

Symposium – 11-12 August 2026

Masterclasses – 13 August 2026

## PGCS Research Grant Program Guidelines - 2025

### Mission

The Project Governance and Controls Symposium (PGCS) is a not-for-profit organisation focused on expanding knowledge of the governance, management and control of projects, programs, and portfolios in Australasia and rewarding excellence in research. A core component of our mission is the funding of research into aspects of project, program, and/or portfolio, governance, management and/or control in the Australian context.

### Purpose

To achieve this mission, PGCS:

1. Runs an annual **Symposium** supported by **Masterclasses** in Canberra each August:  
<https://www.pgcsymposium.org.au/>
2. Usually offers **research grants** to researchers based in Australia.

***Research proposals are invited from academics, researchers and/or practitioners based in Australasia.***

The **PGCS Walt Lipke Research Grant** for 2025 proposal is set at:

- **AUD \$20,000 (GST inclusive)** for Stage 1, and
- **AUD \$20,000 (GST inclusive)** for Stage 2,  
for a **total amount of AUD \$40,000 GST inclusive** (where GST is applicable).

Future grant maximum amounts are determined based on the success of the PGCS symposium and masterclasses each year and awarded annually.

### Eligibility Criteria

The PGCS Research Grant for the PGCS 2025 research proposal is available to any academic or post graduate researcher (including PhD candidates), and/or practitioners based in Australasia.

For administrative purposes, the grant will be awarded to an individual lead researcher (the applicant). The applicant may prepare this application and undertake the funded research:

- As an individual
- Under the supervision of, or with the assistance from, more senior academics or industry practitioners
- As part of a collaboration involving other researchers either within the applicant's university, between universities, and/or involving industry and/or practitioners based in Australasia.

### Selection Criteria

Submitted research proposals will be competitively assessed by the PGCS Academic Review Committee against the following selection criteria:

- The degree to which the research proposal addresses the contemporary major project delivery challenges, research topics of interest and research proposals and criteria in

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the research proposals sections in the **PGCS Research Proposal for 2025**, available online.

- The grant recipient agreeing:
  - To present a report on their findings at the annual Project Governance and Controls Symposium held in Canberra,
  - For the research presentation and report to be made available for publication on the PGCS website.
  - For the PGCS 2025 research proposal:
    - A report on the interim findings and presentation at the PGCS 2026 symposium is required at the completion of Stage 1
    - A final report with the research findings and presentation at the PGCS 2027 symposium is required at the completion of Stage 2.
  - Authorisation to undertake Stage 2 of the research will be conditional on the completion of Stage 1 of the research to the satisfaction of the PGCS Directors.

## How to Submit the Application

1. The research grants for 2025 will close on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025**.
2. All applications are to be completed using the:
  - a. Application form provided online
  - b. Proposal form provided online.
3. An electronic copy of the application form and all supporting documents must be submitted to PGCS at [pgcs@consec.com.au](mailto:pgcs@consec.com.au) by close of business on the due date.

**Late applications and those that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria may be accepted at the sole discretion of the PGCS Academic Review Committee.**

All applications must include the signed declaration of the applicant accepting their responsibilities as defined in these guidelines.

## Research Grant Assessment Process

The PGCS Academic Review Committee is responsible for the assessment of all grant applications. The process for review is as follows:

- Applications received by the closing date are forwarded to the Coordinator of the research grants after receipt
- An email letter of confirmation will be sent to acknowledge all applications received.
- A copy of all eligible research proposals will be provided to members of the PGCS Academic Review Committee for a double-blind assessment using the specified criteria
- The panel's recommendations together with a full copy of all eligible applications are provided to members of the PGCS Board of Directors to approve the award of any grant, or grants
- All applicants will be advised by email of the outcome of their application by **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025**
- Successful applicants will be announced at a suitable PGCS event and a PGCS communique

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- Successful applicants will be required to attend the PGCS Symposium in Canberra on completion of their research to present their final report,<sup>1</sup> and
  - It is at the discretion of the PGCS Academic Review Committee to recommend whether all or part of the allocated funds will be awarded to applicants. The decision of the PGCS Board of Directors is final and binding.

### **PGCS 2025 Research Grant Assessment Criteria**

Applications for grants will be competitive. Selection will be determined by the rigour and practicality of the research proposal.

Each research proposal submitted is assessed based on the following elements of the grant application:

- Degree to which the research proposal addresses the:
  - Contemporary major project delivery challenges described in section 1 of the **PGCS 2025 Research Proposal**, available online
  - Research aims will be achieved (section 2)
  - Proposed research questions will be answered (section 4)
  - Conformance to the recommended research methodology (section 5).
- Quality, relevance and recency of the literature review and background to the proposed research
- Adequacy and feasibility of the research design
- Consideration of any ethical issues, and
- The contribution of the PGCS grant towards enhancing or enabling the research.

### **Responsibilities of Successful Research Grant Applicants**

All recipients of awards must sign an agreement as part of their application stating that they will comply with the following terms and conditions:

- A written report will be provided to the PGCS Committee within two months of the completion of the research for presentation at the next PGCS Symposia. The report must include:
  - Title of the research
  - Investigator details
  - Brief research outline
  - Brief background to the research
  - Aims and objectives of the research
  - Research methods
  - Summary of analysis and findings; and
  - Conclusions and recommendations.
- A separate financial report detailing all expenditure of the grant, budget, and actual is to be provided on request.
- Recipients agree to disseminate the outcomes of their research through publication on the PGCS website and presentation at the next annual PGCS Symposia \*.

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<sup>1</sup> The successful applicant for the PGCS 2025 Research grant will be required to provide an interim report on the findings at present at the PGCS 2026 symposia to complete Stage 1 of the research project.

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- The PGCS recognises that during the course of many research projects, circumstances change and sometimes a variation to the research design is necessary. If the recipient wishes to make changes to their research design after the grant has been awarded, the Chair of the PGCS Academic Review Committee must be notified.
  - The PGCS must be acknowledged on all printed material and at all presentations associated with the grant.

**\*Note:** PGCS publish presentations, reports and papers under a Creative Commons licence, the authors retain all other rights. We recognise that on occasions, and depending on the nature of the research, this may not be appropriate. If there are potential issues relating to secrecy, security and/or intellectual property please include the restrictions in an addendum to your research proposal.

## Allocation of Funds for Research Grants

Payment of monies will be made at the following times:

### Stage 1

- On award of the grant 40% of the Stage 1 amount awarded
- Interim Stage 1 report 40% of the Stage 1 amount awarded
- Presentation at the PGCS 2026 Symposium 20% of the Stage 1 amount awarded

### Stage 2

- On PGCS authorisation to proceed with Stage 2 of the research 40% of the Stage 2 amount awarded
- Final report 40% of the Stage 2 amount awarded
- Presentation at the PGCS 2027 Symposium 20% of the Stage 2 amount awarded

It is expected that the research will be completed within 24 months of the first payment of monies. The Chair of the PGCS Academic Research Committee should be notified of any significant changes to the timeframe proposed.