/index.php/Monash-Warwick_Strategic_Funding_Initiative_2010-11](https://secure.monash.edu/odvci/index.php/Monash-Warwick_Strategic_Funding_Initiative_2010-11)