

# Improvement Grants Information

Revised January 2020



## Purpose

Improvement Grants support quality improvement projects that propose solutions to challenges faced by the University either as a whole or in part and encourage the development and sharing of good practice. Projects may take a variety of forms including benchmarking, enhancement initiatives, interventions, pilots or other innovative endeavours.

The fund is not for supporting activities that should be part of the normal course of work of a department or service area.

## Point of Focus in 2020

The Cycle 6 Academic Audit focuses on teaching, learning, support and outcomes for students. It places emphasis on evidence that demonstrates embeddedness of good practice and outcomes of those practices. Cycle 6 incorporates an Enhancement Theme topic: *Access, outcomes and opportunities for Māori and Pasifika students*.

Projects which support the Academic Audit focus will receive special consideration.

## Application Process

The Improvement Grant process is managed by the Quality Advancement Unit and an application form may be downloaded from the Quality Advancement Unit's website at: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/quality/grants/index.html>.

Applications must be approved by the relevant Head of Department or Area and/or Dean or Director (if applicable) and by the relevant Pro-Vice-Chancellor or Divisional Head prior to submission to the Quality Advancement Unit.

After the closing date, all applications will be considered by a group convened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), including members of the Quality Advancement Committee and the Director, Quality Advancement.

The Quality Advancement Unit will notify applicants of the outcome.

## Application Criteria

- Grants are capped at \$10,000 per project (but there is no minimum).
- Applications are encouraged for projects that do not fall naturally within the bounds of other University funding sources, such as CALT Grants.
- The expectation is that projects will be completed within 12 months. Note: expenditure against successful grants in the Service Divisions must fall within the calendar year in which the award is granted.
- The Cycle 6 Academic Audit Framework is organised into five sections. Successful applications will align with one or more of those sections. The sections are as follows:
  - A. Leadership and Management of Teaching and Learning and Academic Quality.
  - B. Student Lifecycle, Support and Well-being.
  - C. Curriculum, Assessment and Delivery.
  - D. Teaching Quality.
  - E. Supervision of Postgraduate Students.
- Successful projects will also align with one or more of the strategic imperatives in the University's [Strategic Direction to 2020](#) and have the potential to benefit the wider University.

## Application CLOSING DATE

The Improvement Grant round closes on **Friday 6 March 2020**.

## Reporting Information

At the completion of an Improvement Grant project, the Project Leader must submit a Final Report to the Quality Advancement Unit. For more information about this aspect of the process see the Final Report Information

The Final Report and Information Forms can also be downloaded at <http://www.otago.ac.nz/quality/grants/index.html> .

## Contact for Enquiries

If you have any further questions about the Improvement Grant process, please contact:

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