ECR Enabling Scheme 2021
Funding Rules

Applications must be submitted via PURE by 5pm on Monday 3rd May 2021.
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. Funds will be distributed to the faculties based on the number of applications, ensuring success rates among faculties are approximately equal. Applications will be assessed by a panel of ECRs within each faculty. The use of funds is non-specific and 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 (8) research-related travel (provided relevant university guidelines are adhered to).

NOTE: teaching relief and computer purchases will NOT be supported.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & CONDITIONS OF AWARD

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

- The applicant must identify as an ECR (typically an ECR has < 7 years of research opportunities post PhD and have a level A or level B position, or a case can be made for ECR status). The Scheme is open to continuing and fixed term ECRs, whether full- or part-time.

- The applicant must have
  a. submitted their 2020 PDR and
  b. met with a research mentor and/or have developed a 1 to 5-year research plan.
  c. Have an ORCID ID

- 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 as ECRs who do not have access to existing project funds.
• All funds must be expended by the end of 2021.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS & FORMATTTING

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

• All text must be 12-point font size, in black type, and in a single column.
• A highly legible font type must be used, such as Times New Roman or Arial.
• All margins must be at least 2 cm.
• Any references may be reproduced in Arial 10-point size font.
• NOTE: applications that fail to comply with the formatting requirements risk being ineligible for funding.

4. SUBMISSION PROCESS

Applicants must submit their application via PURE. Late applications will not be accepted, and incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible. Instructions for submitting in Pure will be made available on the ECR Website when the scheme opens.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications for the ECR Enabling Scheme will be assessed according to the following criteria, which will be equally weighted at 25% each:

a) Clearly defined plan for how the funds will be used during 2021.
b) Clearly defined benefit, with feasible outcomes and value for money.
c) Clearly justified need, including lack of alternative sources of funding.
d) Alignment with applicant’s existing track record, need for professional development, and/or longer-term research plans.

6. SELECTION PROCESS

All eligible applications will be assessed against the selection criteria by a panel of ECRs convened within the faculty of the applicant. The panel will also include a senior researcher.

7. FUNDING

The Scheme offers AUD $1000-2,500 as a contribution toward 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 Infrastructure 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 (b) timing issues make
alternative sources unfeasible. The lack of alternative funding should be explained in Question 5 in the application form.

You can apply for funding for an amount between $1000 and $2,500. 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 in 2021.

8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
On or before June 30, 2022, 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 on the Monday 3rd May 2021 and late applications will not be accepted.

10. OUTCOMES
Outcomes are expected to be announced by early June 2021.

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