



# linkage

● GRANT

**Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre**



gold | convention and  
coast | exhibition centre

## BUSINESS EVENTS ON THE GOLD COAST

Business events represent one of the highest yielding sectors in Australia’s visitor economy. According to the Business Events Council of Australia Report on the Value of Business Events to Australia, in FY-19, the sector was worth a record A\$35.7billion to the economy.

As one of the world’s fastest growing regions and home to a thriving community, the Gold Coast has long been a favourite destination for business events. These events contribute to the city’s economic, academic and social fabric by attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. A 1000-delegate conference, running for 3 days injects an estimated \$1.8m to the local economy, whilst creating jobs and attracting valuable legacies to the city.

The Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre’s Linkage Grant Program helps promote the Gold Coast as a destination for international business and academic events by providing grants to support individuals’ attendance at international association conferences.

Through this financial support, recipients are offered an opportunity to advance their own professional development and profile of their institute, company or employer, whilst acting as a global champion for our city and venue.

Grant winners have attended conferences such as:

- Genetic & Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO) - **Kyoto, Japan**
- International Weed Science Conference - **Prague, Czech Republic**
- Bettshow Asia - **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
- International Association for Impact Assessment - **Florence, Italy**

### GOLD COAST

- Thriving academic hub
- Safe & clean
- 4,000 nearby hotel rooms
- 2 international airports
- 21 hatted restaurants
- World Heritage rainforest

### GCCEC

- Boutique venue
- Certified sustainable venue
- Central location
- 150 events/year
- World famous beaches
- Outdoor spaces

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre's Linkage Grant Program helps promote the Gold Coast as a destination for international business and academic events by providing grants to support individuals' attendance at international association conferences. Through this financial support, recipients are offered an opportunity to advance their own professional development and profile of their institute, company or employer, whilst acting as a global champion for our city and venue.

Linkage Grant recipients are offered the opportunity to:

- raise their profile and that of their institution, company or employer
- broaden skillset and industry knowledge
- achieve careers goals, whilst creating important connections
- encourage international collaboration and network globally
- drive economic benefit to our city and region

To be eligible to win a Linkage Grant, applicants are asked to present an international association conference that has the potential to be held at GCCEC, according to the criteria provided. If approved, applicants will be required to attend an interview at GCCEC.

To ensure the association's conference meets the grant selection criteria, complete the form below (Part A). If the conference is approved, you will be asked to complete a more detailed questionnaire (Part B).

Selection Criteria:

- Applicant must be over 18 and a permanent resident of Australia
- Applicant must be Queensland-based professional or academic staff of a Queensland University
- The international conference must attract at least 400 delegates, and rotate between at least 3 countries
- Have the potential to be held at GCCEC in the next 8 years

*\*If you are not certain if the conference qualifies, contact GCCEC to discuss.*

**APPLY NOW**

**Applications close Sunday 31 March 2024**

Contact:

**Samantha Hills**

International Business Development Manager

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre

Ph: 07 5504 4043

Email: [linkagegrants@gccec.com.au](mailto:linkagegrants@gccec.com.au)



## FAQS

### Who is eligible to apply for the grant?

Professional and academic staff in Queensland are eligible to apply for the grant, provided their application meets the selection criteria.

Our applicants come from a range of fields including (but not limited to) medicine, engineering, allied health, humanities, social sciences, agriculture and AI/technology.

### Why does the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) provide these grants?

The Linkage Grant program is a GCCEC initiative that aims to attract valuable major international conferences to the Gold Coast. Successful applicants of the program receive financial support to attend an international conference in their chosen field and are in turn empowered to act as global champions for our destination and venue.

Linkage Grant recipients are given the opportunity to:

- raise their profile and that of their organisation
- broadening skillset and industry knowledge
- enhance professional development
- achieve career goals
- network globally

whilst creating important connections and driving economic benefit to our city and region. The program has resulted in many international conferences, which have brought legacy to our destination and profile to the applicants.

### What are the key dates and deadlines of the program?

Entries open: November 2023

Submissions due: 31 March 2024

### How do I apply for a grant?

Applicants must complete Part A of the GCCEC Linkage Grant Application Form. If the conference is approved, Part B application must be submitted prior to the deadline. If approved, applicants will be required to attend an interview at GCCEC.

### Do I need to participate in the bid process for the conference I am applying for through the GCCEC Linkage Grant Program?

Yes, it is a requirement that the recipient be an active member of lobbying stakeholders in your network to attract the conference to the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre in future years. The GCCEC team will assist in this process.

### Do I need to spend the grant monies immediately?

The funds are available to be spent immediately or within 18 months of being awarded.

### What does the grant cover?

A grant of up to \$8,000 can be used to cover costs associated with conference attendance, including flights, accommodation, memberships fees or conference registration to the nominated conference. Incurred expenses will be reimbursed upon producing receipts and an invoice from the applicant's organisation. Additional costs over and above the grant value will be at the applicant's own expense.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Eligibility of selected conferences must be approved by the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.
2. Applicants must be over 18 and an Australian resident.
3. Applicants must have the approval of their line manager/department head/employer before applying.
4. On approval by GCCEC of Application Form Part A, applicants will be invited to prepare a written submission addressing the questions in Application Form Part B prior to the closing date.
5. Successful applicants will receive the GCCEC Linkage Grant monies to the maximum value of \$8000 to be used to attend the international conference. The grant money can be used to cover flights, accommodation, conference membership and conference registration.
6. Additional costs over and above the grant value will be covered at the applicant's own expense.
7. The grant monies will be reimbursed after conference travel and upon producing receipts as well as providing a written report detailing the conference experience.
8. The decision of the judging panel is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Applicants may request feedback on their performance after the winners have been announced.
9. Recipients agree to be included in promotion materials for the GCCEC Linkage Grant Program.
10. The conference must be an association conference. Corporate conferences will not be considered in this program.

