Early Career Researcher Fellowship Scheme  
Semester 2, 2021

**Purpose**

This scheme funds the partial buyout of teaching duties for up to one semester. Its purpose is to give successful applicants time to complete one or more publication(s). The scheme is aimed at assisting Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to consolidate or establish their track record, and thereby become more competitive for research funding.

- “Partial” because the maximum amount which can be applied for is $5,000.
- The funding may be used for research assistance or to relieve teaching duties (lectures, tutorials, marking). Other responsibilities (e.g., HDR supervision, unit convening, committees) must still be managed. Note: applicants can apply for assistance for support with convening large units.
- Outputs from the proposed research project are expected to be published in high quality outlets and should meet the HERDC definitions\(^1\) of A1, B1, and C1 – not E1. However, if the output is an edited book (A3), applicants will be expected to be contributing a chapter and a substantial introduction to the book and will need to make a strong case for the significance of the publication and the quality of the publisher.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply for this scheme a staff member:

- Must be in a continuing teaching and research position, at Levels A or B; and
- Must have been awarded their PhD on or after 1 July 2015. **Note:** Applicants who were awarded their PhD prior to 1 July 2015 must make a convincing case for ECR status.
- Must meet the Faculty criteria for being research active.
- Must have a mentor who has agreed to provide guidance with regard to the most effective use of grant money, time and high-quality publication outlets during the fellowship period.
- Staff members who are employed to undertake a specific project or projects (e.g., holders of MQRF or DECRA grants) are not eligible to apply.
- Successful applicants are not permitted to reapply to this scheme.

**Funding** – The MAXIMUM amount which can be awarded is $5,000. 5-8 awards will be given for second semester 2021.

Eligible items of expenditure are:

- Teaching Relief
- Research assistance

**Application Process**

The **applicant** is required to complete the application form using the specific section headings and order set out below.

1. **Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE)**

Please provide (half page maximum):

a. Details of your academic career to date  
b. Nature of current employment (teaching/research/admin percentage allocations; FTE i.e., full-time or part-time)  
c. Research opportunities over the last 5 years  
d. Awards and competitive funding awarded or requested.

2. Justification of ECR status (if required)  
If your PhD was awarded prior to 1 July 2015, please provide here a convincing case for ECR status (half page maximum). Please provide details of:  
a. the research opportunities you have had in the context of your employment  
b. any periods of unemployment or part-time employment any career interruptions (e.g., due to non-research employment, misadventure or carer’s responsibilities).

3. Proposed activities and outputs  
Description of Activities and Outputs (1 page maximum)  
a. Explain the research activities you propose to undertake during the fellowship  
b. Provide full details of the research output(s) on which you propose to work, including details of publisher(s) and significance of the output(s)  
c. Details of the current stage of development of the proposed outputs (e.g., in early draft or ready to be revised following reviewer comments), timeframe for publication.

4. Importance of the Fellowship  
Why is this research opportunity critical at this point in your career? (half a page maximum). Include details of:  
a. How this opportunity will make a significant difference to your research track record  
b. How your teaching load to date may have had an impact on pursuing your research strategy.

5. Research strategy  
Please provide details of your research strategy for the next 3 years (1 page maximum). Include:  
a. What the main focus of your research will be  
b. How this fellowship will contribute to your research strategy  
c. Your future publication strategies and proposed grant applications  
d. An explanation of how the proposed research aligns with the Faculty’s and University’s research Future-Shaping Research Priorities.

6. Curriculum Vitae  
Append to this application a copy of your curriculum vitae, including a full list of publications. List publications under the following headings and in this order:  
a. Scholarly Books  
b. Scholarly Book Chapters  
c. Refereed Journal Articles  
d. Refereed Conference Papers  
e. Patents  
f. Other publications.  
Number your publications continuously.

The applicant’s Head of Department must complete the application form using the specific section headings and order set out below.

7. Head of Department endorsement  
Please comment on:  
a. The feasibility of the proposed activities. Are the applicant’s goals for the Fellowship realistic in terms of timeframe?  
b. The quality and appropriateness of the proposed publication(s) and publication outlet(s).  
c. Alignment of proposed activities with the applicant’s PDR and 3 year research plan.  
d. How this fellowship program will make a difference to the applicant’s track record and competitiveness for funding.  
e. The proposed mentoring arrangements for the fellowship period.
8. Head of Department certification
The Head of Department must sign the form to confirm that the Fellowship can be accommodated by the Department, and the funding awarded will be used to relieve the teaching commitments of the Fellow to enable them to complete their proposed research activities described in response to question 3 above.

Selection Criteria and Process
Applications will be assessed by a selection panel consisting of at least three academics within the Faculty of Arts and chaired by the Associate Dean Research. The selection criteria reflect that applications will be selected based on the quality of the project, the importance of the fellowship at this point in the applicant’s career, and their research strategy.

- Quality of the proposed outputs and outcomes – 50%
- Track record of applicant – 20%
  - Through their track record to date, applicants will need to demonstrate that they have the ability to deliver the proposed outputs and to become competitive for funding (both internal and external)
- The following will be weighted 30%
  - The argument made in response to “Why is this research opportunity critical to you at this point in your career?”
  - The applicant’s research strategy for the next 3 years

Reports
As a condition of funding, grantees will be required to submit a report on the Fellowship to the Chair of the Faculty Research Committee within four weeks of the completion of the fellowship. The Committee may also ask for reports on grant applications and publications related to this grant at a later date.

Application Submission
Email your completed application including Head of Department comments and signatures as a single .pdf file to ArtsRO@mq.edu.au by 5pm on Wednesday 16 June 2021. Results will be announced on Wednesday 30 June 2021.

If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact the Arts Research Office (ArtsRO@mq.edu.au).