Macquarie University Research Fellowship

SCHEME OBJECTIVES

The Macquarie University Research Fellowships (MQRF) Scheme has three main objectives:

• To provide support to researchers within three years of the conferral of their PhD who have an outstanding track record (relative to opportunity) and/or who show evidence of excellent research potential.

• To provide an incubation research period for early career researchers, allowing them to increase their competitive edge in securing research funding from non-University sources.

• To enhance the research capabilities of existing and emerging areas of research strength at Macquarie University. To contribute to one or more of the University’s five Future-Shaping Research Priorities and detail the expected benefits to Macquarie University.
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants are eligible only if their PhD has been conferred on or after 1 March 2020; or their thesis will be submitted on or before 8 August 2023. The Fellowship cannot commence until the PhD has been conferred, which must be by 30 June 2024.

- Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criterion set out above, must make a convincing case for early career researcher status in their Expression of Interest application (Section 4). Circumstances establishing early career status could include career interruptions due to non-research employment, debilitating illness, childbirth, international relocation, disaster management, unemployment, misadventure or carer responsibilities.

- Each period of career interruption must be significant, extending for a period of greater than 60 calendar days, and not overlapping.

- Applicants who were/are PhD candidates at Macquarie University, or who have had full-time, part-time, or casual employment at Macquarie University since the beginning of 2020 must make a case (in Section 6 of the Expression of Interest Form) for why it is appropriate for them to continue or recommence their research career at Macquarie University.

- Applicants may be subject to review under the Autonomous Sanctions Act 2011 (Cth). This Act restricts Australian organisations (including Macquarie University) from interacting with people or organisations associated with countries on the sanctions list.

- Applicants for any Macquarie University internal grant scheme must not have any overdue reports for internal grants on which they are a current or past lead investigator.
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

ELIGIBILITY – VISA REQUIREMENTS

- At the time of applying for a MQRF Expression of Interest (EoI), *applicants must have Australian Citizenship, Australian Permanent Residency or an existing entitlement to work in Australia for the duration of the fellowship (2024-2026).*

- Applicants who have been *invited to apply for a Global Talent Visa are eligible to apply for an MQRF in 2023.*
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

ELIGIBILITY – CONDITIONS OF AWARD (AFTER FULL APPLICATION ASSESSMENT)

- Macquarie University Research Fellows must be in full-time attendance at Macquarie University except for approved field work and travel.
- The appointments will carry University-standard academic appointment benefits and restrictions. Generally appointed at an A6 level.
- Fellowships must commence by 30 June 2024.
- Successful candidates who have not been awarded their PhD at the time of MQRF application submission cannot take up the Fellowship until formal advice that their PhD has been awarded.
- It is a condition of award that MQRF recipients will apply during the second year of their MQRF tenure to the ARC, NHMRC or any other external agency for a Research Fellowship to be based at Macquarie University.
- Successful applicants are expected to manage their research project funds to completion within the grant allocation period, therefore funds must be fully expended within the funded period.
- Must complete all reporting requirements (eg progress reports and final report).
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

• You must have read the EOI guidelines, toolkit, FAQ’s, discipline norms and attended a webinar. If you have an question after consulting will all materials you can email mqrf@mq.edu.au

• Ensure you are eligible to submit an EOI

• Identify and secure the support of an appropriate sponsor
  • You must make contact with the sponsor to seek their endorsement
  • You must consult with the sponsor and seek input during the application process

• Ensure Macquarie University has the required equipment, infrastructure and expertise for your research (in consultation with your sponsor)

• Complete the EOI application form and all required attachments by the submission deadline
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

SIMPLIFIED FACULTY RESEARCH STRUCTURE
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

FINDING A SPONSOR

https://researchers.mq.edu.au/
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

SPONSORS RESPONSIBILITIES

• Must ensure they are only accepting sponsorship of 1 applicant per year. This limit applies to both Primary Sponsors and Co-Sponsors (i.e. it is not possible to be a Sponsor on one application and a co-sponsor on another)

• Must consult and support applicant through the application process

• Sponsors contract should cover the whole period of the Fellowship (2024-2026)

• The Fellowship Sponsor must endorse the Full Proposal to confirm that Macquarie University has the required resources, systems, facilities (including animal facilities) and core research infrastructure in place to complete the proposed Fellowship project.
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

EOI SELECTION CRITERIA

- Applicant (40%)

- Project (60%)
  - Significance (15%)
  - Approach and Methods (15%)
  - Feasibility (15%)
  - Sponsor Relationship, Environment and Benefit to Macquarie University (15%)

See guidelines for further details regarding each criterion.
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

EOI PROCESS – FACULTY OF ARTS

If you wish to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) for a Macquarie University Research Fellowship in 2023, and your research area is aligned with the Faculty of Arts, you must complete the below pre-EOI steps.

You must email the relevant Director of Research and Innovation by 5 pm (AEST) on Wednesday, 29 March 2023. Information about our Departments and Schools is available here: https://www.mq.edu.au/faculty-of-arts/departments-and-schools. The email must include:

1. Provisional project title and a brief (up to 400 words) project description
2. Name of potential Sponsor (there is no need to contact the Sponsor at this stage)
3. Your PhD conferral date (or thesis submission date if the PhD is not yet awarded)
4. A copy of your CV as an attachment including a list of publications. Publications should be listed under the headings: books, book chapters, peer-reviewed journal articles and other. The CV should also briefly detail any career interruptions since the award of your PhD.
5. A copy of your Australian residency document – passport or visa.

Directors of Research and Innovation

- Department of Philosophy: A/Prof Robert Sinnerbrink
- Department of History and Archaeology: Prof Bronwen Neil
- Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature: Prof Bridget Griffen-Foley
- Macquarie Law School: Prof Niloufer Selvadurai
- Department of Security Studies and Criminology: A/Prof Courtney Fung
- Department of Indigenous Studies: Prof Bronwyn Carlson
- Macquarie School of Education: Prof Tiffany Jones
- Macquarie School of Social Sciences: A/Prof Andrew McGregor

The appropriate Department and School will, if successful, invite you to submit an EOI and confirm your Sponsor’s name and contact details no later than Tuesday, 11 April 2023.
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

EOI PROCESS – FMHHS, FSE AND MQBS

If you wish to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) for a Macquarie University Research Fellowship in 2023, please provide the following information via email (mqrf@mq.edu.au).

Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Science; Faculty of Science and Engineering; Macquarie Business School

Your complete EoI submission should be emailed, by 5pm Wednesday 26 April (AEST), as a single PDF named according to the following convention: “Surname_MQRF_EOI”. Use this checklist to ensure you include all the required information:

☐ Completed EoI form

☐ Proof of your Visa type, or invitation to apply for the Global Talent Visa (if you are not an Australian or NZ Citizen)

☐ Copy of PhD conferral

☐ 6-page maximum CV, including full publications list.

☐ **ALL** applicants must read and agree to the policy terms set out in Section 11 of these guidelines

☐ Expressions of Interest not complying with the above will not be accepted.
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

TIMELINES

• **Expression of Interest (EoI) Key Dates:**
  - **Opening Date:** Wednesday 8 March 2023
  - **FoA pre-EoI closing date:** Wednesday 29 March 2023
  - **EOI Closing Date:** Wednesday 26 April 2023, 5pm (AEST)
  - **Outcomes Expected:** early June 2023

• **Full Proposal (by invitation only) Key Dates:**
  - **Opening Date:** Early June 2023
  - **Closing Date:** Late June/Early July 2023
  - **Outcomes Expected:** Late August 2023
  * **Full application (by invitation only) is opened for 4 weeks**
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

EOI SUPPORT

https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-funding-and-grant-opportunities/fellowship-and-grant-opportunities/internal_funding/mq-research-fellowships

- EOI Funding Guidelines
- EOI Application Form
  - Form has locked formatting to ensure compliance
  - Can be used using Microsoft Word or Word for MAC
- Advice Toolkit
  - To be used in conjunction with the application form
  - FAQs
  - Discipline norms
- Career Disruption Calculator
- Ask Frank! The question bot
  - https://t.ly/kPdEX
- Webinar slides
- Webinar recording
Macquarie University Research Fellowship

NEXT STEPS

• Expressions of Interest will be assessed by the relevant Faculty in accordance with the selection criteria. Each Faculty will nominate a shortlist of proposals which will go forward to full application. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full application in accordance with the 2024 Full Proposal Guidelines (to be provided to those invited to full application).

• Macquarie University will offer up to 10 Research Fellowship positions commencing in 2024. Positions will be awarded on a competitive basis and are offered in two formats:
  • 100% research over three years
  • 75% research and 25% teaching over 4 years.

  NOTE: Where the second option is chosen, the Host Department/School is responsible for salary to cover the 25% teaching component of the Fellow’s salary costs. Written confirmation from Head of the Host Department/School must be provided with your application. Please check with your sponsor if this option is available in the Host Department/School.
Allocation at Full Application

STEumm and HASS

HASS

- Arts
- MQBS
- FMHHS

STEMM

- FSE
- FMHHS
What does success look like

NUMBER OF EOI’S SUBMITTED VS NUMBER FUNDED (AFTER FULL APPLICATION ASSESSMENT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of EOI’s submitted</th>
<th>Number funded after full application (5 x HASS; 5 x STEMM)</th>
<th>Success Rate from EOI to Funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>753</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples/Guides of what success looks like per discipline

See EOI Toolkit for further information
A general guide to expected output post PhD and per year/level (e.g., number and/or kind of publications) as well as what "outstanding" might look like:

• Candidates should be publishing a book within three years post PhD, and should at least be trying to meet Level A research activity for B1 or C1 publications, which is 1 per year for a teaching/research academic.

• Outstanding would be a higher rate than this; good quality publications arising during the PhD (e.g., articles in highly regarded refereed journals), plus a monograph/book published or in press.
A general guide to expected output post PhD and per year/level (e.g., number and/or kind of publications) as well as what "outstanding" might look like:

- Candidates should at least be trying to meet Level A (ABDC journal list) research activity for C1 publications, with 1.5 publications per year for a teaching/research academic workload. Research intensive positions are expected have greater research activity/output (e.g. 2 publications per year for Level B).

- Outstanding would be a higher rate than this; good quality publications arising during the PhD (e.g., articles in highly regarded refereed journals eg A* on the ABDC journal list – top 4-5 per cent of journals), or a monograph/book published or in press with a prestigious publisher.
A general guide to expected output post PhD and per year/level (e.g., number and/or kind of publications) as well as what "outstanding" might look like:

- Consistent with successful recipients of NHMRC Early Career Fellowships (Investigator Grant Emerging Leadership Level 1), an outstanding MQRF applicant at two to three years since PhD would typically have:
  - A career total of 10–15 publications, with approximately half of these as first author, and a number of them in the mid-to-top tier of the specialist field.
  - Presented at several national and international conferences.
  - Could have undertaken review of research articles in well regarded journals.
  - Some form of research grant funding as first investigator – typically smaller grants from internal schemes and/or perhaps a competitive fellowship. A role (typically as a co-investigator) on larger scale Category 1 grant is rare at this stage, but if present indicates high-quality contribution.
A general guide to expected output post PhD and per year/level (e.g., number and/or kind of publications) as well as what "outstanding" might look like:

- 10+ publication “events” weighted toward journal papers and book chapters, but possibly including full conference papers (for 0-2 yr. PhD graduates). Many if not most of these will be senior-authored, some sole-authored, and at least several in high quality (IF > 3.0) journals.
- The increasing presentation of thesis-by-papers means that many graduates will already have 3-5 C1 papers accepted or submitted upon completion of their PhD.
- Several national and international conference presentations.
- Transition to CI role in a post-PhD research project (including postdoc).
- Recognition in the form of prizes and awards. These may be for undergraduate or postgraduate performance, University Medals, or conference awards.
- And potentially;
  - Evidence of peer-esteem in the form of conference prizes, invited conference presentations, invited book chapters;
  - Evidence of initiative (i.e. lead CI/applicant status) and success with small research grants (<1-5 k), including society travel grants, student awards, society research grants etc.;
  - DECRA (or equivalent) application in the works.
EMPOWERING (YOU)us TO ACHIEVE YOUR RESEARCH GOALS WITH INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE. QUALITY. INTEGRITY.

MACQUARIE University SYDNEY AUSTRALIA