Community Research Grants

Guidelines and Application form 2011
About the Fellowship Program

The Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Program was developed in 2001. It is a community-research fellowship program which encourages and supports community-led research projects that have merit and potential to make a significant contribution towards the sustainability of the Western Victoria region and surrounds. The term “community” is not defined exclusively by geographic region, but also includes communities of interest, occupation, history, language, and others. Sustainable development may include any one or a combination of economic, social, cultural, educational or environmental benefits.

New research grants are open to community members and or community groups. We particularly welcome cross-disciplinary applications and requests for joint collaborations with both local and international researchers and or research institutions. The grants build community capacity in undertaking research by providing an opportunity for collaboration and new learning. For community members and or community organisations, it is an opportunity to lead and determine what is valuable to research from their perspective and to access the research expertise of the research partners.

For the research partners, it is an opportunity to work with community on local issues and provide contribution to emerging ideas and responses to the research itself.

Proposals go through a rigorous selection process prior to selection and funding through the RMIT University Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Foundation.

About the Fellowship Projects & Research

The Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Program undertakes various projects that address issues relevant and timely to the Western Victoria region and its communities. We aim to develop socially-inclusive projects that lead to effective and responsive community-based approaches to questions of community sustainability and well-being.

Our projects are structured in various ways: for example they may be in the form of a research report that summarizes current evidence for more compelling presentations; or they may be developed as collaborative partnerships to achieve various outcomes. Applications may have implications in respect to RMIT University’s Code of Ethics. Applications that fall within this category will be required to go through an Ethics Submissions Process prior to consideration by the selection panel (for example, if they include interviews, taking photographs). The Fellowship office will provide assistance for this process and submission.

All grant recipients are required to acknowledge the support of their project through the Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowship Program. This includes signage, invitations, posters, advertising, internet sites, reports, books and any other promotional material related to the funded project. A logo is available on request from the Fellowship office.

Click on the link below for details of current and past Fellowship projects. Outputs from past projects in the form of reports can also be found in this website:

http://www.rmit.edu.au/globalism/communityformation/handburygrants

Priority areas for 2011 applications

- Economy and livelihoods
- Community health
- Cultural diversity
- Food security
- Ecology

About Guidelines for Application

The Fellowship supports

- Travel and or research expenses associated with the project (conference travel will not normally be supported unless a special case is made).
- Accommodation expenses associated with the project.
- Materials and resources for research
- Time release or a stipend

The Fellowship will not support the purchase of capital equipment.

The Fellowship program is not intended to provide supplementary support for ongoing Masters or PhD candidates.

Projects will normally be expected to be undertaken over a period of up to twelve months and may be undertaken either part-time or full-time.

The amount of funding available for any one Fellowship will vary according to the need and scope of the project but is expected to be up to $10,000. A proposed budget is required as part of the application and the Selection Committee reserves the right to modify budgets when considering the applications.

**Outcomes of the Fellowship will be:**

Opportunities to present and discuss emerging ideas and contributions to local sustainability throughout the life of the research project

Increased confidence and capability of community members and or community organizations in formulating research applications

Increased community-based research, evaluation, development and innovation

Development of new cross-sectoral, local-global collaborations and partnerships that contribute to information, exchange and new opportunities for the region

Establishment of a network of community research fellows to build on existing relationships between local organizations, community groups, services, researchers and research institutions

**How to Apply**

To apply for a Grant of $10,000 or less, please complete the application form. The form will need to be accompanied by a detailed budget that describes the items for which fellowship funding is sought.

**Submitting Application Forms**

Your completed application form must be submitted to the Fellowship Office no later 5pm on the closing date of applications. Late applications will not be considered for funding.

Applications may be submitted by:

**Post**
Dr. Yaso Nadarajah, Senior Research Fellow
RMIT University
Globalism Research Centre
Building 37, Level 5, Room 35
411 Swanston Street
Melbourne, VIC 3001

**E-mail**
yaso.nadarajah@rmit.edu.au

**Further information**
Tel: 03 9925 2684 (Fellowship Office)
Applications must contain the following information

1. Project Title
   (150 characters or less):

2. Details of Applicant(s):
   Name(s) of individual(s) or organisation(s)

   Please attach relevant information and resumes where applicable

   Postal Address:

   Tel: (mobile)

   Tel: (work/home)

   Fax:

   Email:

3. Partners (if applicable)

   Please attach relevant information and resumes where applicable.

4. Intended Start Date:

   Anticipated End date:

5. Total Funds Requested $ 

6. Which of the following themes does the project address (please tick):

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<th>Economy and livelihoods</th>
<th>Food security</th>
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<tr>
<td>Community health</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
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<td>Cultural diversity</td>
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7. Project Details

Project description
In two pages or less, please describe the project to be funded. Provide also a short background as to why this research is being conducted as well as partnership that will inform key aspects of your research project.

Proposed activity, timelines and cost
Please outline the key activities you intend to undertake, as well as proposed timelines and costs

Outcomes
What outcomes do you expect at the end of the Project?

Risks
Describe any potential or actual risks to the Project? Are there any conflicts of interest, or potential conflicts of interest that you need to notify the Fellowship Office?

Fellowship Acknowledgement
Pending the success of your application, please indicate how you wish to acknowledge the Fellowship’s contribution in your communication materials?

Please attach the project budget and ensure that it clearly describes the items which you are seeking funding for and any ‘in-kind’ contribution.

8. Applications

All applications (2 copies), marked Handbury Fellowship, should be sent to:

Dr. Yaso Nadarajah (Handbury Fellowship Coordinator)
Globalism Research Centre
School of Global Studies, Social Science & Planning
RMIT University
Building 37, Level 5, Room 28
411 Swanston Street
Melbourne, VIC, 3001

By close of business Friday 10 June 2011
(Applications will only be returned only if requested)
Potential applicants may seek further advice from:

Dr. Yaso Nadarajah  
Senior Research Fellow  
Globalism Research Centre  
School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning  
RMIT University  
Building 37, Level 5, Room 28  
411 Swanston Street,  
MELBOURNE VIC 33001

Phone: (03) 9925 2684 (Fellowship Office)  
Fax: (03) 9925 3049

Email: yaso.nadarajah@rmit.edu.au