

## 2015 FIRST YEAR SUCCESS TEACHING AND LEARNING GRANTS - GUIDELINES

### CONTEXT

Higher education first year unit coordinators and their teaching teams are invited to apply for grants of up to \$4000 for innovations in the areas of **engaging and teaching students in first year units**. This initiative is part of the university-wide Student Retention Project – Targeted First Year Academic Approach which aims to support and empower staff to develop and implement new academic strategies to more effectively engage students and thus address current rates of attrition and disengagement.

[Transition Pedagogy principles](#) (Kift, 2009) are being used as a framework for thinking and talking about effective teaching and learning strategies, as well as for the development of a resource to support teaching staff - the First Year Toolkit – and for establishing communities of practice around teaching in first year units. The pedagogies are: Transition, Diversity, Engagement, Curriculum Design, Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation.

### APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIME-FRAME

Step 1: Read these guidelines fully as they contain important information about eligibility, selection criteria and budgets.

Step 2: Read about the [Transition Pedagogy](#) and the [First Year Curriculum Principles](#) (Kift, 2009). Applicants may also wish to discuss innovation ideas with their relevant [Higher Education and Training Developer](#).

Step 3: Complete an application form available on the [Student Retention Project - First Year Success](#) website.

Step 4: Email the application form to: Alice Manning, Student Retention Project Officer, at [alice.manning@cdu.edu.au](mailto:alice.manning@cdu.edu.au) by **6<sup>th</sup> July 2015**.

Step 5: Successful applicants will be notified no later than 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

### INNOVATION ELIGIBILITY

1. Innovations must focus on a first year unit in Semester 2 and/or Summer Semester 2015, within a higher education undergraduate course.
2. Innovations need to demonstrate consistency with Transition Pedagogy principles.
3. Successful applicants will be required to:
  - o participate, as far as possible, in Community of Practice – First Year Success events related to teaching and learning in first year
  - o provide an update on the progress of the innovation as requested
  - o present the details and outcomes of their innovation to fellow staff in a report and at a Community of Practice event
4. Innovation implementation, outcomes and evaluation should be completed by the end of Semester 2 or Summer Semester 2015.
5. A grant of up to \$4000 will be awarded in the first instance to successful applicants.

6. A further \$1000 will be available to eligible grant recipients who present their innovation at a national teaching and learning focused event. Such events may include the [STARS](#) (Students, Transition, Achievement, Retention and Success) conference, [ASCILITE](#), [HERDSA](#) or a discipline higher education focused conference.

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## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Applications will be assessed on the basis of:

- Potential for improving first year student engagement, success and/or retention
- Clear link(s) with at least one of the six transition pedagogy principles
- Capacity for the innovation activities/outcomes to become sustainable, ongoing and successfully embedded in pedagogy/unit planning
- Extent to which the innovation activities are likely to be completed within the anticipated time-frame
- Quality and coherence of the innovation application (clarity of description, alignment of the aim, rationale, transition pedagogies and key activities)
- Alignment with faculty/school/course strategic priorities

Applications will be assessed by a panel of cross-university representatives.

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## INNOVATION BUDGETS

Eligible budget items for the initial \$4000 grant may include:

- production of new subject materials or resources that explicitly support student engagement, success and/or retention
- purchase of software or resources which are a direct part of the innovation
- local travel costs necessary to produce innovation outcomes, for example, costs related to interviewing industry practitioners or visiting industry sites
- project-related administrative support or marking release time

Ineligible expenditure includes: conference travel (unless part of a separate submission on completion of the project), personal computers and related devices for personal use.