

# Microscopy Australia Technical Voucher Fund

## Applicant Guidelines

Funding is available under the Microscopy Australia Technical Voucher Fund for support for work performed by Australian medtech companies at Microscopy Australia facilities. For full details of the instrumentation available, researchers are advised to refer to [micro.org.au](http://micro.org.au) for links to all facilities.

The aim of this program is to provide access for researchers in the MedTech and Pharma industries to state-of-the-art instrumentation and expertise for nanostructural analysis.

**SMEs: pay only 25% of the microscopy costs.**

**Large companies: pay only 50% of the microscopy costs.**

There are three types of Technical Voucher available:

Type of Voucher	Example	You pay	Benefit
<b>SME Tech Voucher</b>	\$10,000 worth of time spent on instrument and/or hourly costs for staff help	\$2,500	<b>75% off</b>
<b>Larger Company Tech Voucher</b>	\$10,000 worth of time spent on instrument and/or hourly costs for staff help	\$5,000	<b>50% off</b>
<b>Travel Voucher</b>	Eligible travel expenses	50%	<b>50% off</b>

SMEs are classified as companies with < \$20 million aggregated turnover, large companies have > \$20 million aggregated turnover. Vouchers must be used within 12 months of their issue.

The process for application will be rapid. There is no specific deadline and applications can be made at any time. The procedure for applying for funding is:

### 1. Application

To apply please contact Dr Jenny Whiting. She will be able to provide you with advice on what services and voucher are right for your company.

e: [jenny.whiting@micro.org.au](mailto:jenny.whiting@micro.org.au)

t: +61 2 9114 0566

Once you have discussed your project you will be invited to submit a project description (1-2 A4 pages, including diagrams) which includes:

- Project title
- Company name
- ABN
- Names of researchers and their affiliation (company name, institution name)
- Project aim and specific outcome sought (what question are you trying to answer)
- Relevant background information
- Any preliminary results
- Relevant publications
- Numbers of PCT applications or granted patents
- Microscopy Australia location preferred
- Instrument kind and time required (if known)

## **2. Review**

The application is subjected to evaluation based on eligibility, research merit and general scientific interest. The Review Committee is composed of the following people:

- Dr Lisa Yen: COO of Microscopy Australia, Committee Chair
- Dr Melanie Rug: CAM Centre Manager at ANU, and Microscopy Australia facility Director
- Prof. Richard Tilley: Director, Electron Microscope Unit at UNSW, and Microscopy Australia facility Director

The Review Committee may send applications to relevant science specialists among the team of experts within Microscopy Australia for further advice. The application will be evaluated and a decision made as to whether funding is awarded.

## **3. Notification**

For successful applications, the Review Committee will nominate:

- where, within Microscopy Australia the work will be performed;
- the resources required for the project;
- the general laboratory, instrument and staff time required for the project;
- the scheduling of this work in terms of the applicant's issues and the availability of instrumentation and expertise.

Some liaison may occur during this planning stage between the relevant facility manager and the successful applicant. The outcomes of these planning arrangements are communicated back to the Review Panel Chair.

The Review Panel Chair will recognise the recommendations communicate the outcome of the deliberations in writing back to the applicant. Notwithstanding any interaction that may have taken place between any Microscopy Australia staff and the applicant, this correspondence will be final. This letter-of-offer will:

- Indicate the level of funding towards laboratory, instrument and staff time and, if relevant, travel and accommodation;
- Detail the protocol for claiming reimbursement for travel costs under travel grants, if any are awarded; and
- Explain any other obligations and requirements for successful applicants.

## **4. Acceptance**

You will be required to formally reply to the offer by transmitting acceptance of the award to the Review Panel Chair and Microscopy Australia staff as instructed in the offer letter. Successful applicants will be required to:

- state that co-funding they supply as part of their Technical Voucher does not come from any government source
- complete short reports on their activities within six months of the experiment start and completion;
- complete a short report annually afterwards for 3 years after award of the Voucher; and
- acknowledge the use of Microscopy Australia in any subsequent publications or presentations.

You are advised to take out independent travel and accident insurance as may be required. Microscopy Australia assumes no specific liability for losses arising from incidents during any part of your work or visits undertaken under Technical Voucher Fund grants.

From time to time, Microscopy Australia may organise conferences and symposia, and Technical Voucher holders may be provided special opportunities to present their research. A limited number of part-registrations may be made available for these meetings and details on how to apply for this conference support, if available, may be provided by Microscopy Australia.

*This venture has received funding through the MTPConnect Project Fund Program – a dollar-for-dollar matched program investing in big, bold ideas to improve the productivity, competitiveness and innovative capacity of Australia's medical technology, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector. MTPConnect is supported by the Australian Government Industry Growth Centres Initiative – learn more at [mtpconnect.org.au](http://mtpconnect.org.au)*