ECR Enabling Scheme 2023

Funding Rules

Applications must be submitted via PURE by 5pm on Wednesday 15 February 2023.

Late applications will not be accepted.

1. OVERVIEW

Macquarie University is committed to supporting Early Career Researchers (ECRs), and to supporting innovative, creative, and effective plans for enhancing research productivity. The spirit of the ECR Enabling Scheme is to award funds to ECRs who have a specific need for funding to enhance their research prospects. There will be four panels (one for each faculty) with each panel comprising a mix of ECRs from different faculties. Funds will be distributed to the faculties based on the number of applications, ensuring success rates among faculties are approximately equal.

The use of funds may include, but is not limited to, the following: (1) equipment purchase, (2) research assistant support, (3) workshops or training, (4) technical support, (5) transcription services, (6) open-access publication costs*, (7) online conferences if substantial fees are required, and (8) research-related travel (provided relevant university guidelines are adhered to). Please note that teaching relief and computer purchases will NOT be supported.

*to be eligible for funding for open-access publication costs all relevant data collection and analysis must be completed at the time of application submission. Please indicate in your application the current progress on the manuscript and expected submission date. As awarded EES funds need to be spent by 31 December 2023, only those applicants who are deemed likely to have their manuscript accepted within this timeframe will be considered for open access publishing costs.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & CONDITIONS OF AWARD

To be eligible to apply to the ECR Enabling Scheme the following criteria must be met:

The Scheme is open to ECRs who are:

- ≤ 7 years FTE post PhD**,
- on level A or level B**,
- on a continuing contract or a fixed-term contract that extends to at least the end of 2023 (can be full- or part- time), and
- in the Research Intensive Academic job family, the Teaching and Research Academic job family or the Technical/Industry/Commercial Academic job family with at least 40% research in their workload.
Opportunity is available to justify ECR status if your PhD was conferred before 2016 and/or if you are currently employed on academic level C, however applicants must have research as part of their contracted workload. This may include, but is not restricted to, significant career interruptions (e.g., carer’s leave) and periods of non-research or part-time employment.

The applicant must have:

- submitted their 2023 Development and Performance Review (DPR) or provide sufficient justification as to why they have not (e.g., only started working with MQ in 2023, or initiated review with manager and will be finalised after EES submission date),
- met with a research mentor and/or have developed a 1- to 5-year research plan,
- an ORCID ID, and
- not been awarded the EES funding more than once.

This is a needs-based scheme and preference will be given to ECRs who do not have access to project funds either through their existing funded projects or through their larger research teams. ECRs who have access to project support funds, such as MQRFs, other postdoc positions with supported project funds (i.e.: DECRAs), or postdocs embedded in high-performing, well-funded groups will not be seen as competitive for funding compared with ECRs who do not have access to existing project funds.

Recipients of 2021 or 2022 EES funding are eligible and welcome to apply provided that they meet all other eligibility criteria and received funding only once; however, recipients who have not spent the majority of these funds and do not provide a reasonable justification for this may be deemed ineligible at the discretion of the PVCR Team. Please contact the team via email (ecrenablingscheme@mq.edu.au) if you wish to discuss your circumstance before applying.

It is a condition of award that all funds must be expended by the 31st December 2023. Carrying forward of funds beyond this date is extremely unlikely and should not be expected.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS & FORMATTING

Applications to the ECR Enabling Scheme must be completed on the relevant form, adhering to any specified word limits and the following formatting requirements:

- All text must be 12-point font size or larger, in black type, and in a single column.
- Any references may be reproduced in 10-point size font. If including references, please list all references in section 10 of the application form and restrict the reference list to a half page.
- A highly legible font type must be used, such as Times New Roman or Arial.
- All margins must be at least 2 cm.
- NOTE: applications that fail to comply with the formatting requirements risk being ineligible for funding.
- Budgets must be supported with formal quotes, where appropriate, and comply with relevant MQ policies relating to equipment purchase, travel, or hiring (as appropriate).
4. **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Applicants must submit their application via PURE. Late applications will not be accepted, and incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible. For instructions on how to submit your application via PURE, please see the EES PURE instructions document on the Enabling Scheme webpage.

5. **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Applications for the ECR Enabling Scheme will be assessed according to the following criteria, which will be weighted accordingly:

- **a)** Clearly defined research summary and feasible 1- to 5-year plan (sections 3 and 4; 30%).
- **b)** Clearly defined and feasible plan for how the funds will be used and how the outcomes of expenditure will advance your research and/or researcher goals (sections 5; 40%).
- **c)** Clearly justified budget (sections 6 and 7; 25%).
- **d)** Previous and current funding (section 8; 5%).

6. **SELECTION PROCESS**

All eligible applications will be assessed against the selection criteria by a panel of ECRs. Applications will be assessed against applications from the same faculty; however, each assessment panel will comprise reviewers from all faculties.

7. **FUNDING**

The Scheme offers AUD $1,000-3,000 as a contribution towards any expense that will further research, except those ineligible expenses outlined above. The ECR Enabling scheme is not a replacement for the application to alternative existing schemes (e.g., departmental travel funds; Macquarie University Research Acceleration Scheme). Rather, the spirit of this scheme is to address needs or gaps not already covered by other funding. To that end, applications will be considered more highly where (a) no other scheme or source of funding exists for the particular research cost, or (b) timing issues make alternative sources unfeasible.

All funding must be spent in accordance with the budget proposed in the application. Budgets can only be varied with the prior approval of the chair of the relevant Faculty ECR Enabling Scheme Committee. All funds must be fully expended by 31st December 2023. Carry forward of funding beyond this date is extremely unlikely.

8. **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

On or before 30 June 2024, successful applicants must complete a survey to ascertain how the funding was used and the benefits that accrued as a result. This survey is mandatory for all awardees and applicants who fail to complete this survey risk being ineligible for future internal research funding.

9. **CLOSING DATE**

Applications must be submitted by 5pm Wednesday 15 February 2023, and late applications will not be accepted.
10. **OUTCOMES**

Outcomes are expected to be announced by mid- to late April 2023.

Questions about the scheme can be directed to: ecrenablingscheme@mq.edu.au