

# Onemda PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Scheme 2026

## Eligibility

This funding scheme is designed to provide financial support to early- to mid-career\* (Level A-C) Onemda staff and professional staff. Staff (excluding Honorary) and students are eligible to apply.

Activities eligible for funding include attendance and/or presentation at in-person or virtual conferences, and other professional development opportunities, which include online training or relevant skill development courses. Payment for any supported events must be made in the current calendar year.

## Funding available

Onemda will consider applications up to a maximum of **\$3,000** (including flights and associated costs) understanding that some requests may be local and not require this level of funding.

Should the available funds be exceeded by application requests, applicants without other sources of funding or who have not received funding in previous Onemda funding rounds will be prioritized. Onemda will always aim to provide equal funding/support for staff and/or students from each Unit (with consideration for their size/staff numbers). Unit funds may need to be utilized if Scheme funding has been exhausted.

## Application Timing

Round	Applications Open	Applications Close
1	2 March 2026	30 April 2026
2	1 July 2026	31 Aug 2026

A third round may be offered in Oct 2026 if funds are available.

We understand that professional development opportunities may fall outside the above timelines. Staff should aim to submit within these timeframes, however ad hoc applications may be considered.

Applications will be reviewed by the Onemda Director and the Research and Grants Committee.

## Application Process

Staff/students should complete an application form and submit via email to Ruth Hentschel, Centre Administrator [ruth.hentschel@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ruth.hentschel@unimelb.edu.au).

Applications are awarded based on merit, and should address the following:

- Event Details - purpose & dates
- Benefit/value - to the research program and/or the applicant's career development
- Budget - please itemise flights, accommodation, registration, associated costs etc.

## Allocation of Funds (if successful)

There are two options for allocation of funds after funds have been allocated:

1. Staff/Students pay the professional development costs personally and arrange reimbursement via Workday
  2. Related bookings (flights, accommodation, registration etc) are paid on UOM Purchasing Card.
- For both options, Meg Cox (Centre Manager) will provide the Workday account details for coding the expenses.
  - Please avoid paying expenses from existing project funds that require reimbursement to the project.
  - All funds awarded must be spent/reimbursed by 31 December of the year they were awarded. Expenses cannot be paid for in the following budget year.

For further information please contact [Meg Cox](#) or Ruth Hentschel.