



SMALL EQUIPMENT AND RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT SCHEME GUIDELINES

1. Overview

Sydney Cancer Partners (SCP)

Sydney Cancer Partners (SCP) was formed under the auspices of Sydney Health Partners (SHP) in 2021 following the award of a Cancer Institute NSW Translational Cancer Research Capacity Building Grant.

The goal of SCP is to foster a culture of innovative, collaborative research, embedded across the full spectrum of cancer care, with a clear aim of improving cancer outcomes. It brings together over 800 cancer researchers and clinical teams from across the University of Sydney, 11 affiliated medical research institutes, 16 major public and private hospitals and health precincts in north, west and central Sydney and in rural and regional NSW.

2. The SCP Small Equipment and Research Capacity Building Infrastructure (SERCI) Grant Scheme

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the SCP SERCI Grants is to promote the NSW Cancer Plan (2022 – 2027) goal of investing in research infrastructure.

Proposals should be aligned to the principles of [translational research](#) promulgated by the Cancer Institute NSW, and the SCP goal of improving cancer outcomes.

2.2 Objective

The objective is to support SCP members to complete internationally competitive translational cancer research projects by improving access to specialised research equipment or software.

2.3 Expected outcomes

It is expected that equipment / software purchased under this scheme will demonstrably facilitate the timely completion of competitive translational cancer research and promote development of research capacity by supporting the efforts of students, early and mid-career cancer researchers and successful grant applications.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Eligible Equipment and Research Infrastructure

Purchases that may be funded through this scheme include:

- New or replacement laboratory equipment, or an upgrade to existing equipment,
- New or replacement equipment needed for clinical research, or an upgrade to existing equipment,
- Software products or licences.

Funding is not available for general use computers, computer access or data storage. Funding is not available to meet personnel or professional consultation costs.

3.2 Applicants

- Applications should be submitted by a single Chief Investigator (CI). Other researchers supporting the application should be listed as Associate Investigators (AIs).
- The CI and all named AIs must be SCP members. Early and Mid-career Researchers are encouraged to apply. Students cannot be named as CI or AI.
- The CI on a successful 2025 SCP SERCI Grant application is **ineligible** to be CI on a 2026 application but may be listed as an AI.
- The CI must be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or have requisite work visas in place to enable purchase of the equipment, and its use as described in the Application.
- A CI can only submit one Application. A CI may be named as an AI on another Application(s).
- Multiple applications may be submitted by CIs from a single host site. However, the SCP Steering Committee will give consideration to the distribution of available resources across its membership footprint if more than one application is ranked for funding from a single site.

3.3 Host Site

- Equipment / software purchased under this scheme must be located at and/or accessed via a [Sydney Health Partners \(SHP\) member institution](#).
- The host site must comply with requirements for equipment purchase detailed in Section 29 of the [Cancer Institute NSW Competitive Grants Agreement](#). Note that the end of the funding period is 30 June 2026 in this instance.

4. Support available

- Applicants may request funds to purchase equipment, software or software licenses with a **total purchase cost** of up to \$50K (excluding GST). There is no minimum cost request.

5. Application process

- A completed SCP SERCI Grant Scheme Application Form must be submitted by email to sydneycancerpartners.admin@sydney.edu.au before the application deadline.
- Mandatory attachments to the Application Form are:
 1. A 4-page CI curriculum vitae,
 2. A letter of support from an authorised officer of the host site using the template provided,
 3. A written quotation from the vendor that fully justifies the funding request.
- Incomplete or ineligible applications will not proceed to review.

6. Evaluation criteria

6.1 Need (40%)

The requirement for, and proposed use of the equipment software.

6.2 Research Impact (40%)

Potential for the equipment / software to accelerate research progress and / or improve competitiveness.

6.3 Track Record (10%)

Track Record of the CI relevant to the proposed use of the equipment / software.

6.4 Sustainability (10%)

A clearly explained plan for usage and maintenance of the equipment / software at the host site.

7. Conditions of Award

Grant administration

The SCP SERCI Grant Scheme is funded by a Cancer Institute NSW Capacity Building Grant (CBG) awarded to SCP in 2021 and administered by the University of Sydney. Funds awarded to successful applicants will be administered by the University of Sydney following completion of the University's administrative process requirements.

Use of funds

The use of research funds must be consistent with terms of the [Cancer Institute NSW Competitive Grants Agreement](#). These include that funds awarded cannot be used for any purposes associated with basic (e.g., desk, stationery, phone etc.) or overhead infrastructure costs (i.e. institutional overheads or administrative levies). Funds should not be used to support research conducted outside of NSW.

Commencement date

Successful applicants must expend all funds awarded by **30 June 2026**. No extensions are possible.

Reporting Requirements

In July 2026, a written report must be provided that will allow SCP to fulfil its reporting obligations to the Cancer Institute NSW. This must include proof of acquisition of the equipment / software, details of its usage and contribution to research projects described in the application. A template will be provided.

SCP contribution

Successful CIs must commit to a reasonable level of participation in SCP procedural committees, education and promotional activities as a condition of the award.

SCP Acknowledgement

SCP SERCI Grant recipients are required to acknowledge support from SCP and the Cancer Institute NSW in research presentations and publications arising from research supported by the scheme.

Key date

Applications open	9 February 2026
Applications close	5pm, 9 March 2026
Notification of outcomes	By 10 April 2026

Enquires

Enquires can be submitted by email to: sydneycancerpartners.admin@sydney.edu.au