The Academic Development Group of the College of Business will coordinate a Research in Learning and Teaching (RiLT) Scheme in 2010. The College will provide a total fund of $60,000 to distribute to proposals that meet the RiLT criteria and selected on a competitive basis by a panel of peers and senior College learning and teaching representatives. Project grants shall not exceed $10,000 per grant or School.

RiLT Scheme Objectives

RiLT grants are intended as seed funds to allow academic and teaching staff to plan and implement an improvement to their students' learning experience and outcomes through a one semester project and then leverage these into larger university Learning and Teaching Investment Fund (LTIF) or Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) competitive grants.

Applicants are encouraged to take an action research approach, to identify an area for improvement or teaching challenge in their current courses and programs and then to plan, implement, evaluate and reflect on a change in their teaching practice.

The outcomes of the project include a plan for sustained change and the results will be disseminated to colleagues across the college and university. A final report will be submitted to the College Executive. Project teams are also encouraged to prepare a conference paper or a peer reviewed article for an educational journal on the project findings in the proceeding year.

The broad aims of the Scheme include:

- Fostering an evidence based and reflective approach to teaching practice
- Supporting a culture of the scholarship of teaching in the College
- Enabling academic and teaching staff to build a research profile in learning and teaching
- Providing a framework for continuing professional development in teaching
- Strengthening good teaching as reflected by indicators such as the CES
- Seed funding to develop proposals for the LTIF and ALTC grants schemes

Selection Criteria

RiLT proposal should satisfy the following criteria:

1. **Evidence** - need for an improvement or change in teaching practice to address student learning experience and outcomes aligned to one RiLT priority area should be well evidenced. Does the project provide convincing or compelling evidence of the need for change?

2. **Innovation** - articulate an innovative strategic response to the identified need including consideration of sustainable outcomes. Is the project concept original?

3. **Coherence and Feasibility** - a coherent and feasible project plan to deliver on project objectives by December 2010. Are the project needs, approach and goals well aligned and achievable within the given time and funds?
4. **Evaluation and Dissemination** - a process for evaluating and disseminating project outcomes. How will the project progress be checked and what instruments will be used to determine whether the goals have been met? How will the project findings be shared among colleagues across the college, university and education sector?

5. **Value for money** - budget items aligned to the project plan and justifiable. Is the funding request a good return on investment for the College?

**Educational Issues**
Themes for RiLT proposals may address any of the following suggested educational issues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment and feedback</th>
<th>Curricula and resource innovations</th>
<th>Generic skills and attributes</th>
<th>Internationalising the curriculum</th>
<th>Learning support</th>
<th>Student engagement and motivation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effective approaches to authentic assessments and timely and useful feedback. This might include approaches to work integrated learning assessments, multi-discipline projects and problem based assessments and formative feedback processes and approaches.</td>
<td>Development and integration of curriculum materials and technologies to enhance learning. This might include emerging learning technologies, learning activities or materials tailored to diverse learning preferences, strategies for dealing with content complexity.</td>
<td>Strategies to develop and embed learning activities to foster generic employability skills such as problem solving, analysis, team work and communication, or the university’s graduate attributes such as global and intercultural competence, environmental and social awareness, and innovative and active learning.</td>
<td>Designing curriculum, learning activities and assessments for the international context. This might include Dual Hub collaborative projects, Offshore teaching models and approaches and Global Passport</td>
<td>Models to support the development of students' academic skills or to address special learning needs. This might include first year transition, mentoring, opportunities for Indigenous education, English language skills, support for articulation, counselling and disability support.</td>
<td>Enhanced student learning experience to improve engagement and motivation. This might include strategies related to large classes, learning spaces, simulations or game based learning, flexible or online learning and blended learning.</td>
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**RiLT Project Team Responsibilities**
Each successful RiLT proposal will be coordinated by a project leader from the academic or teaching staff of the College of Business. This person will be the lead name on the project application.

The project leader is expected to:
- Organise and coordinate a project team. Cross-discipline and cross-school teams are encouraged.
- Attend the application information session and methodology workshop in semester 1, and participate in two project progress seminars in semester 2
- Draft and submit an ethics application by 4 June 2010
- Conduct research with their team, finalising their project plan by end of semester 1 2010 and implementing and evaluating a change in teaching practice in semester 2, collecting and analysing data from participating students in semester 2 2010.
- Ensure that the project is conducted in line with the approved project proposal and design.
- Submit a one page progress report and budget update by 31 August 2010
- Submit a final project report including evaluation by 20 December 2010
- Presenting a seminar for the College L&T seminar series 2011 or as a panellist at the L&T Forum.
- Developing an LTIF or ALTC grant proposal for the second stage of the project.

**Academic Development Group Responsibilities**

The Academic Development Group commits to:

- Providing an application information session
- Giving advice to intending applicants.
- Coordinating a transparent and timely selection process on a competitive basis and providing feedback on unsuccessful applications.
- Administering the RiLT Scheme and proving opportunities for professional development in learning and teaching research.
- Organising a seminar series or L&T Forum in the following year for RiLT teams to share their findings.
- Assist in the development of second stage applications to the LTIF or ALTC grants funds.
- Provide a project liaison in the Academic Development Group for consultation on project progress if required.

**Funding Arrangements and Use**

Funding arrangements for the RiLT Scheme will be through periodic payments to the hosting Schools in two parts, 80% by 30 June 2010, and the remaining 20% by mid September 2010 contingent on the submission of the progress report and budget update.

The Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) reserves the right to review project progress and expenditure with the hosting Head of School and cease funding if the project team fails to meet commitments.

It is recommended that applicants consult within their schools during the planning phase regarding release from teaching if required for data analysis and the writing stages of the project. A combination of using casual staff for some time release and only a portion of research assistance may support staff to get the most out of the RiLT experience.

RiLT funds may be used for the following:

- Staffing including salaries and wages associated with the conduct and implementation of the project.
- Project materials and supplies including all non-staffing expenses associated with the daily management and administration of the project may be given
• Project activities that may require additional resourcing include hosting events such as focus groups or workshops related to the project, a specially invited consultant or trainer/facilitator required to meet project goals. These must be consistent with College policies, procedures and systems.

RiLT funds DO NOT support the following:
• Conference attendance, or travel
• Program renewal or normal school activities and processes
• Payment for publication

Submission Guidelines
Applications should be emailed to stuart.whitman@rmit.edu.au by 5pm Friday 30 April. The application cover should be submitted in PDF format including required signatures and the application form in Word format. Proposals should be no more than 5 single sided A4 pages including the cover sheet in Arial 11pt.

2010 RiLT Scheme Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RiLT Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Applications Open</td>
<td>Wednesday 31 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Information Session</td>
<td>Friday 9 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications Close</td>
<td>Friday 30 April</td>
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<td>Selection Panel Meets</td>
<td>Friday 7 May</td>
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<td>Outcomes Announcements</td>
<td>Monday 10 May</td>
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<td>Orientation Workshop</td>
<td>Friday 14 May</td>
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<td>Ethics Application Submitted</td>
<td>Friday 4 June</td>
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<td>First Funding Allocation (80%)</td>
<td>Friday 2 July</td>
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<td>Project Progress Seminar 1</td>
<td>Friday 27 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Progress Report and Interim Budget Report</td>
<td>Tuesday 31 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Funding Allocation (20%)</td>
<td>Friday 17 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Progress Seminar 2</td>
<td>Friday 29 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Report and Evaluation Submission</td>
<td>Monday 20 December</td>
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For further information contact the College RiLT Coordinator Stuart Whitman at ext 51532 or stuart.whitman@rmit.edu.au