

Q: There is an academic that I would like as my independent reviewer, however I have been listed as a co-author on a publication that I was not directly involved with. Can I use this academic as my independent reviewer?

A: Co-authorship nearly always means they cannot be nominated as an independent reviewer. The single exception is per rule 4.4.2 (see below), where the applicant is a co-author on a paper on which a substantial majority of people in the applicant's discipline are named as co-authors. In such cases, evidence and justification should be provided to research.preaward@mq.edu.au and a decision is at the discretion of the panel chair. From the funding rules:

4.4 Independent Reviewers

4.4.1 Applicants invited to submit a Full Proposal must nominate a minimum of three Independent Reviewers to whom their application may be sent for assessment. Appropriate Independent Reviewers should be internationally or nationally renowned experts in the applicant's research area and therefore knowledgeable in the field of proposed study. A brief reason for each nomination must be provided in the Full Proposal.

*4.4.2 To avoid conflicts of interest, Independent Reviewers cannot be PhD or postdoctoral supervisors, employers, **co-authors, research collaborators**, or colleagues in the same Department. If a similar grant is being lodged elsewhere then a co-investigator on that grant cannot be an Independent Reviewer. If such Independent Reviewers described above are nominated, the application will be ruled ineligible. **The only exception to this eligibility rule is cases in which the applicant is a co-author on a paper where a substantial majority of people in the applicant's discipline are named as co-authors.** Such cases must be approved by the Panel Chair prior to submission of the Full Proposal. If you require an eligibility exemption from this rule, please email research.preaward@mq.edu.au at least two weeks prior to the application deadline outlining your reasons for the eligibility exemption request.*

Q: Potential independent reviewers have asked about the requirements for the reviewer's report including expected length and type of questions. Are you able to provide any information about the report scope/requirements for me to pass on to potential reviewers?

A: Independent reviewers are asked several questions relating to the project and applicant, as is common practice with this type of application process. The review is provided in a pre-formatted Word document and will be approximately 2-3 pages when complete. This form is not available to applicants.

Q: Can I have an independent reviewer who was an editor of a book to which I contributed to?

A: An editor of a book where the applicant has contributed a chapter/paper, where no personal contact has been had, can be an independent reviewer for the MQRF. In general, Independent Reviewers should not be supervisors, co-authors or research collaborators of the candidate. Any report received by such a Reviewer will be ruled ineligible unless the applicant has applied for an exemption, and it has been approved by the Chair of the Fellowships Panel.

Q: If I am taking personal leave, do I still need to submit my PhD thesis by 26th August?

A: The panel will consider cases of personal leave that impact on the PhD thesis submission date on a case by case basis. Please however note that the funding rules of the award are that a fellowship must commence by the 30th of June 2021, and commencement cannot be delayed. If successful, your PhD must have been awarded prior to the commencement date for you to be eligible to take up the award.

Q: Can I change the sponsor that I listed in the EOI?

A: Only under exceptional circumstances. The panel will consider such cases if you can provide compelling evidence of the relevant circumstances.

Q: Should the justification for the budget only be included in the online form?

A: The offline version of the form that was circulated refers to allowing an additional page for the budget was based on the old paper forms, where the budget justification was separate to the budget section. However as per the instructions in the online form, the justifications should now all be included with the relevant line item in the budget table in the online form.