



ACT-UC Innovation Vouchers Guidelines

Aim	<p>The objective of the Innovation Vouchers program is to drive opportunities for collaboration between UC and business, particularly SMEs. The program seeks to promote innovation through demonstrating to business the value of collaborating with, or using the services of, UC. It will support collaborations which will lead to deeper relationships between UC and business in the future.</p>
Proposal	<p>The program will be offered for an initial trial period of 12 months. For the trial, each of UC and the ACT Government will contribute funds for the vouchers. Funds will also be made available for the administration and marketing of the program. The contributions are as follows:</p> <p>UC: \$100,000 towards innovation vouchers</p> <p>ACT Government: \$100,000 towards innovation vouchers.</p>
Who Can Apply?	<p>In order to be eligible, companies must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be registered• be operating in the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CBRJO)• have been in operation for at least one year• be able to fund the co-contribution (see below)• have the right to use any existing intellectual property necessary to conduct the project or activity
Value	<p>Vouchers from a minimum of \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$35,000 will be awarded.</p> <p>Vouchers will be paid on achievement of agreed milestones.</p> <p>The program will remain open for the 12 month trial period with vouchers being awarded on an ongoing basis during this time.</p>
What Can Vouchers be Used For?	<p>Innovation vouchers will be valid to fund projects to be undertaken at UC – the voucher value and the company cash contribution will be spent at UC on the resources required to undertake the project for the company. They may be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• fund access to time and support on specialist equipment or facilities based at UC• fund product or process design or validation activities• conduct feasibility, prototyping, or field testing studies• gain access to research or scientific expertise• gain access to marketing, strategy, policy or communication skills• conduct development projects using one or more students and an academic



**Project
Disciplines**

supervisor

- analyse potential markets and customers using advanced statistical and mapping techniques
- data development and/or analysis
- develop an experimental plan or feasibility study
- initiate a research project or trial in partnership with UC
- support a research project that arises from or will lead to an application for an Accelerating Commercialisation, Innovation Connections (Cth) or Innovation Connect (ACT) grant or similar leveraging arrangement

Businesses can leverage grants received through other grant programs to access voucher funding.

UC has expertise across a range of discipline areas, including:

Art and design	Education	Public Health
Architecture	Science	Sport and Exercise Science
Building and Construction Management	Pharmacy	Accounting
Communication and Advertising	Medical Science	Marketing
Media and Public Affairs	Biomedical Science	Law
Public Relations	Environmental Science	Information Systems Management
Film Production	Forensics	Banking
Graphic Design	Network and Software Engineering	Financial Services
Heritage, Museums and Conservation	Information Technology	Business Administration
Industrial Design	Statistics	Event and Tourism Management
International Studies	Counselling	Human Resources,
Interior Architecture	Medical Radiation Science	Hospitality Management
Journalism	Midwifery	Public Sector Management
Landscape Architecture	Nursing	
Media Arts and Production	Nutrition and Dietetics	
Sports Media	Occupational Therapy	
Web Design	Pharmacy	
Writing	Physiotherapy	
	Psychology	



Co-Contribution

Businesses must contribute an amount equivalent to the value of the voucher to the funded project/activity.

At a minimum, 25% of the value of the voucher must be in cash. The remainder of the value can be contributed in-kind (eg through staff time, cash equivalent goods). In-kind contributions must be negotiated and agreed with UC as part of the application process and will require verification of contribution.

The total size of the project will be discuss as part of scoping it. It will be a balance between the desired outcomes, resources required to achieve it and the company's ability to fund its cash and in-kind contributions.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Potential for the project or activity to lead to the development of a deeper relationship with UC (ie follow-on activity)
2. Relevant expertise, facilities and capacity exists at UC
3. Project or activity demonstrates a high level of innovation leading to the development of a product or service with strong commercial potential
4. Business either has secured or demonstrates strong potential to leverage the voucher for further follow-on through other funding sources
5. Project or activity will contribute to Canberra region development
6. Need for voucher funding is well demonstrated

Application and selection process

1. SMEs that are interested in the scheme should complete and submit an expression of interest: <https://www.canberrabusiness.com/business-support-programs/>.
2. Each EOI will be reviewed by UC. Where this review indicates that there will be a good fit between the Company, proposed project and UC, a member of UC's Innovation and Engagement team will contact you within two weeks of submission to make a time to discuss your proposal with you. Unsuccessful EOI applicants will be notified.
3. SMEs who submit strong proposals will liaise with the Innovation and Engagement team and key staff at UC to develop an application for consideration by a committee comprising representatives from UC, ACT Government and an independent.
4. SMEs will be advised of the outcome of their application and successful SMEs will be asked to enter into a contract with UC.

Formal Agreement and Intellectual Property

The business must be prepared to enter into a formal agreement with UC.

Unless otherwise agreed with UC, it is anticipated that businesses will own the intellectual property developed through the funded project or activity.

Timeframe

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis over the trial period between November 2016 and August 2017.