Summary

This document outlines the Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) Scheme for 2016. It is consistent with the World-Leading Research World-Changing Impact Strategic Research Framework 2015-2024.

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. To be considered for a scholarship, 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 webpages: http://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/scholarships

The MQRES Allocation Model for 2016 is as follows:

Cat. 1. Macquarie University strategic research based appointments - new staff
Minimum 2 domestic MQRES per new Strategy research based 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 (https://education.gov.au/australian-competitive-grants-register), 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 R on confirmation of approved budget. If less than $50,000 per year is awarded the scholarship will be withdrawn.

The CI must nominate the calendar year in which the scholarship position will be filled.
Failure of meeting the following deadlines will result in forfeiture of the scholarship:

PhD applicants must apply, have their application assessed and be enrolled and start their scholarship by 15 December of the nominated calendar year

Master of Research Year 2 applicant must apply and then be successfully offered and receive their scholarship through the structured main rounds of applications.

Structured Master of Research application due dates 2016/17 are advertised on the HDRO webpages: [http://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/research-training](http://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/research-training)

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.

Post-grant awarded scholarship requests and variation requests to the DVCR are to be submitted via the HDRO office on hdrschol@mq.edu.au

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 cofunded, 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 will 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 3 scholarship rating on the University’s current rating guidelines for PhD applications and all applicants must meet the University’s English language requirements). 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

Australian Competitive Grant Register https://education.gov.au/australian-competitive-grants-register

Cotutelle and Joint PhD Programs
http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_for/Cotutelle_and_joint_phd_programs

MQRES Conditions of Award 2016

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<tr>
<th>Contact Officer</th>
<th>Director, Higher Degree Research Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date Approved</td>
<td>17 July 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approval Authority</td>
<td>Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of Commencement</td>
<td>1 January 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amendment Dates</td>
<td>25 February 2016 – details of conditions of scholarships being awarded to successful grant recipients included, details on applying for scholarship allocations outside of main grant round procedures included, reference to structured Master of Research student application due dates included, web links updated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date for Next Review</td>
<td>July 2016</td>
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<tr>
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