



## **Macquarie University Research Centres Scheme 2023**

### **STAGE 1: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The Macquarie University Research Centres (MQRC) Scheme 2023 identifies, incentivises and supports current and emerging collectives across the University, especially groups already at or moving to national or international scale in areas of competitive advantage, reputation and opportunity.

The three aims of the Scheme are to:

1. Recognise, nurture and accelerate research and research training excellence at scale in priority areas,
2. Create conditions for significant, new, long term external funding, opportunities and impact, and
3. Promote and leverage MQ's world-leading research concentrations in areas of strength, capability and impact.

Collectives applying for funding under the MQRC Scheme 2023 should:

- Seek to build research excellence at scale within disciplines and/or across disciplines in area/s of competitive advantage,
- Encourage consilience in the service of solving significant problems,
- Bring new, external opportunities – funding, partnerships, impact – to the University (relevant to purpose, discipline/s and needs),
- Help to promote Macquarie's areas of unique strength and capability, and
- Encourage teams and individuals to define and strive for a high-quality research environment and emergent success, where Centres enable outcomes that are more than the sum of individual parts.

**Please see the MQRC 2023\_EoI Information slides for a description of the MQRC Scheme 2023, two kinds of MQRCs – Strength at Scale and Consilience – their characteristics, and associated levels of support.**

The following pages outline guiding principles and steps for Stage 1 of the MQRC 2023 application process: ***Expressions of Interest.***

## **Stage 1: Expressions of Interest**

### **Some Guiding Principles**

1. Both kinds of MQRCs – Strength at Scale and Consilience – are expected to build research excellence at scale in area/s of competitive advantage,
2. Consilience MQRCs also will be expected to be explicitly problem focused and externally oriented,
3. While external partnerships are very highly valued, building scale in MQRCs also must involve growing teams and membership of MQ staff and students, such as by combining groups from across the University working on similar problems,
4. Membership of MQRCs should reflect either a demonstrated track record of working together or a clear aspiration to work together. Consilience MQRCs especially require clear plans for genuine collaboration rather than entirely separate, “side by side” work on similar problems; there must be the possibility of emergence,
5. MQRCs should be designed with a leadership team that will help the collective to thrive. Team leadership is especially recommended for large collectives or collectives that bring together a range of existing groups,
6. Consilience MQRCs may be structured from existing Centres or collectives that wish to retain some aspects of their existing “brand”. Alternatively, they may represent an entirely new collective “built from the ground up”. An important requirement is that all members are committed to the new emergent identity and not only to existing identities under a broader label,
7. Researchers/collectives may put forward or be involved in more than one bid. Although it is unlikely that the University will fund collectives where membership substantially overlaps, we welcome any and all bids for consideration and feedback,
8. There is no downside to pitching for one or the other kind of Centre, Strength at Scale or Consilience. The Panel will provide frank feedback, which may include applying for a different kind of Centre or combining with other collectives. Please bring forward any and all bids!

### **Themed Exploratory Workshops**

A series of themed exploratory workshops and discussions in July and August will proceed written Expressions of Interest.

All current MQRCs and potential new centres are invited to:

1. Suggest themes for focused areas of research around which potential MQRCs could form; themes also will be suggested by the PVC Research Performance and Development and Deputy Deans Research and Innovation (DDRIs),
2. Attend relevant workshops focused on these themes to present ideas, hone research problems and build connections with individuals and teams with the aim of building the best collective to deliver on the research problem and build research capability.

Workshops will be led by the PVC Research Performance and Development and DDRIs, and open to all. In parallel, existing MQRCs who intend to apply to the 2023 Scheme will be encouraged to hold Open Door Workshops with existing and potential members to explore the best approach to position their proposed Centre to meet the aims and guiding principles of the 2023 Scheme.

Following these workshops and discussions, collectives should consult with their DDRI before proceeding with a written Expression of Interest (Eoi).

### **Written Expressions of Interest**

Following Exploratory Workshops, Open Door Workshops and other discussions, prospective centres are invited to submit written Eois **by 9am Monday 29 August**. Eois are to be no more than five A4 pages in length, using a 12-point font such as Arial or Times New Roman and single spacing. Margins should be no less than 2cm. In addition to the five pages, all Eois should include the Cover Page (template on following page) and a full list of proposed Centre members, using the template provided. Eois should be submitted as one PDF document to [jasmine.bouhali@mq.edu.au](mailto:jasmine.bouhali@mq.edu.au).

### ***Expressions of Interest should address the following questions:***

1. What is your long-term vision for this Centre? MQRCs (Strength at Scale) must articulate the distinctive research capabilities the Centre will build. MQRCs (Consilience) must also outline a clear problem statement or challenge the Centre will address.
2. Who (teams and/or people) will be involved from across the University? Who are its leaders and how will the Centre structure and leadership team be designed for success? Note, team leadership is strongly encouraged.
3. What makes this collective distinctive? What is (or will be) its unique or competitive advantage nationally and internationally? Have you consulted collectives/individuals at MQ with a similar research focus? During the Pitch to Panel, be prepared to discuss inclusion/exclusion of similar collectives.
4. What new, external opportunities – funding, partnerships, impact – will this Centre bring to the University? How will these help to deliver the long-term vision for the Centre?
5. How will this Centre achieve a step change in performance? Become more than the sum of its parts? Why is being a Centre important to achieving your vision?

### **Pitch and Panel Feedback**

Eois will be reviewed by an internal selection committee and select Centres will be invited to pitch to a panel of internal and external experts in September 2022. Panel members will include PVCs, DDRIs and external experts representing HASS and STEM. More information on the Pitch Panel, and calendar placeholders, will be available after Eois close.

## Stage 1 Timeline:

Eols open	Monday 4 July
PVC (RP&D) and DDRIs host Themed Exploratory Workshops and Centre Directors host Open Door Workshops	July to August
Eols close	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> August 9am
Pitch Panels and feedback	21 <sup>st</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> September

## Contacts

Please email suggestions for research centre ideas/themes to the following contacts in your Faculty:

<b>Faculty of Arts</b>	Prof. Louise D'Arcens ( <a href="mailto:louise.darcens@mq.edu.au">louise.darcens@mq.edu.au</a> )
<b>Faculty of Medicine, Health &amp; Human Sciences</b>	Prof. Roger Chung ( <a href="mailto:roger.chung@mq.edu.au">roger.chung@mq.edu.au</a> )
<b>Faculty of Science &amp; Engineering</b>	Prof. David Coutts ( <a href="mailto:David.coutts@mq.edu.au">David.coutts@mq.edu.au</a> )
<b>Macquarie University Business School</b>	Prof. Leonie Tickle ( <a href="mailto:leonie.tickle@mq.edu.au">leonie.tickle@mq.edu.au</a> )

Faculty Research Offices will advise re Faculty-level processes for intentions to submit.

Enquiries about the MQRC 2023 Scheme queries can be directed to the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Performance and Development) via [jasmine.bouhali@mq.edu.au](mailto:jasmine.bouhali@mq.edu.au).

## Updates to this document:

16 August 2022	<b>Page 3:</b> Update to Eol / pitch to panel process. Eols will be reviewed by an internal panel and select Centres will be invited to pitch to a panel of internal and external experts in September. <b>Page 4:</b> Updated Eol due date (extended to 29/8/2022) and Pitch to Panel dates (21/9/2022 & 22/9/2022). <b>Added to cover page:</b> requirement to submit list of proposed Centre members (for proposed new Centres) / requirement to submit list of existing Centre members and proposed Centre members (for current MQRCs).
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**Macquarie University Research Centres Scheme 2023**

**Expression of Interest Cover Page**

<b>Lead CIs (for purpose of communications):</b>	
<b>Departments:</b>	
<b>Email of Lead CIs:</b>	

**Leadership Team**

<b>Titles &amp; Names</b>	<b>Departments/Faculties</b>

<b>Proposed Kind of Centre</b>	
<b>Centre Area/s of Focus</b>	

<b>Endorsement:</b>	
<b>Executive Dean Signature</b>	
<b>Deputy Dean Research and Innovation Signature</b>	

**Please submit this cover page along with:**

- 1. Your Expression of Interest, per the EOI instructions.**
- 2. A list of proposed Centre members from Macquarie University. Current MQRCs should also provide a full list of existing Centre members. Only include MQ academic staff with a Pure Profile, and key professional staff members. Please complete the template provided.**

**Please submit this as one PDF document to [jasmine.bouhali@mq.edu.au](mailto:jasmine.bouhali@mq.edu.au) no later than 9am Monday 29 August 2022.**