NHMRC Investigator Grants Funding Scheme

30 January 2023
### Investigator Grants 2023 Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opening date:</th>
<th>25 January 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closing date and time:</td>
<td>5:00 pm ACT local time on 30 March 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth policy entity:</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Enquiries:**
Applicants requiring further assistance are to direct enquiries to their Administering Institution’s Research Administration Officer. Research Administration Officers can contact NHMRC’s Research Help Centre for further advice.

- **Phone:** 1800 550 083 (+61 2 6317 9451 for international callers)
- **Email:** help@nhmrc.gov.au

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about scheme policy will be collated and answered via the scheme’s FAQs document on GrantsConnect. All policy enquiries must be submitted by 5:00 pm ACT local time 13 March 2023. The final FAQs will be released on 15 March 2023.

NHMRC will not respond to any enquiries submitted after 1:00 pm ACT local time on 22 March 2023.

Note: NHMRC’s Research Help Centre aims to provide a reply to all requests for general assistance within 2 working days. This timeframe may be longer during peak periods or for more detailed requests for assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date guidelines released:</th>
<th>28 January 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type of grant opportunity:</td>
<td>Targeted competitive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Investigator Grants 2023

**Contact Details**

- **NHMRC Research Help Centre**
- **Phone:** 1800 500 983
- **Email Address:** help@nhmrc.gov.au
- **Web Address:** [https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/investigator-grants](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/investigator-grants)

**Grant Opportunity Documents - GO6014**

**GO ID:** GO6014

The files below make up the document set for this grant opportunity.

To open the files, click on the file name. Some web browsers require you to click the right mouse button. You will then see a list of options; choose either 'Save Target As' or 'Save Link As...'.
Changes from last round

- Broad Research Area definitions have been developed
- NHMRC Open Access Policy has been updated
- Gender equity – in particular for female and non-binary applicants
- Gender options for applicants has expanded
- A single Research Support Package (RSP) of $400,000 per annum for Leadership applicants
- Leadership criterion has been updated with guidance recognising a broader range of leadership contributions
- Other Australian Government eligibility policy has been updated
- The Awardees from round 1 can apply for a second Investigator Grant
- Booking calendar for Strategic Review and Compliance and Eligibility Review
- DVCR Co-Funding Process
Change in 2023

- Broad Research Areas
- Open Access Policy
- Gender Equity
- Assessment of Leadership
- Leadership Criterion
- Other Australian Government Awarded in round 1
- Booking Calendars
- DVCR Co-Funding
Broad Research Areas

- **Basic Science Research**
  seeks to understand the biological processes that underpin health and disease at the molecular, cellular, organ system and whole body levels. It may be conducted in vitro, in vivo and/or in silico. It may use but, is not limited to, cells, tissues or other materials of human origin or from relevant animal models.

- **Clinical Medicine and Science Research**
  seeks to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of human diseases and conditions. It may involve interaction with patients and/or the use of clinical diagnostic materials or patient data.
Broad Research Areas

- **Health Services Research**
  seeks to understand and improve the effectiveness, quality, safety, social and environmental dimensions of health care including access, distribution, timeliness and efficiency.

- **Public Health Research**
  seeks to improve the health of a population through the prevention of disease, prolongation of life and promotion of health and wellbeing. It includes research to understand the social, behavioural, environmental and other determinants of health and disease.
Open Access Policy

• All recipients of NHMRC grants must comply with all elements of NHMRC’s Open Access Policy as a condition of funding. NHMRC’s Open Access Policy is available on NHMRC’s website.
  • Made available immediately upon publication, removing the 12-month embargo period
  • Published with the use of an open licence, which means publications can be used and shared widely.
Gender Equity

- NHMRC has implemented additional special measures to address systematic disadvantage faced by female and non-binary applicants.

- **Funding recommendations**
  - 3 funding competitions (EL1, EL2, Leadership)
  - Leadership will be separated into 2 funding cohorts
    - Male
    - Female and non-binary
  - Target to fund equal number of grants in the 2 cohorts
  - Structural priority funding will apply to high-quality ‘near-miss’ female and non-binary EL1 and EL2 applicants.
Change your gender identity

[Image of a website showing a personal information form with options for gender, including 'Man or male', 'Woman or female', 'Prefer not to answer', 'Non-binary', and 'I use a different term'.]
• Restrictions apply to the eligibility of other Australian government grantees (anything but NHMRC).

• Recipients of salaries from an OAG, must declare to the NHMRC (can be either named or unnamed positions)

• If you are being paid via an OAG which will not end in 2023 please consult with Grant Development Team to check your particular eligibility
  (research.preaward@mq.edu.au).
Current Investigator Grant Awardees

• Existing Investigator Grant will end before, or be in its final year, on 1 January 2024 can apply this round
• If successful this round your new Investigator will be deferred till your existing Investigator Grant concludes
• You are not allowed to relinquish your existing Investigator Grant
• For EL1 and EL2 you can’t apply for the same level again.
• For Leadership:
  • L1 can be held for a max. of 2 terms
  • L2 can be held for a max. of 2 terms
  • L3 can be held for a max. of 5 terms
• You are not allowed to apply at a level below your current Investigator Grant
MQ Online Booking Systems

**OPTIONAL** Strategic Review

[https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/MQStrategicGrantReview@mq.edu.au/bookings/s/-ibz39BDK0WV5kZUXLVuhA2](https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/MQStrategicGrantReview@mq.edu.au/bookings/s/-ibz39BDK0WV5kZUXLVuhA2)

- Book a one hour time slot
- Feedback will be provided via PURE within 10 business days from your booking (external applicants will be via email)
- Book between 20-24 February 2023
- For the booking you MUST
  - **Complete all sections in Sapphire and ‘Certify to RAO’**
  - **Upload a draft of your proposal in PURE**
  - **External applicants email your draft to research.preaward@mq.edu.au**
MQ Online Booking Systems

MANDATORY Compliance and Eligibility Review
https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/MQComplianceEligibilityGrantReviewBookingCalendar@mq.edu.au/bookings/s/ALjav6zSUm6-WWmKmUDPQ2

- Book a one hour time slot
- Feedback will be provided via PURE within 3 business days from your booking (external applicants will be via email)
- Book between 6-10 March 2023
- For the booking you MUST
  - Complete all sections in Sapphire and ‘Certify to RAO’
  - Upload a draft of your proposal and your DVCR Co-Funding form in PURE
  - External applicants email your draft to research.preaward@mq.edu.au
  - Submit your PURE record for internal approvals
DVCR Co-Funding

- [https://truth.mq.edu.au/share/id/mqu5g2sv](https://truth.mq.edu.au/share/id/mqu5g2sv)

APPENDIX A – NHMRC Investigator Grant Salaries and Macquarie equivalents (per annum)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NHMRC SSP</th>
<th>Macquarie (maximum level)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$82,408</td>
<td>Level B, Step 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$117,238</td>
<td>Level C, Step 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$153,931</td>
<td>Level D, Step 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$179,433</td>
<td>Level E, Step 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$190,608</td>
<td>Level E, Step 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where an applicant’s Macquarie University salary is higher than the Macquarie (maximum level) above, the Faculty and/or Department will need to approve the additional top-up required. Discuss with your Head of Department/School.
# DVCR Co-Funding

**DVCR Co-funding Request for NHMRC and MRFF (submitted via NHMRC) Grant Application**

Submitted in 2023

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**Macquarie University Lead Chief Investigator:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department/School</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**NHMRC/MRFF Application:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NHMRC/MRFF Scheme Name</th>
<th>NHMRC/MRFF Scheme Round</th>
<th>Sapphire Project ID</th>
<th>Pure ID</th>
<th>NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request</th>
<th>Length of Project (years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Amount of NHMRC/MRFF Request to be Transferred Outside MQ:** $

**Amount of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ:** $

(put 20% of this amount in the table below)

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In the table below, enter the Co-funding amount, and HDR scholarships (if applicable) you wish to request. Make sure the requested Co-funding is no more than 20% of the NHMRC/MRFF cash request to remain at MQ, and if you request HDR scholarships, it is permitted by MQ for the scheme you are applying to.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NHMRC/MRFF Scheme</th>
<th>Eligible MQ DVCR Scholarship Co-funding Request</th>
<th>Up to 20% Co-funding (cash)</th>
<th>No. HDR Scholarships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC Centres of Research Excellence (CRE)</td>
<td>20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ, 2 x domestic MOBES (3 years)</td>
<td>Enter amount requesting</td>
<td>Not permitted for this scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies (CTCS)</td>
<td>20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ,</td>
<td>Enter amount requesting</td>
<td>Not permitted for this scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC Development Grant</td>
<td>20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ,</td>
<td>Enter amount requesting</td>
<td>Not permitted for this scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC Ideas Grant</td>
<td>20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ,</td>
<td>Enter amount requesting</td>
<td>Not permitted for this scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC Partnership Projects</td>
<td>20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ,</td>
<td>Enter amount requesting</td>
<td>Not permitted for this scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC Synergy Grant</td>
<td>20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ, 3 x domestic MOBES (3 years)</td>
<td>Enter amount requesting</td>
<td>Not permitted for this scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC Targeted Call for Research (TCR)</td>
<td>20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ,</td>
<td>Enter amount requesting</td>
<td>Not permitted for this scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRFF (via NHMRC)</td>
<td>20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ,</td>
<td>Enter amount requesting</td>
<td>Not permitted for this scheme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**NHMRC Investigator Grant applicants:**

Are you requesting a salary from the NHMRC? Yes/No

What is your current MQ Level and Step? 

What year do you estimate you will apply for promotion?
The Application
About Investigator Grants

• The objective of the Investigator Grant scheme is to support the research program of outstanding investigators at ALL career stages.
• It consolidates separate salary (if required) and research support into a single grant scheme.

The expected outcomes are:
• Flexibility for investigators to pursue important new research directions as they arise and to form collaborations as needed
• Innovative and creative research
• Opportunities for researchers at all career stages to establish their own research programs
• Reduce applications and peer review burden on researchers
Eligibility

- At the time of acceptance and for the duration of the grant, the Investigator Grant holder must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia.

- Investigator Grant holder must be based in Australian for 80% of the funding period (Leadership) or 50% of the funding period (Emerging Leader)

- Hold a PhD or research qualification equivalent (Level 10 criteria of the Australian Qualifications Framework)

- Limits apply to the number of NHMRC applications/grants. See NHMRC Eligibility Tool.
## Investigator Grants: Salaries and RSPs

### Table 3. Investigator Grant salary and RSP components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>RSP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>L3</td>
<td>$190,608</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L2</td>
<td>$179,433</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>$153,931</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Leadership</td>
<td>EL2</td>
<td>$117,238</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EL1</td>
<td>$82,408</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Applicants may apply for an Investigator Grant but are not entitled to salary support for the life of the grant if, on 1 January of the year an Investigator Grant is to commence, they hold a core position requiring substantial time dedicated to:

- roles where the overarching responsibility is leadership of an independent Medical Research Institute (e.g. Director or CEO)

- roles where the overarching responsibility is leadership of an institute or centre under university or hospital governance (e.g. Director or CEO)

- academic administrative roles such as Dean, Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor or Pro Vice-Chancellor.
MQ Support Package

**Years 1-2**

DVCR Salary Top-Up

**Years 3-5**

Salary Top-Up by Faculty and/or Department

to be discussed with HoD and FRM prior to application
Minimum Data

- Administering Institution
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Research Focus (yes/no)
- Project synopsis
- Privacy agreement
- Research Classification:
  - Broad research area
  - Field(s) of research
  - Peer Review Areas
  - Research keywords
- Chief Investigator A (complete CIA Role and Name)
- Category and Level
NHMRC Investigator Grant Application

Process Structure
The Application Process

1. Discuss your Investigator Grant research idea and track record with MQ staff (E.g. supervisor, HoD, Grant Development Team)
2. Begin working on full application
3. Create your application in Sapphire
4. Create a PURE record
5. Book in (if required) for your Strategic Review
6. Book in for your one and only Compliance and Eligibility Review
7. Submit a full draft of your application in PURE and Sapphire by the strategic booking date and time (if you opted in)
8. Submit your revised/penultimate draft in PURE and Sapphire prior to your Compliance and Eligibility Review date and time
9. Certify your final application in Sapphire by 11:59pm Sunday 19 March
Sapphire (Application)

- Synopsis
- Plain English Summary (media summary)
- Participating Institutions
- Research Classification (BRA, FOR, PRA, Keywords, BoD)
- Ethics
- Researcher (Category/Level, Justification, Salary Declaration)
- Relative to Opportunity (PhD Date, Career Overview, Career Context, Career Disruption)
- Strategic Priorities and Funding Partners
- Track Record (Publications, Research Impact, Leadership)
- Grant Proposal
Sapphire (Profile)

- Primary Institution (Macquarie University)
- Personal Information (title, name, gender, phone, email)
- Academic Information (pass date, not the date of conferral)
- Peer Review (select BRA/s that best aligns with your expertise)
- Fields of Research (add as many as required)
- Unavailability calendar (NHMRC may ask you to review, so they need to know when you are available. Strongly encouraged to assess)
- Contributions to NHMRC (role, number of times, year)
Assessment Criteria

• Knowledge Gain (Research Proposal) – 30%

• Track Record - 70%
  • Publications (last 10 years) – 35%
  • Research Impact – 20%
  • Leadership – 15%
## Assessment Criteria Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Weak or Limited</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria

- **Give equal weighting to each of the four areas**
- **Strong in each area – assessed by Indigenous persons**

- **Community engagement**
  the knowledge gain demonstrates how the research and potential outcomes are a priority for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with relevant community engagement by individuals, communities and/or organisations in conceptualisation, development and approval, data collection and management, analysis, report writing and dissemination of results.

- **Benefit**
  the potential health benefit of the program of research is demonstrated by addressing an important public health issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This benefit can have a single focus or affect several areas, such as knowledge, finance and policy or quality of life. The benefit may be direct and immediate, or it can be, indirect, gradual and considered.

- **Sustainability and transferability**
  the knowledge gain demonstrates how the results of the program of research have the potential to lead to achievable and effective contributions to health gain for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, beyond the life of the program of research. This may be through sustainability in the project setting and/or transferability to other settings such as evidence-based practice and/or policy. In considering this issue the knowledge gain should address the relationship between costs and benefits.

- **Building capability**
  the knowledge gain demonstrates how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and researchers will develop relevant capabilities through partnerships and participation in the program of research.
Newish Sections
Relative to Opportunity Policy

Research
• research role(s) and responsibilities, career stage, and amount of time spent as an active researcher

Resources and facilities
• available resources and facilities, including:
  o the extent to which any additional research personnel and/or collaborators contribute to the applicant’s research program
  o situations where research is being conducted in remote or isolated communities

Professional responsibilities
• clinical, administrative and/or teaching workload
• time employed in other sectors
• building relationships of trust with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities over long periods
Relative to Opportunity Policy

**Personal circumstances**
- disability (including mental health conditions and psychosocial disability) or illness
- caring responsibilities that do not interrupt the applicant’s career for an extended period (that would meet the definition of a Career Disruption) but still affect research productivity
- for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants, community obligations including ‘sorry business’

**Other circumstances**
- relocation of an applicant and their research laboratory or clinical practices
- periods of unemployment
- calamities, such as pandemics, bushfires or cyclones.

**Relative to Opportunity considerations do not include:**
- minor (or short-term) changes that occur during the normal course of conducting research, e.g. broken equipment or delayed ethics approval
- minor (or short-term) medical conditions
- recreational leave or general administrative activities related to research, such as preparation of grant applications and publications or committee-related activities.
Career Context

• Broad overview of engagement in research over last 10 years (or commencement of research, if fewer than 10 years)

• It should include:
  • Research roles and responsibilities
  • Career stage and time spent as an active researcher
  • How circumstances affected or contributed to research productivity relative to the typical performance of researchers in your field.

• The more specific you are about your career trajectory, the more helpful it is to peer reviewers.

• What should NOT be included:
  • Scientific summary of projects and outputs
  • Research activity as an undergraduate
Top 10 Publications
## Publications

Nominate up to 10 of your best publications from the past 10 years.

Provide explanations of why these publications have been selected, outlining the quality and contribution to science, and your contribution to each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 characters remaining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 characters remaining.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Publications

• 1000 characters to detail a meaningful explanation for each publication
  • Why have you selected this publication in your top 10?
    • Outline the publication quality
    • Outline the contribution to science
    • Your contribution to the publication

Example
I led a team of esteemed methodologists to highlight concerns about a popular statistical method for symptom-level analyses of the structure of mental illness. Pub 1 has 111 GS cit'ns, FWCI 10.8, is a Highly Cited Paper in WOS (top 1%), and was published in the top psychopathology journal with two commentaries and an invited response. It also led to an invited first-author paper in World Psychiatry, the leading Psychiatry journal.
Publications

- Categories of Publications include:
  - Journal articles (original research)
  - Accepted for publication
  - Journal articles (review)
  - Books/Chapters
  - Research report – commissioned by government, industry or other
  - Technical report
  - Editorials
  - Letters to the editor
  - Preprints
  - Textbook
Publications

• Assessors look at:
  • Quality of publication

  • Authorship position
    • Frequency as first author
    • Frequency as senior author

  • Quality of journal

  • Citations
Publications

• Never include:
  • Impact factors
  • Quartiles
  • A* etc

• Don’t summarise the outcomes of the publication
Research Impact

A research program is a cohesive body of research by the applicant, as opposed to disparate bodies of research that each have different objectives and impacts.

Applicants are required to provide verifiable evidence sufficient and strong enough to demonstrate their claims for all impact criteria.
Types of Research Impact

- **Knowledge**
  New knowledge, demonstrating the benefits emerging from adoption, adaption or use of new knowledge to inform further research, and/or understanding of what is effective

- **Health**
  Improvements in health through new therapeutics, diagnostics, disease prevention or changes in behaviour; or improvements in disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment, management of health problems, health policy, health systems, and quality of life.

- **Economic**
  Improvements in the nation’s economic performance through creation of new industries, jobs or valuable products, or reducing health care costs, improving efficiency in resource use, or improving the welfare/well-being of the population within current health system resources. An economic impact may also contribute to social or health impacts, including human capital gains and the value of life and health.

- **Social**
  Improvements in health of society, including well-being of the end user and the community. May include improved ability to access health care services, to participate socially (including empowerment and participation in decision making) and to quantify improvements in the health of society.
Research Impact

- **Field One: Reach and significance of the research impact (7%)**
  - reach specify who was impacted (E.g. sectors, populations or sub-populations or sector/s) and where did the impact occur (E.g. region, countries, hospital networks).
  - significance, what was the extent of the impact (E.g. policy change, recognition of research across multiple countries etc).

- **Field Two: Research program’s contribution to the research impact (7%)**
  clear and causal connections between the research program and the research impact described in field one.

- **Field Three: Applicant’s contribution to the research program (6%)**
  your specific contribution, relative to opportunity, to the research program

All fields require robust and verifiable evidence to substantiate claims of impact.
How to approach Research Impact

• Choose your strongest impact, even if it does not directly align with the proposed Knowledge Gain

• It is recommended to choose only one or two impacts, as you want to give a strong case which has clear and defined evidence

• Impact MUST have occurred already, not future impact

• Consult with senior colleagues and/or supervisor to discuss
Verifiable and corroborating evidence

- Quality of corroborating evidence is more important than quantity

- Evidence needs to be sufficient and strong to substantiate and verify your research impact claims

- Note that NHMRC acknowledges that not all evidence may be the public record. If your evidence is commercially sensitive you can make note of this. However, the evidence will need to be retained by the Research Services in case we are audited.
Characteristics of High Scoring Application

- Research impact was clearly described and evidenced
  - Used tangible examples to illustrate the change (impact) that occurred as a result of the research;
  - Clearly identified an impact beyond the initial research finding;
  - Included evidence that the impact had significant and far reaching benefits;
  - Clearly described and evidenced how the applicant’s research program contributed to the reach and significance of the impact; and
  - Clearly described and evidenced how the applicant contributed to the research program that led to the research impact.
Characteristics of Low Scoring Application

- Did not correctly address the impact criteria
  - Failed to adequately corroborate impact claims with evidence
  - Nominating initial research findings or publications as the research impact, without describing the change that resulted from the use, adaption or adoption of that knowledge
  - Excessive repetition across the sub-criteria
  - Poorly articulated or evidenced claims of significance, reach or contribution
  - Little/no evidence of applicants role in impact
# Research Impact

## Research Impact Case Study

Indicate which of the following research impact types you would like considered in the assessment of your application. *

- [ ] Social Impact
- [ ] Economic Impact
- [ ] Health Impact
- [ ] Knowledge Impact

Reach and significance of the research impact, supported by corroborating evidence. *

3000 characters remaining.

Research program's contribution to the research impact, supported by corroborating evidence. *

3000 characters remaining.

Applicant's contribution to the research program, supported by corroborating evidence. *

3000 characters remaining.
Approach

• Give strong examples (evidence). You can’t list everything

• Don’t just list items

• Tell a story

• Why are the items you are highlighting important? Impact

• What was YOUR role?

• Don’t duplicate items which have been listed elsewhere (e.g., research impact, top 10 publications)
Research Mentoring

Research mentoring (2000 characters)
“supervision, mentoring, training and/or career development of staff and/or students within and/or beyond their research group”

• Do you lead a team?
• PhD, MRes and Honours student and/or staff
  • How many?
  • Where are they now?
  • What have they accomplished? Their success is your success
• Awards for mentoring and/or supervision
• Mentorship and leadership outside your team or MQ
  • Health Departments
  • International students
Research policy and professional leadership

Research policy and professional leadership (2000 characters)
“experience and contribution to the peer review of publications and grant applications, nationally and/or internationally”
“contribution to community engagement, public advocacy, government advisory boards or committees, professional societies at a local, national and/or international level”

• Show diversity
• Highlight what sets you apart from your peers
• What is the board or committee? What is your role? What has the board or committee achieved?
• Included dates (year range)
• Highlight both academic and non-academic leadership
Institutional Leadership

Institutional leadership (2000 characters)
“non-research contribution(s) to department, centre, institute or organisation e.g. leadership or membership of committee”

• Remember to think institutional (EG outside your team and/or department and/or faculty)
• Does not need to be academic
  • Franklin Women
  • SAGE
  • International students
  • Community organisations
Research Programs and Team Leadership

Research programs and team leadership (2000 characters)
“conception and direction of a research project or program”
“building and maintaining collaborative networks necessary to achieve research outcomes within and/or beyond institution.”

• Research income
• Collaborations
• Your role in the department/faculty
• Research which has led to the Program of Research you have pitched in your Knowledge Gain
• Breadth of research
Specific Assessment Criteria

- Leadership – 15%

### Table 5. Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Category Descriptors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 7     | Exceptional           | Relative to opportunity (including career stage) and to their field of research, the applicant demonstrates exceptional performance in:  
- supervision, mentoring, training and/or career development of staff and/or students within and/or beyond their research group  
- experience and contribution to the peer review of publications and grant applications, nationally and/or internationally  
- contribution to community engagement, public advocacy, government advisory boards or committees, professional societies at a local, national and/or international level  
- non-research contribution(s) to department, centre, institute or organisation e.g. leadership or membership of committee  
- conception and direction of a research project or program  
- building and maintaining collaborative networks necessary to achieve research outcomes within and/or beyond institution. |
Knowledge Gain
## Knowledge Gain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Page Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response to Knowledge Gain criterion</td>
<td>5 Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vision for the next five years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Research objectives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Basic methodologies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expected outcomes and significance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Support for the proposed research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Timeline/s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>2 Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria (if applicable)</td>
<td>2 Pages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Characteristics of a High Scoring Application

• A clear research proposal with well-justified rationale/methods/hypothesis with a strong vision for the future outlining a program of research, not disparate projects

• Clear statements on:
  • What the research might achieve
  • How the proposed research is a significant progression on current activities, with a clear trajectory

• No assumed knowledge, proposed research described in a way that is understandable to someone not directly in the field (avoid jargon and obscure acronyms)
Characteristics of a Low Scoring Application

- There was a lack of detail, focus or cohesion in the research proposal
- Poor justification for the research hypothesis
- Research outcomes lacked vision, impact or significance
- No cohesive outline of a five year research program. Focussed on prior work, with no clear demonstration of the new knowledge to be gained
- Proposed research did not demonstrate progression on current activities
- Research outcomes poorly defined
- Applications were too technical, assumed knowledge, and included heavy use of jargon
- Poor methodology or insufficient methodological detail
- Research proposals did not provide clear details as per assessment criteria (i.e. access to additional expertise required, resources etc.)
Writing tips

• Write so a non-expert in your field will understand and follow

• Use white space and headings

• Minimise acronyms and abbreviations

• Show enthusiasm and true significance
First Page

• Title

• Vision for the next 5 years

• Overview the importance and significance of the proposed research

• Current gaps in knowledge

• Brief background
Vision for the Next Five Years

- Increase trajectory in track record

- Research area of focus and how this 5 year program of research will drive forward the field
Expected Outcomes and Significance

- The importance of the problem
  - Including why and why now

- The planned outcome/s
  - End-user

- Potential significance
  - Don’t oversell

- Will lead to significant research outputs
Research Objectives/Aims

• Well justified and reasoned hypothesis

• Avoid contingent aims, or at least have a plan B

• Are feasible in 5 years

• demonstrate progression on current activities and not a continuation of prior work
Basic Methodologies

- Each discipline will require a different level of detail (Eg clinical trial vs translational research)
  - Scientific framework, design, methods and analysis are flawless

- Assessors are asked to consider
  - Reproducibility and applicability of the research and design
  - That the detail is sufficient to demonstrate robust and unbiased results will be produced.
Support for the Proposed Research

- Technical resources
- Infrastructure
- Equipment and facilities
- Access to additional expertise (if required)
Timeline

• Creates a quick visual on how and when the proposed research will be complete

• A table is a good format

• Align the timeline to the proposed aims

• Don’t forget to include ethics

• Be realistic with timeframes, speaks to feasibility
References

- Do not exceed 2 pages

- Provide a list of all references cited in the application
- NHMRC prefers the Author-date (also known as the Harvard System), Documentary-note and the Vancouver System.

- List authors in the order in which they appear in PubMed.

- Bold your name in the authorship. Don’t lose yourself in the ‘et al’

- Only include references to cited work
Research Support

Advice Toolkit
Faculty Contacts
Research Services Staff
Online
Important Dates
Advice Toolkit

Version 6 available from:

https://truth.mq.edu.au/share/id/mqu4nymx
Research Services Support

• Research Services (Ground Floor, 16 Wally’s Walk)
  Grant Development Team
  Ph: x4745
  E: research.preaward@mq.edu.au

• MQ Investigator Grants website
  https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-funding-and-grant-opportunities/fellowship-and-grant-opportunities/nhmrc/nhmrc-investigator-grants

• Successful Grants Library – NEW AND IMPROVED
  https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-funding-and-grant-opportunities/training-and-support/successful-grants-library
## 2022 Investigator Grant Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Guidelines Released</td>
<td>Wednesday 25 January 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications Open</td>
<td>Wednesday 25 January 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Services checking Minimum Data</td>
<td>9am Tuesday 21 February 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTIONAL Strategic Review (need to book)</td>
<td>20-24 February 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANDATORY Compliance and Eligibility Check (need to book)</td>
<td>6-10 March 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant certifies final application in Sapphire</td>
<td>11:59pm Sunday 19 March 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MQ will submit applications to NHMRC</td>
<td>Wednesday 22 March 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>August 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commence Investigator Grant</td>
<td>1 January 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MQ Library Services

Web of Science, SciVal, Scopus and AltMetrics
Report given and a one-on-one meeting in how to interpret the date and metrics.

FMHHS and FSE
Heather Cooper
Manager, Teaching and Research Services
heather.cooper@mq.edu.au

FoA and MQBS
Grai Calvey
Manager, Teaching and Research Services
grai.calvey@mq.edu.au
Thank you

END