Summary

This document outlines the Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) Scheme for 2015. It is consistent with requirements of the Macquarie University future strategic direction.

Macquarie University funds up to 200 Higher Degree Research (HDR) PhD and Master of Research (MRes)/PhD bundle scholarships each year through the Macquarie Research Excellence Scholarship Scheme (MQRES).

The goal of this scheme is to ensure that excellent researchers have the required support to expand their research and research training activities. In addition to new strategic research based appointments the scheme enables academic staff in other areas of the University to access research scholarship funding, for example as Competitive Research Grant awardees or international strategic HDR program participants.

Details

Subject to funding availability, allocations are made on the basis of the four funding categories outlined below to support both domestic and international Master of Research (MRes)/PhD bundle offer candidates and PhD candidates. MQRES applicants must meet a minimum level 3 PhD scholarship rating according to the Higher Degree Research Committee (HDRC) approved rating guidelines. Additional criteria may be required for MRes/PhD bundle scholarships that will be advertised as required.

Faculties are encouraged to use their own funding or seek external funding opportunities and strategic partnerships to provide additional HDR scholarships to support academically qualified research students in areas of research excellence. These areas include those where MQRES allocations have already been made. Faculties are also encouraged to provide supplementary funding where possible to support scholarship holders.

Externally funded scholarships, such as government funded Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA) and International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS) continue to be available and, along with other externally funded scholarship opportunities, are advertised on the HDRO website: www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/scholarships.

The MQRES Allocation Model for 2015 is as follows:

**Cat. 1. Macquarie University strategic research based appointments - new staff**
Minimum 2 domestic MQRES per new Strategy research bases appointment level B+ staff on commencement, normally to be filled in the first year of appointment.

**Cat. 2. Competitive Research Grant awardees**

2.1 **Australian Competitive Grant awardees**

One domestic MQRES or one international tuition fee only MQRES where it has been possible to list a MQRES PhD or MQRES MRes/PhD bundle project as part of the grant application for a successful ARC Discovery, ARC Linkage or other grant listed on the Australian Competitive Grant Register (http://www.innovation.gov.au/research/ResearchBlockGrants/Pages/AustralianCompetitiveGrantsRegister.aspx), and a minimum of $60,000 per annum is awarded to Macquarie for at least 3 years. The allocation is to be subsequently affirmed by the DVC on confirmation of approved budget.

- for 2015 grant awardees MQRES to commence by 13 December 2015
- for 2014 grant awardees MQRES to commence by 1 July 2015

If Macquarie is not the lead partner, or it was not possible to list a MQRES PhD project with associated scholarship as part of the submission, one domestic MQRES PhD or MRes/PhD bundle or one...
international tuition fee only MQRES PhD or MRes/PhD bundle may be allocated on the basis of a minimum of $60,000 per annum being paid to Macquarie for at least 3 years. Lesser amounts or other circumstances may be considered for an allocation by way of a special case application. For a full international MQRES PhD or MRes/PhD bundle allocation to be awarded a minimum of $80,000 per annum for at least 3 years must be awarded to Macquarie. Allocations are confirmed by the DVCR.

2.2 Future Fellows: a minimum of 3 domestic MQRES PhD or MRes/PHD bundles within 3 years (limit 2 pa).

2.3 Other nationally funded Research Centres: MQRES PhD or MRes/PhD bundle as approved by DVCR.

Cat. 3. International strategic HDR programs
For HDR collaboration with international partners to expand our collaborative research profile.

3.1 International HDR awardees and applicants – IPRS stipend reserve list and exceptional opportunities.

3.2 International HDR agreements – eg. Cotutelle PhD, joint degree, CSC cofounded, cohort research MOU

Cat. 4. Competitive Domestic HDR applications
APA reserve list and other exceptional opportunities.

MQRES Scholarship Administration
MQRES allocations are administered by Higher Degree Research Office (HDRO) on behalf of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) (DVCR) and Higher Degree Research Committee. The HDRO office requires all the details on the Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship Funding Request Coversheet (the coversheet) for the DVCR to consider and approve or confirm MQRES scholarship requests. This coversheet is also used for any variations to existing allocations.

MQRES scholarships pre-allocated under the model are notified to designated strategic research based staff or the Chief Investigator/staff member following confirmation of allocation by the DVCR. Scholarships will normally be allocated for a limited term of between 6-12 months. If not filled and/or offered, the scholarship may lapse unless a case (supported by a written request) for an extension to the deadline is approved by the Director HDRO.

Unless otherwise specified at the time of allocation or, in the case of competitive research grant awardees, unless specified in the grant application and subsequently approved, MQRES are to be used to recruit suitably qualified domestic candidates. Awardees may seek a variation to this by way of a special case, written as a request to the Director, HDRO for consideration by the DVCR which will be presented to the DVCR using the coversheet.

Designated academic staff may either nominate an eligible applicant to be considered for the award of an allocated MQRES PhD or Master of Research/PhD bundle scholarship, or alternatively request HDRO to advertise their PhD project. All Cat 2 allocations should be advertised. An advertising template will be sent by the HDRO to academics who are allocated scholarships, advising their allocation number/s. Advertisements are displayed on the HDRO website.

All applications for admission and scholarships are assessed in the usual manner through the Higher Degree Research Office, and nominations for scholarships are subject to review by the HDRC delegate to ensure the applicant meets current eligibility requirements (eg. a minimum Level 3 academic rating; for PhD applications and an expected overall IELTS of 7 for international applicants, minimum 6.5). HDRO is responsible for officially notifying scholarship outcomes.

Important: Please note that any informal notification to an applicant does not commit the University to making a scholarship offer.

The DVCR reserves the right to amend the MQRES Allocation Scheme and MQRES Conditions of Award.
### Related Plans/Resources/Documents

- Macquarie University Strategic Research Framework 2015-2024  
- Cotutelle and Joint PhD Programs  
- MQRES Conditions of Award 2015

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<th><strong>Contact Officer</strong></th>
<th>Director, HDRO</th>
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<td><strong>Date Approved</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Approval Authority</strong></td>
<td>Higher Degree Research Committee</td>
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