

NHMRC Investigator Grants Funding Scheme

30 January 2023



Advice Toolkit



Australian Government
National Health and Medical Research Council



Investigator Grants 2023 Guidelines

Opening date:	25 January 2023
Closing date and time:	5:00 pm ACT local time on 22 March 2023
Commonwealth policy entity:	National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Enquiries:	<p>Applicants requiring further assistance are to direct enquiries to their Administering Institution's Research Administration Officer. Research Administration Officers can contact NHMRC's Research Help Centre for further advice:</p> <p>Phone: 1800 500 983 (+61 2 6217 9451 for international callers)</p> <p>Email: help@nhmrc.gov.au</p> <p>Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about scheme policy will be collated and answered via the scheme's FAQs document on GrantConnect. All policy enquiries must be submitted by 5:00 pm ACT local time 13 March 2023. The final FAQs will be released on 15 March 2023.</p> <p>NHMRC will not respond to any enquiries submitted after 1:00 pm ACT local time on 22 March 2023.</p> <p>Note: NHMRC's Research Help Centre aims to provide a reply to all requests for general assistance within 2 working days. This timeframe may be longer during peak periods or for more detailed requests for assistance.</p>
Date guidelines released:	25 January 2023
Type of grant opportunity:	Targeted competitive

RESEARCH SERVICES



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GUIDE FOR COMPLETING YOUR NHMRC INVESTIGATOR GRANT APPLICATION

This guide provides strategic advice and guidance on completing your NHMRC Investigator Grant through Macquarie University and should be used in conjunction with NHMRC Investigator Grant templates. This strategic information is additional to, and complements information provided on the [GrantsConnect NHMRC Investigator Grants webpage](#)



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NHMRC Documents

Home ► Current Grant Opportunity View - GO6014 ► Grant Opportunity Documents - GO6014

Grant Opportunity Documents - GO6014

Investigator Grants 2023

Contact Details

NHMRC Research Help Centre

Phone:
1800 500 983

Email Address:
help@nhmrc.gov.au

Web Address:
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/find-funding/investigator-grants>

GO ID: GO6014

The files below make up the document set for this grant opportunity.

To open the files, click on the file name. Some web browsers require you to click the right mouse button. You will then see a list of options; choose either 'Save Target As' or 'Save Link As...'

Investigator Grants 2023 Grant Opportunity Guidelines	
 Investigator Grants 2023 Grant Opportunity Guidelines.pdf	1.15 MB
CIA Surname_Grant Proposal	
 CIA Surname_Grant Proposal.docx	31 KB
Investigator Grants 2023 Partner Organisations	
 Investigator Grants 2023 Partner Organisations.pdf	339 KB
Key Characteristics of Investigator Grant Applications	
 Key Characteristics of Investigator Grant Applications.pdf	117 KB

www.grants.gov.au

Changes from last round

- Broad Research Area definitions have been developed
- NHMRC Open Access Policy has been updated
- Gender equity – in particular for female and non-binary applicants
- Gender options for applicants has expanded
- A single Research Support Package (RSP) of \$400,000 per annum for Leadership applicants
- Leadership criterion has been updated with guidance recognising a broader range of leadership contributions
- Other Australian Government eligibility policy has been updated
- The Awardees from round 1 can apply for a second Investigator Grant
- Booking calendar for Strategic Review and Compliance and Eligibility Review
- DVCR Co-Funding Process



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Change in 2023

Broad Research Areas

Open Access Policy

Gender Equity

Assessment of Leadership

Leadership Criterion

Other Australian Government

Awarded in round 1

Booking Calendars

DVCR Co-Funding

Broad Research Areas

- **Basic Science Research**

seeks to understand the biological processes that underpin health and disease at the molecular, cellular, organ system and whole body levels. It may be conducted in vitro, in vivo and/or in silico. It may use but, is not limited to, cells, tissues or other materials of human origin or from relevant animal models.

- **Clinical Medicine and Science Research**

seeks to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of human diseases and conditions. It may involve interaction with patients and/or the use of clinical diagnostic materials or patient data.

Broad Research Areas

- **Health Services Research**

seeks to understand and improve the effectiveness, quality, safety, social and environmental dimensions of health care including access, distribution, timeliness and efficiency.

- **Public Health Research**

seeks to improve the health of a population through the prevention of disease, prolongation of life and promotion of health and wellbeing. It includes research to understand the social, behavioural, environmental and other determinants of health and disease.

Open Access Policy

- All recipients of NHMRC grants must comply with all elements of NHMRC's Open Access Policy as a condition of funding. NHMRC's Open Access Policy is available on [NHMRC's website](#).
 - Made available immediately upon publication, removing the 12-month embargo period
 - Published with the use of an open licence, which means publications can be used and shared widely.


Gender Equity


- NHMRC has implemented additional special measures to address systematic disadvantage faced by female and non-binary applicants.
- **Funding recommendations**
 - 3 funding competitions (EL1, EL2, Leadership)
 - Leadership will be separated into 2 funding cohorts
 - **Male**
 - **Female and non-binary**
 - **Target to fund equal number of grants in the 2 cohorts**
 - Structural priority funding will apply to high-quality 'near-miss' female and non-binary EL1 and EL2 applicants.

Change your gender identity

← → ↻ 🏠 sapphire-gma.healthandmedicalresearch.gov.au/profile/personal-information




🔴 Login | Marketo 📧 The Aquamarine Re... 📧 Mail - Courtney Be... 📧 Macquarie Universi... 📧 Group Marketing C... 📧 56ij9cgo5d031.jpg (... 📧 Airbnb - MQ 📧 Microsoft Word - P... 📧 Investigator Grants... 📧 singleton post offic... 📧 myecho360 - Googl... 📧 Applications - Home 📧 ServiceNow

 **Australian Government**
National Health and Medical Research Council

SAPPHIRE 

[Profile](#) > [Personal Information](#) Courtney Bendall

SITE MAP

-  **Researcher Profiles** ▾
-  **My Profile** <
- About My Profile
- Profile Status
-  **Personal Information**
- Academic Information
- Peer Review Information ▾
- Unavailability Calendar
- Contributions to NHMRC
- My Grants
- Other Funding
- Employment History
- Qualifications/Awards/Prizes
- Appointments
- Professional Memberships
- Career Disruptions
- Relative to Opportunity
- Conference Participations
- Community Engagements

Personal Information

This field can only be updated via the Edit My Sapphire Account details page. 8 / 255

Preferred Name

Courtney

8 / 255

Middle Names

0 / 255

Last Name

Bendall

This field can only be updated via the Edit My Sapphire Account details page. 7 / 255

Gender

Man or male

Woman or female

Prefer not to answer

Non-binary

I use a different term

Form Overview

- ✓ Title
- First Name
- ✓ Preferred Name
- Middle Names
- Last Name
- Gender
- ✓ Year of Birth
- ✓ Country of Birth
- ✓ Citizenship Country
- ✓ Residency Status
- ✓ ATSI status
- Primary Email
- Alternate Email
- Primary Phone
- ✓ Alternate Phone

View Mode **Edit Mode**

Discard **Commit**

Other Australian Govt.(OAG)

- Restrictions apply to the eligibility of other Australian government grantees (anything but NHMRC).
- Recipients of salaries from an OAG, must declare to the NHMRC (can be either named or unnamed positions)
- If you are being paid via an OAG which will not end in 2023 please consult with Grant Development Team to check your particular eligibility (research.preaward@mq.edu.au).

Current Investigator Grant Awardees

- Existing Investigator Grant will end before, or be in its final year, on 1 January 2024 can apply this round
- If successful this round your new Investigator will be deferred till your existing Investigator Grant concludes
- You are not allowed to relinquish your existing Investigator Grant
- For EL1 and EL2 you can't apply for the same level again.
- For Leadership:
 - L1 can be held for a max. of 2 terms
 - L2 can be held for a max. of 2 terms
 - L3 can be held for a max. of 5 terms
- You are not allowed to apply at a level below your current Investigator Grant

MQ Online Booking Systems


OPTIONAL Strategic Review

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/MQStrategicGrantReview@mq.edu.au/bookings/s/-ibz39BDK0WV5kZUXLVuhA2>

- Book a one hour time slot
- Feedback will be provided via PURE within 10 business days from your booking (external applicants will be via email)
- Book between 20-24 February 2023
- For the booking you **MUST**
 - **Complete all sections in Sapphire and 'Certify to RAO'**
 - **Upload a draft of your proposal in PURE**
 - **External applicants email your draft to research.preaward@mq.edu.au**



**MQ Strategic Grant Review
Booking Calendar**

NHMRC Investigator Grant (20 - 24 Feb) 

Book the date and time you'd like your N... [Read more](#)

1 hour



MQ Online Booking Systems

MANDATORY Compliance and Eligibility Review


<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/MQComplianceEligibilityGrantReviewBookingCalendar@mq.edu.au/bookings/s/ALjaav6zSUm6-WWmKmUDPQ2>

- Book a one hour time slot
- Feedback will be provided via PURE within 3 business days from your booking (external applicants will be via email)
- Book between 6-10 March 2023
- For the booking you **MUST**
 - **Complete all sections in Sapphire and 'Certify to RAO'**
 - **Upload a draft of your proposal and your DVCR Co-Funding form in PURE**
 - **External applicants email your draft to research.preaward@mq.edu.au**
 - **Submit your PURE record for internal approvals**



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MQ Compliance & Eligibility
Grant Review Booking Calendar

NHMRC Investigator Grant (6 - 10 March) 
Book the date and time that you'd like yo... [Read more](#)
1 hour

DVCR Co-Funding

- <https://truth.mq.edu.au/share/id/mqu5g2sv>

APPENDIX A – NHMRC Investigator Grant Salaries and Macquarie equivalents (per annum)

	NHMRC SSP	Macquarie (maximum level)
Emerging Leadership 1 - ≤10 years post-PhD and will be beginning to gain recognition in their research area	\$82,408	Level B, Step 6
Emerging Leadership 2 - ≤10 years post-PhD and recognised for their expertise in their research area	\$117,238	Level C, Step 6
Leadership Level 1 - national authorities in their research area	\$153,931	Level D, Step 4
Leadership Level 2 - leading national and rising international authorities in their research area	\$179,433	Level E, Step 2
Leadership Level 3 - leading international authorities in their research area	\$190,608	Level E, Step 2

Where an applicant's Macquarie University salary is higher than the Macquarie (maximum level) above, the Faculty and/or Department will need to approve the additional top-up required. Discuss with your Head of Department/School.



DVCR Co-Funding

DVCR Co-funding Request for NHMRC and MRFF (submitted via NHMRC) Grant Application Submitted in 2023

Macquarie University Lead Chief Investigator:

Full Name		Position	
Department/School		Faculty	
Email		Phone	

NHMRC/MRFF Application:

NHMRC/MRFF Scheme Name		NHMRC/MRFF Scheme Round	
Sapphire Project ID		Pure ID	
NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request	\$	Length of Project (years)	
Amount of NHMRC/MRFF Request to be Transferred Outside MQ	\$		
Amount of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ	\$ (put 20% of this amount in the table below)		

In the table below, enter the Co-funding amount, and HDR scholarships (if applicable) you wish to request. Make sure the requested Co-funding is no more than 20% of the NHMRC/MRFF cash request to remain at MQ, and if you request HDR scholarships, it is permitted by MQ for the scheme you are applying to.

NHMRC/MRFF Scheme	Eligible MQ DVCR Scholarship Co-Funding Request	Up to 20% Co-funding (cash)	No. HDR Scholarships
NHMRC Centres of Research Excellence (CRE)	20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ 2 x domestic MQRES (3 years)	Enter amount requesting	
NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies (CTCS)	20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ	Enter amount requesting	Not permitted for this scheme
NHMRC Development Grant	20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ	Enter amount requesting	Not permitted for this scheme
NHMRC Ideas Grant	20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ	Enter amount requesting	Not permitted for this scheme
NHMRC Partnership Projects	20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ	Enter amount requesting	Not permitted for this scheme
NHMRC Synergy Grant	20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ 3 x domestic MQRES (3 years)	Enter amount requesting	
NHMRC Targeted Call for Research (TCR)	20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ	Enter amount requesting	Not permitted for this scheme
MRFF (via NHMRC)	20% of NHMRC/MRFF Cash Request to Remain at MQ	Enter amount requesting	Not permitted for this scheme

NHMRC Investigator Grant applicants

Are you requesting a salary from the NHMRC?	Yes/No
What is your current MQ Level and Step?	
What year do you estimate you will apply for promotion?	



The Application

About Investigator Grants

- The objective of the Investigator Grant scheme is to support the research program of outstanding investigators at ALL career stages.
- It consolidates separate salary (if required) and research support into a single grant scheme.

The expected outcomes are:

- Flexibility for investigators to pursue important new research directions as they arise and to form collaborations as needed
- Innovative and creative research
- Opportunities for researchers at all career stages to establish their own research programs
- Reduce applications and peer review burden on researchers

Eligibility

- At the time of acceptance and for the duration of the grant, the Investigator Grant holder must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia.
- Investigator Grant holder must be based in Australia for 80% of the funding period (Leadership) or 50% of the funding period (Emerging Leader)
- Hold a PhD or research qualification equivalent (Level 10 criteria of the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#))
- Limits apply to the number of NHMRC applications/grants. See [NHMRC Eligibility Tool](#).

Investigator Grants: Salaries and RSPs

Table 3. Investigator Grant salary and RSP components

		Salary	RSP
Category	Level	Amount per annum	Amount per annum
Leadership	L3	\$190,608	\$400,000
	L2	\$179,433	
	L1	\$153,931	
Emerging Leadership	EL2	\$117,238	\$200,000
	EL1	\$82,408	\$50,000

Excluded from Salary requests

Applicants may apply for an Investigator Grant but are ***not entitled to salary support for the life of the grant if, on 1 January of the year an Investigator Grant is to commence, they hold a core position*** requiring substantial time dedicated to:

- roles where the overarching responsibility is ***leadership of an independent Medical Research Institute*** (e.g. Director or CEO)
- roles where the ***overarching responsibility is leadership of an institute or centre under university or hospital governance*** (e.g. Director or CEO)
- academic administrative roles such as ***Dean, Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor or Pro Vice-Chancellor***.

MQ Support Package

Years 1-2

**DVCR Salary
Top-Up**

Years 3-5

**Salary Top-Up
by Faculty
and/or
Department**

*to be discussed with
HoD and FRM prior to
application*

Minimum Data

- Administering Institution
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Research Focus (yes/no)
- Project synopsis
- Privacy agreement
- Research Classification:
 - Broad research area
 - Field(s) of research
 - Peer Review Areas
 - Research keywords
- Chief Investigator A (complete CIA Role and Name)
- Category and Level



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NHMRC Investigator Grant Application

Process
Structure

The Application Process

1. Discuss your Investigator Grant research idea and track record with MQ staff (E.g. supervisor, HoD, Grant Development Team)
2. Begin working on full application
3. Create your application in Sapphire
4. Create a PURE record
5. Book in (if required) for your Strategic Review
6. Book in for your one and only Compliance and Eligibility Review
7. Submit a full draft of your application in PURE and Sapphire by the strategic booking date and time (if you opted in)
8. Submit your revised/penultimate draft in PURE and Sapphire prior to your Compliance and Eligibility Review date and time
9. Certify your final application in Sapphire by 11:59pm Sunday 19 March

Sapphire (Application)

- Synopsis
- Plain English Summary (media summary)
- Participating Institutions
- Research Classification (BRA, FOR, PRA, Keywords, BoD)
- Ethics
- Researcher (Category/Level, Justification, Salary Declaration)
- Relative to Opportunity (PhD Date, Career Overview, Career Context, Career Disruption)
- Strategic Priorities and Funding Partners
- Track Record (Publications, Research Impact, Leadership)
- Grant Proposal

Sapphire (Profile)

- Primary Institution (Macquarie University)
- Personal Information (title, name, gender, phone, email)
- Academic Information (pass date, not the date of conferral)
- Peer Review (select BRA/s that best aligns with your expertise)
- Fields of Research (add as many as required)
- Unavailability calendar (NHMRC may ask you to review, so they need to know when you are available. Strongly encouraged to assess)
- Contributions to NHMRC (role, number of times, year)

Assessment Criteria

- Knowledge Gain (Research Proposal) – **30%**
- Track Record - **70%**
 - Publications (last 10 years) – **35%**
 - Research Impact – **20%**
 - Leadership – **15%**

Assessment Criteria Scoring

Score	Performance Indicator
7	Exceptional
6	Outstanding
5	Excellent
4	Very Good
3	Good
2	Satisfactory
1	Weak or Limited

Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria

- **GIVE EQUAL WEIGHTING TO EACH OF THE FOUR AREAS**
- **STRONG IN EACH AREA – ASSESSED BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS**
- **Community engagement**
the knowledge gain demonstrates how the research and potential outcomes are a priority for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with relevant community engagement by individuals, communities and/or organisations in conceptualisation, development and approval, data collection and management, analysis, report writing and dissemination of results.
- **Benefit**
the potential health benefit of the program of research is demonstrated by addressing an important public health issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This benefit can have a single focus or affect several areas, such as knowledge, finance and policy or quality of life. The benefit may be direct and immediate, or it can be, indirect, gradual and considered.
- **Sustainability and transferability**
the knowledge gain demonstrates how the results of the program of research have the potential to lead to achievable and effective contributions to health gain for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, beyond the life of the program of research. This may be through sustainability in the project setting and/or transferability to other settings such as evidence-based practice and/or policy. In considering this issue the knowledge gain should address the relationship between costs and benefits.
- **Building capability**
the knowledge gain demonstrates how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and researchers will develop relevant capabilities through partnerships and participation in the program of research.



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Newish Sections

Relative to Opportunity Policy

Research

- research role(s) and responsibilities, career stage, and amount of time spent as an active researcher

Resources and facilities

- available resources and facilities, including:
 - the extent to which any additional research personnel and/or collaborators contribute to the applicant's research program
 - situations where research is being conducted in remote or isolated communities

Professional responsibilities

- clinical, administrative and/or teaching workload
- time employed in other sectors
- building relationships of trust with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities over long periods

Relative to Opportunity Policy

Personal circumstances

- disability (including mental health conditions and psychosocial disability) or illness
- caring responsibilities that do not interrupt the applicant's career for an extended period (that would meet the definition of a Career Disruption) but still affect research productivity
- for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants, community obligations including 'sorry business'

Other circumstances

- relocation of an applicant and their research laboratory or clinical practice s
- periods of unemployment
- calamities, such as pandemics, bushfires or cyclones.

Relative to Opportunity considerations do not include:

- minor (or short-term) changes that occur during the normal course of conducting research, e.g. broken equipment or delayed ethics approval
- minor (or short-term) medical conditions
- recreational leave or general administrative activities related to research, such as preparation of grant applications and publications or committee-related activities.

Career Context

- Broad overview of engagement in research over last 10 years (or commencement of research, if fewer than 10 years)
- It should include:
 - Research roles and responsibilities
 - Career stage and time spent as an active researcher
 - How circumstances affected or contributed to research productivity relative to the typical performance of researchers in your field.
- The more specific you are about your career trajectory, the more helpful it is to peer reviewers.
- What should NOT be included:
 - Scientific summary of projects and outputs
 - Research activity as an undergraduate

Top 10 Publications

Publications

Top 10 in 10

Nominate up to 10 of your best publications from the past 10 years [?](#)

Provide explanations of why these publications have been selected, outlining the quality and contribution to science, and your contribution to each.

 Publication 1

Citation

500 characters remaining.

Explanation

1000 characters remaining.

Publications

- 1000 characters to detail a meaningful explanation for each publication
 - Why have you selected this publication in your top 10?
 - **Outline the publication quality**
 - **Outline the contribution to science**
 - **Your contribution to the publication**

Example

I led a team of esteemed methodologists to highlight concerns about a popular statistical method for symptom-level analyses of the structure of mental illness. Pub 1 has 111 GS cit'ns, FWCI 10.8, is a Highly Cited Paper in WOS (top 1%), and was published in the top psychopathology journal with two commentaries and an invited response. It also led to an invited first-author paper in World Psychiatry, the leading Psychiatry journal.

Publications

- Categories of Publications include:
 - Journal articles (original research)
 - Accepted for publication
 - Journal articles (review)
 - Books/Chapters
 - Research report – commissioned by government, industry or other
 - Technical report
 - Editorials
 - Letters to the editor
 - Preprints
 - Textbook

Publications

- Assessors look at:
 - Quality of publication
 - Authorship position
 - **Frequency as first author**
 - **Frequency as senior author**
 - Quality of journal
 - Citations

Publications

- Never include:
 - Impact factors
 - Quartiles
 - A* etc
- Don't summarise the outcomes of the publication

Research Impact

Research Impact

A research program is a cohesive body of research by the applicant, as opposed to disparate bodies of research that each have different objectives and impacts.

Applicants are required to provide verifiable evidence sufficient and strong enough to demonstrate their claims for all impact criteria.

Types of Research Impact

- **Knowledge**

New knowledge, demonstrating the benefits emerging from adoption, adaption or use of new knowledge to inform further research, and/or understanding of what is effective

- **Health**

Improvements in health through new therapeutics, diagnostics, disease prevention or changes in behaviour; or improvements in disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment, management of health problems, health policy, health systems, and quality of life.

- **Economic**

Improvements in the nation's economic performance through creation of new industries, jobs or valuable products, or reducing health care costs, improving efficiency in resource use, or improving the welfare/well-being of the population within current health system resources. An economic impact may also contribute to social or health impacts, including human capital gains and the value of life and health.

- **Social**

Improvements in health of society, including well-being of the end user and the community. May include improved ability to access health care services, to participate socially (including empowerment and participation in decision making) and to quantify improvements in the health of society

Research Impact

- **Field One: Reach and significance of the research impact (7%)**
 - reach specify who was impacted (E.g. sectors, populations or sub-populations or sector/s) and where did the impact occur (E.g. region, countries, hospital networks).
 - significance, what was the extent of the impact (E.g. policy change, recognition of research across multiple countries etc).
- **Field Two: Research program's contribution to the research impact (7%)**

clear and causal connections between the research program and the research impact described in field one.
- **Field Three: Applicant's contribution to the research program (6%)**

your specific contribution, relative to opportunity, to the research program

All fields require robust and verifiable evidence to substantiate claims of impact.

How to approach Research Impact

- Choose your strongest impact, even if it does not directly align with the proposed Knowledge Gain
- It is recommended to choose only one or two impacts, as you want to give a strong case which has clear and defined evidence
- Impact **MUST** have occurred already, not future impact
- Consult with senior colleagues and/or supervisor to discuss

Verifiable and corroborating evidence

- Quality of corroborating evidence is more important than quantity
- Evidence needs to be sufficient and strong to substantiate and verify your research impact claims
- Note that NHMRC acknowledges that not all evidence may be the public record. If your evidence is commercially sensitive you can make note of this. However, the evidence will need to be retained by the Research Services in case we are audited.

Characteristics of High Scoring Application

- Research impact was clearly described and evidenced
 - Used tangible examples to illustrate the change (impact) that occurred as a result of the research;
 - Clearly identified an impact beyond the initial research finding;
 - Included evidence that the impact had significant and far reaching benefits;
 - Clearly described and evidenced how the applicant's research program contributed to the reach and significance of the impact; and
 - Clearly described and evidenced how the applicant contributed to the research program that led to the research impact.

Characteristics of Low Scoring Application

- Did not correctly address the impact criteria
 - Failed to adequately corroborate impact claims with evidence
- Nominating initial research findings or publications as the research impact, without describing the change that resulted from the use, adaption or adoption of that knowledge
- Excessive repetition across the sub-criteria
- Poorly articulated or evidenced claims of significance, reach or contribution
- Little/no evidence of applicants role in impact

Research Impact

Research Impact Case Study

Indicate which of the following research impact types you would like considered in the assessment of your application. *

- ☐ Social Impact
- ☐ Economic Impact
- ☐ Health Impact
- ☐ Knowledge Impact

Reach and significance of the research impact, supported by corroborating evidence. *

3000 characters remaining.

Research program's contribution to the research impact, supported by corroborating evidence. *

3000 characters remaining.

Applicant's contribution to the research program, supported by corroborating evidence. *

3000 characters remaining.



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Leadership

Approach

- Give strong examples (evidence). You can't list everything
- Don't just list items
- Tell a story
- Why are the items you are highlighting important? Impact
- What was YOUR role?
- Don't duplicate items which have been listed elsewhere (EG research impact, top 10 publications)

Research Mentoring

Research mentoring (2000 characters)

“supervision, mentoring, training and/or career development of staff and/or students within and/or beyond their research group”

- Do you lead a team?
- PhD, MRes and Honours student and/or staff
 - How many?
 - Where are they now?
 - What have they accomplished? Their success is your success
- Awards for mentoring and/or supervision
- Mentorship and leadership outside your team or MQ
 - Health Departments
 - International students

Research policy and professional leadership

Research policy and professional leadership (2000 characters)

“experience and contribution to the peer review of publications and grant applications, nationally and/or internationally”

“contribution to community engagement, public advocacy, government advisory boards or committees, professional societies at a local, national and/or international level”

- Show diversity
- Highlight what sets you apart from your peers
- What is the board or committee? What is your role? What has the board or committee achieved?
- Included dates (year range)
- Highlight both academic and non-academic leadership

Institutional Leadership

Institutional leadership (2000 characters)

“non-research contribution(s) to department, centre, institute or organisation e.g. leadership or membership of committee”

- Remember to think institutional (EG outside your team and/or department and/or faculty)
- Does not need to be academic
 - Franklin Women
 - SAGE
 - International students
 - Community organisations

Research Programs and Team Leadership

Research programs and team leadership (2000 characters)

“conception and direction of a research project or program”

“building and maintaining collaborative networks necessary to achieve research outcomes within and/or beyond institution.”

- Research income
- Collaborations
- Your role in the department/faculty
- Research which has led to the Program of Research you have pitched in your Knowledge Gain
- Breadth of research

Specific Assessment Criteria

• Leadership – 15%

Table 5. Leadership

Score	Performance Indicator	Category Descriptors
7	Exceptional	<p>Relative to opportunity (including career stage) and to their field of research, the applicant demonstrates exceptional performance in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supervision, mentoring, training and/or career development of staff and/or students within and/or beyond their research group • experience and contribution to the peer review of publications and grant applications, nationally and/or internationally • contribution to community engagement, public advocacy, government advisory boards or committees, professional societies at a local, national and/or international level • non-research contribution(s) to department, centre, institute or organisation e.g. leadership or membership of committee • conception and direction of a research project or program • building and maintaining collaborative networks necessary to achieve research outcomes within and/or beyond institution.

Knowledge Gain

Knowledge Gain

Component	Page Limit
Response to Knowledge Gain criterion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vision for the next five years• Research objectives• Basic methodologies• Expected outcomes and significance• Support for the proposed research• Timeline/s	5 Pages
References	2 Pages
Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria (if applicable)	2 Pages

Characteristics of a High Scoring Application

- A clear research proposal with well-justified rationale/methods/hypothesis with a strong vision for the future outlining a program of research, not disparate projects
- Clear statements on:
 - What the research might achieve
 - How the proposed research is a significant progression on current activities, with a clear trajectory
- No assumed knowledge, proposed research described in a way that is understandable to someone not directly in the field (avoid jargon and obscure acronyms)

Characteristics of a Low Scoring Application

- There was a lack of detail, focus or cohesion in the research proposal
- Poor justification for the research hypothesis
- Research outcomes lacked vision, impact or significance
- No cohesive outline of a five year research program.
- **Focussed on prior work, with no clear demonstration of the new knowledge to be gained**
- Proposed research did **not demonstrate progression on current activities**
- Research outcomes poorly defined
- Applications were **too technical, assumed knowledge**, and included heavy use of jargon
- Poor methodology or insufficient methodological detail
- Research proposals did not provide clear details as per assessment criteria (i.e. access to additional expertise required, resources etc.)

Writing tips

- Write so a non-expert in your field will understand and follow
- Use white space and headings
- Minimise acronyms and abbreviations
- Show enthusiasm and true significance

First Page

- Title
- Vision for the next 5 years
- Overview the importance and significance of the proposed research
- Current gaps in knowledge
- Brief background

Vision for the Next Five Years

- Increase trajectory in track record
- Research area of focus and how this 5 year program of research will drive forward the field

Expected Outcomes and Significance

- The importance of the problem
 - Including why and why now
- The planned outcome/s
 - End-user
- Potential significance
 - Don't oversell
- Will lead to significant research outputs

Research Objectives/Aims

- Well justified and reasoned hypothesis
- Avoid contingent aims, or at least have a plan B
- Are feasible in 5 years
- demonstrate progression on current activities and not a continuation of prior work

Basic Methodologies

- Each discipline will require a different level of detail (Eg clinical trial vs translational research)
 - Scientific framework, design, methods and analysis are flawless
- Assessors are asked to consider
 - Reproducibility and applicability of the research and design
 - That the detail is sufficient to demonstrate robust and unbiased results will be produced.

Support for the Proposed Research

- Technical resources
- Infrastructure
- Equipment and facilities
- Access to additional expertise (if required)

Timeline

- Creates a quick visual on how and when the proposed research will be complete
- A table is a good format
- Align the timeline to the proposed aims
- Don't forget to include ethics
- Be realistic with timeframes, speaks to feasibility

References

- Do not exceed 2 pages
- Provide a list of all references cited in the application
- NHMRC prefers the Author-date (also known as the Harvard System), Documentary-note and the Vancouver System.
- List authors in the order in which they appear in PubMed.
- Bold your name in the authorship. Don't lose yourself in the 'et al'
- Only include references to cited work



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Research Support

Advice Toolkit
Faculty Contacts
Research Services Staff
Online
Important Dates

Advice Toolkit

Version 6 available from:

<https://truth.mq.edu.au/share/id/mqu4nymx>



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Research Services Support

- **Research Services (Ground Floor, 16 Wally's Walk)**
Grant Development Team
Ph: x4745
E: research.preaward@mq.edu.au
- **MQ Investigator Grants website**
<https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-funding-and-grant-opportunities/fellowship-and-grant-opportunities/nhmrc/nhmrc-investigator-grants>
- **Successful Grants Library – NEW AND IMPROVED**
<https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-funding-and-grant-opportunities/training-and-support/successful-grants-library>

2022 Investigator Grant Dates

Activity	Deadline
Grant Guidelines Released	Wednesday 25 January 2023
Applications Open	Wednesday 25 January 2023
Research Services checking Minimum Data	9am Tuesday 21 February 2023
OPTIONAL Strategic Review (need to book)	20-24 February 2023
MANDATORY Compliance and Eligibility Check (need to book)	6-10 March 2023
<i>Applicant certifies final application in Sapphire</i>	11:59pm Sunday 19 March 2023
MQ will submit applications to NHMRC	Wednesday 22 March 2023
Outcomes	August 2023
Commence Investigator Grant	1 January 2024

MQ Library Services

Web of Science, SciVal, Scopus and AltMetrics

Report given and a one-on-one meeting in how to interpret the data and metrics.

FMHHS and FSE

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Thank you

END