FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH OR RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

University of Sydney funding opportunities

1. **International Program Development Fund (IPDF)**
   The International Program Development Fund (IPDF) provides catalyst funding to University of Sydney academics to support initiatives in internationalisation. The aim is to foster international partnerships in research, teaching and learning, capacity building and other areas with high profile partners in priority areas. In this context it is especially important to assist early career researchers to establish international networks that will lead to sustainable long-term collaboration. Applicants are encouraged to submit funding applications for innovative and sustainable programs built around collaborative research and/or learning and teaching initiatives linking the University with the world’s leading academic institutions.

   Assessment criteria include:
   - academic quality and impact of partner institution(s)
   - sustainability
   - relevance
   - innovation

   Grants are normally allocated annually and should be spent within two years of allocation. The maximum amount that applicants can apply for from the IPDF is $20,000 per grant. [http://sydney.edu.au/international/ipdf.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/international/ipdf.shtml)
   Next round to be announced in early April 2015

Australian Government funding opportunities

1. **The Australia-India Council (AIC)**
   The Australia-India Council’s purpose is to broaden the relationship between Australia and India by encouraging and supporting contacts and increasing levels of knowledge and understanding between the peoples and institutions of the two countries. The Council initiates or supports a range of activities designed to promote a greater awareness of Australia in India and a greater awareness of India in Australia, including visits and exchanges between the two countries, development of institutional links, and support of studies in each country of the other. The Council offers support, in the form of funding, for projects likely to contribute to the development of the relationship, within the context of AIC objectives and guidelines.

   The Australia-India Council (AIC) welcomes funding applications from individuals and organisations in Australia for projects which are likely to promote long-term contact and cooperation between Australia and India. AIC grants are intended to provide seed funds for innovative proposals relevant to the mission and goals of the Council.

   The Council gives priority to projects in the following areas:
   - Arts, culture and heritage (including indigenous arts and culture)
   - Education
   - Social initiatives (limited to sport, public health and gender)
   - Science, Technology and Design (focusing on resources and energy, agriculture, environment, urban development, civil space and fashion)
- Public Policy Activities (focusing on economic and strategic analysis and the media)
- Tourism.

The AIC will generally consider grants between $20,000AUD and $50,000AUD. AIC grant applications must be submitted using the online grant application linked to the webpage.

Individuals and organisations from India are not permitted to apply directly to the Council for funding assistance. If the project has an Australian partner, that partner should apply for the funding assistance. Individuals or organisations from India who do not have an Australian partner must contact AIC India to discuss their proposal. Applications from Indian individuals and organisations will only be accepted if forwarded to the Council by AIC India.

The 2014-15 AIC grant round has now closed. This grant is expected to continue in 2015-16, however a date is yet to be confirmed for the opening of future grant rounds. 

2. The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF)
The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) was established in 2006 to facilitate and support science and technology research cooperation between Australia and India. The fund assists Australian researchers from both the public and private sectors to participate in leading edge scientific research projects and workshops with Indian scientists and supports the development of strategic alliances between Australia and India. Grant rounds are held annually.

Under this scheme the Australian Government will provide $20 million AUD over the next four years. Generally, grants between $20,000AUD and $50,000AUD are awarded. Funding is provided to support a number of activities including travel to India by Australian researchers, salaries for research assistants and PhD students and bench fees.

Projects have been permitted to span up to two years, and total funding per project has been up to $200,000AUD.

The AISRF comprises two funds:

i. Indo-Australian Fund for Scientific and Technology Cooperation (Indo-Australian S&T Fund)
The Indo-Australian S&T Fund is jointly administered by the Australian Department of Industry and the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST). The Australian and Indian governments jointly determine priority areas for each round of the Indo-Australian S&T Fund. All applications must fall within one of the priority areas. Most recently, the priority areas have been ‘water management’ and ‘agricultural research’.

ii. Indo-Australian Fund for Scientific and Technological Cooperation in Biotechnology (Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund)
The Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund is jointly administered by the Australian Department of Industry and the Indian Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Most recently, applications for the Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund have been open only to previously successful applicants who received funding for collaborative research projects under the Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund. This criterion may change in the future and priority areas may once again be established for future rounds.

Please refer to the website for updated information when applications open for Round 9 in 2015.
3. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Opportunities

The recent re-structure of Australia’s policy framework for international development has introduced a new strategy for international aid and an updated grants program. This new aid strategy has a sharper geographic focus directed on the Asia-Pacific region, particularly South East Asia and The Pacific.

The new strategy focuses on two development outcomes. First, there is a focus on supporting private sector development. Australian support will strengthen the private sector in our partner countries through improving the business enabling environment, and helping create better functioning markets. A second focus of the new program is to strengthen human development. Australian support will improve education, health, gender equality and women’s empowerment which are considered essential to both building a skilled and competitive workforce and lifting living standards.

Innovation is a core ideal of the updated aid strategy with $140 million AUD scheduled for investment to encourage innovative development solutions.

From 2014-15 Australian Aid will have a sharper geographic focus than before, with at least 90 per cent of country aid to be directed at the Indo-Pacific region, particularly South East Asia and the Pacific. This includes: India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, The Solomon Islands and The Pacific Islands. The relative allocation of funding resources amongst the identified target countries is yet to be determined.

Please note that Australia has phased out bilateral aid to India. This corresponds with the Indian Government’s preference to receive aid from fewer and larger donors, as well as encourage smaller donors such as Australia to channel their aid through multilateral and non-government organisations. There will be no allocation of bilateral aid in 2014–15, however, Australia will continue to provide targeted assistance through multilateral organisations and regional or global programs where we can make a difference to poor people. Cooperation with India through the South and West Asia Regional program aims to enhance technical cooperation to improve water, food and energy security.

DFAT has the following funding schemes in place:

i. **Government Partnerships for Development Facility (GPFD)**

   The GPFD program provides funds to eligible Australian public sector organisations to support economic growth and poverty alleviation in developing countries in the Indian Ocean, Asia and Pacific Regions. This scheme is open to Australian applicants but with an overseas partner only. Generally, all countries with which Australia has an existing development partnership are eligible partners for the GPFD, available here: [http://aid.dfat.gov.au/countries/Pages/default.aspx](http://aid.dfat.gov.au/countries/Pages/default.aspx)

   However, DFAT states that “Published lists of eligible countries for Australian aid purposes are not definitive” and “potential applicants should contact the GPFD Secretariat to determine if a particular country is eligible” (Source: GPFD Guidelines 2014/15 round).

   GPFD funding is also available to assist developing countries to implement the development agendas of high-level intergovernmental organisations such as, but not limited to, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), East Asia Summit (EAS), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Pacific Islands Forum (PIFs), Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC) and G20 initiatives supporting developing countries.
This program is designed to facilitate partnerships between Australian public sector organizations and their developing country counterparts to enable exchange of skills, experience and knowledge in support of Australia’s aid program objectives outlined in the June 2014 report titled ‘Commonwealth of Australia, DFAT, Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability’.

The GPFD wishes to support partnerships that encourage innovation and new approaches to addressing development challenges and partnerships that are clearly meeting a development need in the relevant developing countries.

Activities may include training programs, a series of seminars and workshops, secondments and internships, peer to peer exchanges, and applied policy research. Long-term, in-country deployments of Australian public sector personnel (six months or more) are generally not encouraged, unless integral to the activity’s success, due to the high cost of such deployments. Activities funded under GPFD have to be ODA eligible, that is, have the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as their main objective.

To be successful potential activities for GPFD funding must complement Australia’s foreign, development and trade priorities in the relevant developing countries and proponents will need to demonstrate a strong return for Australia’s aid investment in the particular activity.

The minimum total grant is $0.5 million AUD over the life of the activity, and the maximum $3 million AUD. Activities may run for a minimum of one year up to a maximum of three years. The estimated level of funding to be offered in 2014-15 (Round 2) is $20 million AUD, and for 2015-16 (Round 3) is $30 million AUD.


ii. Australia Awards
The Australia Awards are prestigious international scholarships and fellowships funded by the Australian Government that aim to contribute long term development needs of Australia's partner countries, in line with bilateral and regional agreements. The Australia Awards are a whole-of-government initiative bringing together scholarships and fellowships administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade the Department of Education and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), offering the next generation of global leaders an opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia and for high-achieving Australians to do the same overseas.

a. Australia Awards Scholarships
Australia Awards Scholarships provide opportunities for people in developing countries to undertake full-time undergraduate or postgraduate study at Australian institutions. The study and research opportunities provided by Australia Awards Scholarships develop skills and knowledge of individuals to drive change and contribute to the development outcomes of their own country. Award recipients are required to return home for two years after they have completed their studies, so they can contribute to the development of their country.
b. Australia Awards Fellowships

Australia Awards Fellowships offer Australian organisations, from all sectors, the opportunity to deepen and broaden their links with leaders and professionals in developing countries. Fellowships are for current and future leaders and mid-career professionals, who will be in a position to advance priority foreign affairs and development issues. Fellowship activities are aimed at providing high-quality training, exchange of expertise, skills and knowledge, and opportunities to enhance networks on issues of shared interest. Activities can include a combination of short-term study and/or training, professional development, networking and work experience. Grant funding of up to AU$35,000 per Fellow is offered on a competitive basis to Australian organisations to host Fellows from eligible countries. http://aid.dfat.gov.au/australia-awards/pages/fellowships.aspx

4. Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

ACIAR is a statutory authority that operates as part of the Australian Aid Program. The centre encourages Australia’s agricultural scientists to use their skills for the benefit of developing countries and Australia. ACIAR funds research projects that are developed within a framework reflecting the priorities of Australia’s aid program and national research strengths, together with the agricultural research and development priorities of partner countries. The functions of ACIAR are:

- Commission research into improving sustainable agricultural production in developing countries
- Fund project related training
- Communicate the results of funded research
- Conduct and fund development activities related to research programs
- Administer the Australian Government’s contribution to the International Agricultural Research Centres.

ACIAR has a long history of leading and contributing to programs in South and West Asia. The centre has a strong relationship with both the Government of India and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). ACIAR believes that given the large capacity of the Indian agricultural research system, there would be significant benefits from long-term Australia–India science partnerships to deliver technologies for the future farmers of Australia. Those interested in working with ACIAR should contact the relevant ACIAR program managers.

The following funding opportunities are currently offered by ACIAR:

i. John Allwright Fellowship

The primary aim of this Scheme is to enhance research capacity in ACIAR’s partner country institutions. This fellowship is focused on postgraduate studies that are based on research work being carried out under a collaborative research project in which the awardee is engaged prior to taking up the award. ACIAR invests $AU 2.3 million annually on this program. http://aciar.gov.au/training/jaf

ii. John Dillon Memorial Fellowship

The John Dillon Memorial Fellowship aims to develop leadership skills in the areas of agricultural research management, agricultural policy and/or extension technologies. This is achieved by providing exposure to Australian agriculture across a range of best-practice organisations involved in research, extension and/or policy making. Eight to ten Fellowships are offered annually. http://aciar.gov.au/training/JDF
International funding opportunities

1. **MacArthur Foundation**
The International Programs focus on international issues, including human rights and international justice, peace and security, conservation and sustainable development, girls’ secondary education in developing countries, and population and reproductive health. MacArthur grantees work in about 60 countries; the Foundation has offices in four focus countries: India, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia. Please refer to the current MacArthur Foundation Guidelines to learn more about the specific areas in which they are currently accepting grant-inquiries: [http://www.macfound.org/info-grantseekers/guidelines-funding-cycles](http://www.macfound.org/info-grantseekers/guidelines-funding-cycles)
The value of grants varies; in 2013 The Foundation provided a total $228 million USD in grant funding. There are no fixed deadlines for grants.

2. **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**
The Gates Foundation awards the majority of its grants to U.S. 501(c)(3) organizations and other tax-exempt organizations identified by our staff. The Foundation makes grants in the following areas: Global Development Program, Global Health Program, Global Policy and Advocacy. The Foundation accepts concept memos for grants in specific Global Health Initiatives, which include: Enteric and Diarrheal diseases, Malaria and Pneumonia. The Foundation does not make grants outside their funding priorities, however, does occasionally award grants through published Requests for Proposals (RFPs) or letters of inquiry. As of 2014 a new investment process and tools has been introduced which has impacted the format of applications, please refer to the website for updated submission guidelines. The Gates Foundation provided $3.4 Billion USD in grants in 2013. [http://www.gatesfoundation.org/How-We-Work/General-Information/Grant-Opportunities](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/How-We-Work/General-Information/Grant-Opportunities)

3. **Department for International Development (DFID)**
DFID is the UK Government agency responsible aid development. DFID provides funding to the following South Asian Countries; India; Nepal; Bangladesh and Afghanistan. DFID regularly offers a number of grant opportunities; the value of grants, eligibility requirements and application process are specific to the grant that is being sought. DFID works in 28 countries around Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Examples of DFID funding opportunities include:

i. **The Global Innovation Fund**
The Global Innovation Fund (GIF) is a non-profit foundation that invests in social innovation with the aim of improving the lives and opportunities of people in the developing world. The Fund values innovative thinking to find the “best approach” to solve current major developmental problems in low- or lower-middle income countries. Grants can range from GBP 30,000 to GBP 10 million. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with no specific deadline to apply.
[http://www.globalinnovation.fund](http://www.globalinnovation.fund)

ii. **Scholarships and fellowships for citizens of Commonwealth countries**
The Citizens of Commonwealth Countries (CSC) grants include over 900 scholarships and fellowships for postgraduate study and professional development each year. Selections are made on the basis of academic merit, development impact, and quality of the study plan. These are offered only to citizens of Commonwealth countries; different grants are allocated for well-developed and less-developed countries. The funding value and closing dates differ based upon the applicants nationality and competencies.
iii. **Community Led Infrastructure Finance Facility**
This programme works with local partners to build self-reliant Community Development Enterprises (CDEs) that are capable of creating sustainable settlement, shelter, sanitation and services solutions. This bridges the gap between the existing local government and market provision and the needs of the urban poor. The amount of funding available is expected to be over US$ 1.6 million. The CLIFF programme is designed for organisations with the potential and ambition to become effective Community Development Enterprises (CDEs). To date such organisations have largely been NGOs and not-for-profit social enterprises working in the urban development sector. [https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/community-led-infrastructure-finance-facility#amount-of-funding-available](https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/community-led-infrastructure-finance-facility#amount-of-funding-available)

Please refer to the following website for all currently open funding opportunities in India: [https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding?keywords=&fund_state%5B%5D=open&location%5B%5D=india](https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding?keywords=&fund_state%5B%5D=open&location%5B%5D=india)

4. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**
The ADB’s headquarters is based in Manila, and was established in 1966 to promote social and economic development to countries in the region through loans and technical expertise. It comprises 67 member countries, including 44 developing countries from Asia Pacific. The ADB is an international development finance institution whose mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. India: The proposed program for 2012–2014 marks a significant step up in investments for livelihood promotion and sustenance, especially through water resource management, human resource development, and efficient infrastructure services. [http://www.adb.org/countries/india/main](http://www.adb.org/countries/india/main)
The ADB funds are outlined here: [http://www.adb.org/site/funds/funds](http://www.adb.org/site/funds/funds)

5. **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**
OECD promotes policies that will improve economic and social well-being of people around the world. The OECD provide a forum for governments to work together in order to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change. The OECD, differs from many international organisations in so far as it has no financial resources for loans, subsidies or grants. However, the OECD hosts a unique sponsorship program – the Research Programme on Biological Resources in Agriculture, see: [http://www.oecd.org/tad/crp/](http://www.oecd.org/tad/crp/)
For more information on the OECD’s mission and projects in India, see: [http://www.oecd.org/india/](http://www.oecd.org/india/)

6. **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**
UN is an international organisation that works on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, to promoting democracy, human rights, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations. The UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. UNDP funding opportunities are available here: [http://www.undp.org/](http://www.undp.org/)

The UNDP Small Grants Program (SGP) has a dedicated mission to India, see: [https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_countrypages&view=countrypage&country=2&Itemid=204](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_countrypages&view=countrypage&country=2&Itemid=204)

The UNDP SGP eligibility criteria for prospective grantees are available here: [https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=274&Itemid=209#.VDdYvWeSySo](https://sgp.undp.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=274&Itemid=209#.VDdYvWeSySo)
7. World Health Organization (WHO)

The WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends. WHO believes that in the 21st Century, health is a shared responsibility, involving equitable access to essential care and collective defence against transnational threats.

The following funding opportunities are currently available:

i. Global Fund for TB

Part of the Global Plan to Stop TB 2011-15, the Global Fund is the most important source of external funding for TB control in countries constituting up to 70% of external funding. The total grant funding to support TB management strategies is US$ 350 million over five years, to be distributed amongst all successful grantees. The budget of a grant proposal to the Targeted Funding Pool cannot exceed US$ 5 million for the first two years and US$12.5 million for five years. [http://www.who.int/tb/dots/planningframeworks/gf_proposals/en/](http://www.who.int/tb/dots/planningframeworks/gf_proposals/en/)

Apart from applying for grant funding, there exists an opportunity to partner with the WHO TBTEAM in order to get Technical Assistance support for implementing TB management programs. [http://www.stoptb.org/countries/tbteam/partnerApply.asp](http://www.stoptb.org/countries/tbteam/partnerApply.asp)

ii. Tropical Disease Research

There exist opportunities for collaboration around research on the vulnerability of preventative chemotherapy of helminth infections to emergence of drug resistance. There are two projects and five calls for grants proposals. The total available funding pool is US$ 660,000. Applications close 30th November 2014. [http://www.who.int/tdr/grants/research_activities/en/](http://www.who.int/tdr/grants/research_activities/en/)

8. USAID

USAID is the lead U.S. Government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realise their potential. It has the twin goal of furthering America’s foreign policy interests while improving lives in the developing world. The focus areas of USAID are: promote economic prosperity, strengthen democracy and good governance, protect human rights, improve global health, advance food security and agriculture, improve environmental sustainability, further education, help societies prevent and recover from conflicts, and to provide humanitarian assistance in the wake of natural and man-made disasters.

USAID is currently supporting the following in-country priorities within India:

- Education, Innovation and Partnerships
  - The Read, Engage, Achieve, Dream Alliance (READ Alliance) is a new partnership within the centre for Knowledge Societies (CKS) that harnesses the resources of the public and private sectors and broader education community, to improve the reading skills of millions of primary school-age children in India.
  - The Millennium Alliance is a multi-million dollar India - U.S. public-private partnership that leverages Indian creativity, expertise, and capital to source and scale locally developed innovations that can benefit vulnerable populations across India and the world. Launched by USAID, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and the Government of India Technology Development Board, and implemented by FICCI, the Alliance links
Indian innovators with seed financing in six major development sectors: maternal and child health, family planning and reproductive health, early grade reading, clean energy, water and agriculture. ICICI Bank and Foundation, UKAID, and ICCo India recently joined the Alliance.

- **Energy, Environment and Global Climate Change**
  - The interagency Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE) effort, includes USAID, the U.S. Departments of Commerce, the Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency. The USAID-led Deployment Component (PACE-D) is a five-year bilateral program that will work in three areas: improving end-use energy efficiency; increasing the supply of renewable energy; and accelerating deployment of cleaner fossil fuel technologies.

- **Health**
  - Working with the Government of India to support a partnership with the Indian National AIDS Control Organization. USAID is focusing on prevention among Most-at-Risk Populations, identifying and responding to needs at the national, state and district levels.
  - Supporting the Government of India’s Revised National TB Control Program. Interventions include: improving and scaling comprehensive HIV/TB services; strengthening and accrediting intermediate reference laboratories for diagnosis of Multi Drug Resistant TB; improving airborne infection control; introducing new diagnostics; and increasing involvement of private providers.
  - Supporting The Government of India’s National Polio Surveillance Project, which conducts high quality surveillance, provides technical advice for immunization activities and strengthening laboratories, and builds a network of volunteers to educate and mobilize communities.

- **Agriculture and Food Security**
  - Focuses on three areas: agriculture development innovations, share and transfer agricultural knowledge and innovation, build institutional and human resources capacity.

- **Crisis response**
  - Providing ad hoc support following a disaster.

The following funding opportunities are currently available:

1. **India Partnerships Annual Program Statement (APS)**

   USAID/India is particularly interested in working with the Indian private sector. This includes non-traditional partners such as: 1) private businesses, 2) business and trade associations, 3) foundations, 4) financial institutions, as well as more traditional non-profit, non-governmental organizations and for-profit development firms. To be eligible, all partners must be legally recognized entities organized under applicable law. Individuals are not eligible. The amount of funding available has not been specified. Applications close September 30, 2015.


USAID regularly advertises funding opportunities to facilitate international cooperation with India. Please check the website for updates when opportunities become available: [http://www.usaid.gov/india/work-with-us/partnerhip-opportunities](http://www.usaid.gov/india/work-with-us/partnerhip-opportunities)