

Global Victoria EdTech Innovation Alliance.

powered by EduGrowth

Application and Grant Guidelines

Prepared
22 September 2021

Luke Seacombe
Program Manager

0413 527 197
luke@edugrowth.org.au



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Glossary

Program: The Global Victoria EdTech Innovation Alliance stream under the Victorian Government International Research Partnership program. The program stream supports projects that support partnerships between Victorian Edtech companies, education institutions and international organisations, to test and promote efficacy of Victorian EdTech products for export growth.

Project: Each Innovation Sprints application.

Project Lead: The main point of contact and head of the particular project. Only a Victorian public institute or a Victorian EdTech company can be considered as the project lead. The project lead will enter into the Innovation Sprint contract negotiation.

Milestone payments: The breakdown of the funding based on the key submissions due throughout the program.

Project Governance Group: The steering committee that will guide and support the program implementation, ensure financial probity, appoint a Victorian research institute or institute, recommend Innovation Sprints grant recipients to Global Victoria, and provide expert advice as needed.

1.1 Introduction

This application guide relates to the Global Victoria EdTech Innovation Alliance (GVEIA) Program, including eligibility requirements and assessment criteria, processes for assessing applications and the granting of funding.

This guide should be read in conjunction with the overarching program guidelines for the Victorian Government International Research Partnerships Program. This guide outlines:

- The purpose of the program
- The eligibility requirements and assessment criteria
- How grant applications are considered and selected
- How grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- How grantees will be monitored and evaluated, and
- Responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

2. About the Global Victoria EdTech Innovation Alliance Program

2.1 About the GVEIA Program

On 24 November 2020, the Victorian Government announced a commitment of \$33.4 million to support the short-term economic recovery of the international education sector, and to continue support to international students, in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This investment will confirm Victoria as a high-quality study destination, and Melbourne as Australia's number one student city.

The International Education Short-Term Recovery Plan outlines a comprehensive package of initiatives that will reset and stimulate the sector. This investment will also lay the path for a new long-term International Education Strategy. This plan includes a commitment of \$3.6 million for the International Research Partnerships Program to be delivered in two streams: The Study Melbourne Research Partnership (\$2.8 million) and the IEA Program (\$800,000).

The GVEIA Program has been created to support partnerships between Victorian EdTech companies, education institutions and international organisations, to test and promote efficacy of Victorian EdTech solutions for export growth.

Under each project supported by this program, an EdTech product will be piloted in a Victorian and an international education institution for six months to test the product's efficacy. The purpose of the GVEIA Program is to provide research grants to Victorian EdTech companies in order to:

- Support strategic international research partnerships in areas of mutual interest
- Facilitate Victorian academics' and EdTech companies access to market
- Build Victoria's reputation and recognition in emerging markets.

2.2 About Global Victoria

Global Victoria is the State Government of Victoria's premier trade facilitation agency and gateway to global economies and communities.

Global Victoria builds the skills and knowledge of Victorian businesses to grow on the international stage, promote the state's world-class industry capabilities to international audiences, and lead the nation as the best city in Australia to study in.

Global Victoria opens the world to Victorian businesses and welcomes the business world to Victoria. Global Victoria pursues strategic partnerships to maximise the trade objectives for Victoria and the Government's broader economic, social, and sustainability objectives.

2.3 About EduGrowth

EduGrowth is Australia's education technology and innovation industry hub. Through connection and collaboration we accelerate Australia's EdTech ecosystem globally.

We are connecting a community of education providers, industry participants and EdTech entrepreneurs committed to reimagining learning in the digital age. As education transitions to borderless digital delivery, our diverse ecosystem will impact the future of learning globally from Australia.

Our programs focus on developing the entire education technology and innovation sector. We have a range of services supporting EdTech companies at each stage of their journey, whilst also connecting education providers and industry participants into the broader ecosystem.

2.4 About the GVEIA Program grant opportunity

The Program provides funding to successful projects to implement an EdTech solution with the defined education institutions. Through a competitive process projects will be selected which:

- Connect Victorian and international education institutions to co-pilot an innovative EdTech solution
- Improve market access for the EdTech solution in key international education markets and improve the international reputation of the Victorian education institution that pilots the solution
- Demonstrate a clear education problem being addressed
- Demonstrate a defined set of quantitative and qualitative metrics which documents product efficacy
- Enhance the reputation of the State of Victoria as a centre for education innovation

3. Eligibility Requirements

3.1 Eligibility requirements

Applications that do not satisfy all the eligibility requirements will not be accepted. EduGrowth will only accept applications submitted by the 18th October 2021 at 5:30pm. EduGrowth will not accept late applications.

3.2 Evaluation Approach

This section sets out the evaluation approach that will be used to assess proposals. There are two types of evaluation:

- Innovation Sprint Partnership Model, which will be assessed on a pass/fail basis. Proposals which fail to meet one or more of the preconditions will be eliminated from consideration;

- Key evaluation criteria, as outlined in section 4.4 which are of equal value will be scored and a total score calculated.

3.3 Innovation Sprint Organisations

The program is open to applications from Victorian EdTech companies and/or Victorian public education institutions. Only a Victorian public education institution or a Victorian EdTech company can be considered as the project lead. The project lead for each Innovation Sprint must submit the proposal. If successful, the project lead will enter into the Innovation Sprint contract negotiation.

Each Innovation Sprint will be made up of one of the following options:

	Option 1	Option 2
Researcher	Appointed by EduGrowth	Appointed by EduGrowth
EdTech Company	Victorian EdTech Company - may be project lead	Non-Victorian EdTech Company - With Victorian operations - Intention to establish in Victoria - may not be project lead
Education Institution	Victorian Public Education Institution - may be project lead International Education Institution - may not be project lead	Victorian Public Education Institution - must be project lead International Education Institution - may not be project lead

Applicants must demonstrate an understanding of their responsibilities under the Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020 and for ensuring relevant research agreements are submitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for assessment.

4. Application, Assessment and Approval

4.1 Application, assessment and approval

The grant application, assessment and approval process is:

- Grant applications must be submitted online prior to the closing date — **18th October 2021 at 5:30pm**
- All applications will be reviewed against the eligibility and key selection criteria as defined in Section 4.4 by the Project Governance Group (PGG)
- Based on the application, the PGG will determine whether to recommend the application for endorsement by the Director International Education, Global Victoria
- Approval is made to the Minister for Trade or Ministerial delegate for funding
- Project leads will receive a letter of offer confirming the outcome of the application.
- Successful applications are required to enter into a funding agreement with EduGrowth, on behalf of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, detailing all funding obligations and conditions.

4.2 Project aims

The application demonstrates the extent to which the project:

- Addresses objectives of the Program outlined in section 2.4
- The project will deliver the outcomes of the Program in section 2.5

4.3 Project delivery and capability

The application demonstrates the extent to which the project:

- Is supported by a clear project management approach, including a realistic project plan and governance model
- Is financially viable, based on sound cost estimates and represents value for money
- Be successfully delivered within anticipated timeframes and budget (no more than 12 months after signing of the agreement)
- Proposes a collaborative approach with an international partner and indicates how they will contribute to the project

4.4 Addressing Key selection criteria

Criterion 1: Project Objective

- a. Provide an overview of your proposed project, the activities that will be undertaken and the impact and benefit for all partners. 250 words max
- b. Outline the role of each Partner in the project. 100 words max

Criterion 2: Program Outline

- a. Describe the education problem your project addresses, the target audience and the EdTech solution you will deploy. 100 words max
- b. Describe the implementation plan for your EdTech solution including the engagement with each Partner and the proposed evidence you will collect to demonstrate the efficacy of your solution. 250 words max
- c. Upload a basic timeline outlining your project delivery.

Criterion 3: Research Output and Impact

- a. Describe the evidence you propose to collect, how will it demonstrate the efficacy of your solution and how you plan to engage the Global Victoria EdTech Innovation Alliance research partner. 200 words max
- b. Outline the benefits to each of the partners from your project and the long term benefits you expect beyond the project. 200 words max

Criterion 4: Partner Experience

Outline your experience in deploying EdTech solutions. Detail all partner's experience in education, research engagement and capacity to deliver the project in its entirety. 250 words

Criterion 5: Finance

Outline the need for funding from the Global Victoria EdTech Innovation Alliance and how the grant funds will be used. 100 words max

Criterion 6: Budget

List all projected income and expenditure items for the entire project, including any financial or in-kind contributions by any partners. If any headings are not relevant to your proposal, leave the item blank. The Budgeted Income section should include a list of all contributors to your project

including an indication of whether each source of funding is confirmed or conditional. The total income must be equal to or less than total expenditure. A detailed project budget must also be submitted.

4.6 Project partners

Provide information on individuals or organisations in Australia or in the relevant country who will participate in the administration and/or execution of the project.

5. Funding

5.1 What can the funding be used for?

Funding provided for the GVEIA may be spent on a cost which is integral to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the Innovation Sprint, dependent on approval by the PGG. Funding may not be used to pay for existing staff or businesses usual activities.

5.2 Funding timeframe

The grant will be delivered across the 2021-22 financial year, with funds being distributed from November 2021.

The following is a breakdown of the milestone payments:

Milestone 1	December 2021	\$20,000
Milestone 2	January 2022	\$15,000
Milestone 3	April 2022	\$10,000
Milestone 4	July 2022	\$5,000

6. Conditions of Funding

Successful project leads must enter into a funding agreement with EduGrowth. The funding agreement outlines the commitments and obligations under the grant, as well as the general funding terms and conditions.

All eligible project expenditure is to be incurred only after the funding agreement has been executed.

Grantees will be required to submit progress reports against milestones and provide evidence of project completion.

Successful projects will be required to report on the outcomes of their project and contribute information and data about the funded project for the evaluation of the program.

Project leads may be subject to audit by the Victorian Government or its representatives and may be required to produce supporting evidence at the request of the Victorian Government for a period of four years after funding has been awarded.

If any information in the application is found to be false or misleading, or funds have not been applied for the purposes of the program in accordance with the terms of funding as set out in these guidelines, application and the funding agreement, the grant will be repayable on demand.

The funding agreement should also be complemented by a Project Plan, a detailed budget with breakdown of expenditure and timelines as well as details of planned activities.

Funding agreements are legally enforceable documents that clearly set out the obligations of both parties.

Funding agreements must be signed in accordance with the regulatory framework under which the application operates and will:

- describe the purpose for which the funding must be used
- set out any requirements or conditions that must be met prior to the payment of a grant instalment, and
- outline agreed milestones and project outcomes that must be achieved before payment of a grant instalment.

6.1 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Successful projects will be required to contribute to an evaluation which is undertaken during and/or after completion of the project. Successful projects will be required to submit the evaluation as part of the final project report and provide evidence of project completion. The evaluation must assess the project's success in meeting its stated objectives, outputs, outcomes and impacts.

From the outset, the GVEIA will focus on gathering the data and sector-wide sentiment that will be tracked to measure the impact of the program over time. Pre and post program surveys of the target markets will be conducted to allow a measurement of the sentiment of Victoria's education innovation capability.

The GVEIA will conclude with an Innovation Symposium delivered as a hybrid event with a local audience based in Melbourne and virtual audience. The audience will include EdTech companies, teachers, academics, TAFE educators and researchers. The Symposium will see each of the Innovation Sprint teams share their project, the implementation plan, the learner outcomes and the research outcomes that will inform the broader market.

In addition to the Symposium, EduGrowth will capture case studies from each Innovation Sprint to be published on a dedicated microsite. Materials will be published digitally in text and video, and a final print report.

These arrangements will allow EduGrowth to undertake a robust evaluation of the program.

6.2 Acknowledgement

Successful projects need to acknowledge the support of Global Victoria through the provision of a grant powered by EduGrowth. The funding agreement includes a requirement that all activities acknowledge Global Victoria and delivery partner EduGrowth support through logo presentation

on any activity-related publications, media releases and promotional material in accordance with the Department's guidelines.

6.3 Communication of initiative

Successful project leads must liaise with EduGrowth to coordinate any media communications related to the activity. Successful projects may be required to contribute information on activity outcomes to both Global Victoria and EduGrowth to use in communications materials.

6.4 Privacy

Any personal information about the project, project lead or partner organisation or organisations in the application will be collected by EduGrowth for the purpose of grant administration. If personal information about third parties is included in the application, ensure third parties are aware.

Appendices

Assessment Rubrics

Rating	Rating Definition Score	Score	Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	Criterion 5	Criterion 6
Excellent	Exceeds the criterion. Exceptional demonstration by the Respondent of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion. Proposal identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with supporting evidence.	9-10						
Good	Satisfies the criterion with minor additional benefits. Above average demonstration by the Respondent of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion. Proposal identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with supporting evidence.	7-8						
Acceptable	Satisfies the criterion. Demonstration by the Respondent of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource, and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with supporting evidence.	5-6						
Minor Reservations	Satisfies the criterion with minor reservations. Some minor reservations of the Respondent's relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with little or no supporting evidence.	3-4						
Serious Reservations	Satisfies the criterion with major reservations. Considerable reservations of the respondent's relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with little or no supporting evidence.	1-2						
Unsatisfactory	Does not meet the criterion. Does not comply with criterion and/or insufficient information provided to demonstrate that the respondent has the ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with little or no supporting evidence.	0						