Faculty of Informatics Research Development Scheme (FIRDS)

Researchers within the Faculty of Informatics have access to funds to support their research through many sources external to the Faculty and University as listed in appendix A. However, most of these sources have a lower limit on the amount of funds that can be applied for.

Most staff members are members of research strengths or groups, which provide another source of funds. The Schools within the Faculty may also provide limited financial support for research. However, the amount of funds available through these sources is such that most staff will only have access to quite small amounts.

In an attempt to fill the gap between these sorts of funding the Faculty has established a Faculty of Informatics Research Development Scheme (FIRDS). Key features of the scheme are:

- Maximum amount for any proposal is $5000.
- It is expected that the average amount awarded for applications will be $2,500.
- Total funds available in 2005 are $50,000.
- Applications can be made at any time, but it is expected that approximately equal amounts will be allocated each quarter.
- A decision on applications will typically be made in a 2-week period.
- Applications should be made to the Associate Dean (Research) with a recommendation from the relevant Head of School and the relevant research strength or group leader.
- The Faculty Research Committee will assess applications, usually by email.

There are no specific inclusions or exclusions for the scheme. It is expected that staff members will seek funds from other sources, especially senior and well established researchers. The type of applications that the scheme is designed to support includes:

- Newly appointed staff in the first 3 years of appointment
- Early career researchers, in the first 3 years after being awarded a PhD
- Staff undertaking a PhD
- Specific initiatives and activities
- Near miss grants on URC small grants, ARC Discovery and Linkage. (See appendix B)
- Quality grants
- Project development grants
- International and industry linkage development

Guidelines for expenditure on Faculty Research Development Scheme Funding (FIRDS)

In general, FIRDS funding should be spent in accordance with the aims and research plan contained in the FIRDS Application Form, or any approved
revised budget, aims and research plan submitted. Expenditure must be authorised in accordance with University delegations.

The following are some recommended expenditures but are not limited to:

a. Material and consumables  
b. Workshops, seminars, shared software  
c. Summer scholarship/other schemes  
d. Track record improvement  
e. Grant edition schemes  
f. Collaborations  
g. Support for novel, innovative projects  
h. Support to developing or high performing small research groups

The following expenditures are excluded from:

a. Conference registration/travel cost for academics  
b. Desktop computers for academics for general use  
c. General phone/photocopier office charges  
d. Top-up awards for PG scholarships  
e. Pay for any form of teaching, marking relief/materials

In general, applications for funds for conference attendance will not be rated highly. Applicants will be limited to being part of one successful application in any 12-month period, excluding near miss grants. No applications are needed for near miss grants as these will be considered automatically.

All applications must make it clear how it advances the research programme of the individual(s) concerned and the research strength or group in which they are located and why other sources of funding cannot be used. Research output relative to opportunity will also be considered in the assessment. An application form is attached.

Successful applicants will be required to provide a brief 1 page report on how the funds were used and what outcomes were generated.

The scheme will operate initially on an experimental basis and be reviewed after the first 12 months of operation.

Appendix A: Summary of Major Sources of Research Funding

National Competitive Grants  

- ARC Discovery Grants
- ARC Linkage Grants
- NHMRC
**University Research Grants and Support**  

- URC Small Grant Scheme
- URC Near Miss Grant Scheme
- Research Infrastructure Block Grant (RIBG) Pool 2
- HDR Scholarships; APA, UPA, IPRS, Matching  
  (see: [www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/student/scholarships/prospective-holders.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rsc/student/scholarships/prospective-holders.html))
- Study Leave Assistance Grant  
  (see: [www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/staff.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/staff.html))

**Appendix B: FIRDS Near miss grants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ARC Discovery</th>
<th>ARC Linkage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>Industry partner funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 10% of unsuccessful</td>
<td>URC Near Miss Grant</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 30% of unsuccessful</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>