



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
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Microcredentials Marketplace

General feedback for applicants

Overview

The Microcredentials Marketplace grant opportunity will run over 3 years from 2020–21 to 2022–23. As part of the 2020 Job-ready Graduates package, the Australian Government announced a total of \$2.12 million (GST exclusive) for the successful grant applicant.

The objective of the grant opportunity is to establish and develop the Microcredentials Marketplace (the Marketplace) platform. The Marketplace will be a nationally consistent platform for students to compare short courses and credit point value. The Marketplace will also show arrangements for recognition of courses across higher education institutions that will support student decision-making and help students understand how they can stack short courses and credentials to build credit value, contribute to a larger qualification or skill set and understand which courses are recognised by other providers and can be used as credit towards qualifications at other institutions. Cross-recognition of microcredential courses will help providers compare their offerings and encourage further development and delivery of education programs and content.

The grant opportunity application period opened on 24 March 2021 and closed on 15 April 2021. Late applications were not accepted.

The grant opportunity received 7 applications. Following the Selection Advisory Panel's decision, one application was selected for funding, to a value of \$2.118 million (GST exclusive).

There was a strong interest in the program and applications were of a high standard. Applications were assessed according to the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and outlined in the Selection Process below.

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what generally comprised a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criteria for this grant opportunity.

Selection Process

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the department) used a targeted competitive grant process to select one provider to deliver the Microcredentials Marketplace grant.

Applications were screened for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Applications were assessed on merit, based on:

- how well it met the criteria
- how it compared to other applications
- the developmental plan outline and other required attachments
- whether it provided value with relevant money

The grant opportunity received 7 applications. Each applicant was required to address the following selection criteria.

Criterion 1 - Organisation's ability

Demonstrate your organisation's ability to successfully deliver the specified grant activity including your advanced understanding of the education and industry qualifications and credentials environment in Australia.

Criterion 2 - Stakeholder engagement

Describe how your organisation will approach the complex stakeholder environment to ensure sector engagement and participation in the platform including the proposed engagement activities.

Criterion 3 - Implementation and monitoring

Demonstrate how you will successfully implement and monitor the grant activity and the capabilities of your team (please provide a detailed description of the implementation approach and some examples of wireframes).

Criterion 4 - Design approach

Describe how your approach will design a user-centred digital platform including ICT website development and accessibility considerations

The preferred applicant was identified based on the strength of their responses to the selection criterion and their demonstrated ability to meet the grant requirements as outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Selection Results

One organisation was selected to deliver the Microcredentials Marketplace grant.

The selected organisation provided strong responses to the selection criteria and demonstrated their ability to meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Further detail about what constituted a strong response to each criterion is provided below.

Criterion 1

Organisation's ability

Demonstrate your organisation's ability to successfully deliver the specified grant activity including your advanced understanding of the education and industry qualifications and credentials environment in Australia.

Strong applications	Quality responses clearly provided
Clearly demonstrated their understanding of the microcredentials environment in Australia	A detailed proposal outlining how they would meet the needs of the sector by leveraging the microcredentials already in the market as well as demonstrating their understanding of current credential processes in Australia
Clearly demonstrated their organisation's ability to successfully develop a digital platform for the education sector	A detailed development plan describing their technical capabilities, a proposal for the platform they would develop, and detailed production milestones
Clearly demonstrated a detailed understanding of the project's objectives and described how their proposal would meet them	A description of the functionality they would include in the platform, including information on how these features would work and how they would meet the objectives of the project



Criterion 2

Stakeholder engagement

Describe how your organisation will approach the complex stakeholder environment to ensure sector engagement and participation in the platform including the proposed engagement activities.

Strength	Example
The application clearly demonstrated a strong understanding of the stakeholder environment	Strong responses included an analysis of the current stakeholder environment and demonstrated pre-existing relationships with the higher education sector
The application featured a detailed stakeholder engagement plan	Strong responses clearly described their approach to stakeholder engagement, including details on specific activities and proposed costs



Criterion 3

Implementation and monitoring

Demonstrate how you will successfully implement and monitor the grant activity and the capabilities of your team (please provide a detailed description of the implementation approach and some examples of wireframes).

Strength	Example
The application demonstrated previous experience in delivering a digital product of similar size and scope	Strong responses included examples of previous work and detailed wireframes outlining the details of their proposed platform
The application included a detailed implementation plan that accounted for possible schedule changes and/or delays	Strong responses clearly described their implementation approach and included an outline of staged delivery for the 3 years of the project
The application clearly described the capabilities of the team involved	Strong responses included resumes on all team members that would be involved on the project, and provided contact details for referees who had worked on previous ICT development projects with the applicant



Criterion 4

Design approach

Describe how your approach will design a user-centred digital platform including ICT website development and accessibility considerations.

Strength	Example
The application included a detailed plan for engaging users throughout development	Strong responses clearly described their user-centred design approach and included information on how they would engage users throughout development, as well as the numbers and demographics of users they would work with.
The application included examples of past work on ICT projects of similar size and scale	Strong responses included wireframes of previous work and links to live examples of their work
The application demonstrated a sound understanding of ICT development and accessibility considerations	Strong responses detailed their understanding of ICT development and included examples of how they have met these requirements in past work