

Macquarie University Research Centre Scheme 2023

Expressions of Interest Stage

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What MQRCs Are For

AIMS OF THE SCHEME

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
 3. Promote and leverage MQ's world-leading research concentrations in areas of strength, capability and impact
- Highlighted in Professor Sakkie Pretorius' DVCR Weather Forecast, May 2022:
 - https://mqoutlook.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/DVCRResources/EuoibXmt5VNJiH2xcEf_040BSgWzTrRXtBLkbSeO-MIMow

The future of Macquarie's research until 2035

- An opportunity to build concentrations of research excellence at scale

WHY?

Often great new ideas **don't emerge** within an individual or a discipline...

...but at the intersection of **people** or disciplines that **have never met**



To **collaborate** and add value to others, one must first **value others**

A **collaborative attitude** is the prophet of one's future; a vanguard of our **true selves**

The future of Macquarie's research until 2035

- Building research excellence at scale in areas of competitive advantage

HOW?

Identify areas that have a comparatively high level of research excellence with respect to both national and international peers, and clear potential to meet the criteria of a large funding opportunity ...



... and areas that have sufficient current or potential scale to build a substantive research centre with a high concentration of research and external partner engagement activities

The future of Macquarie's research until 2035

- The confluence of diverse expertise and capabilities in larger groupings



The future of Macquarie's research until 2035

- Every piece and move in a chess match have a purpose

Teams bring together different disciplines to **drive change and disruption** in a major field in a manner not possible from a single discipline

Scale, capacity and comparative advantage are increasingly key in attracting major grants, the best students and industry engagement



Recently, significant and **new research opportunities** opened up at the intersections and with collaboration between disciplines

Given the scale of our future **challenges and opportunities**, we need experts in relevant disciplines who can work together

The future of Macquarie's research until 2035

- We need experts in relevant disciplines who can work together

Given the scale of our future **challenges** and **opportunities**...

... we need **larger** groupings of **experts** from diverse fields





**Our collective
of teams**



**Our collective
of teams**

1. Recognise, nurture and accelerate research and research training **excellence at scale** in priority areas:

- Provide an explicit, coordinated, stable system for recognising and supporting different kinds of excellent and emerging research collectives at MQ
- Encourage teams and individuals to define and strive for a high quality research environment and emergent success, where the Centre enables outcomes that are more than the sum of individual parts
- Expect and support opportunities for HDR, ECR and MCR in all Centres
- Expect and support development of infrastructure not possible for individuals (appropriate to disciplines)

2. Create conditions for significant, new, long term **external funding, opportunities and impact**:
 - Encourage consilience in the service of solving significant problems
 - Support external orientation and impact pathways
 - Focus less on pathway only to “externally funded Centres” and more on \$1 is a \$1
 - Expect generation of external income relevant to purpose, discipline, needs
 - Seed success then incentivise ongoing success

3. **Promote and leverage** MQ's world-leading research concentrations in areas of strength, capability and impact:
- Make better use of Centres (discovery, innovation, impact) as a branding opportunity (e.g., on website, recruitment, ranking exercises)
 - Make promotion responsibility of the University not only the Centre itself

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KINDS OF RESEARCH CENTRES AND TIERS OF SUPPORT

MQRCs (Strength at Scale)		MQRCs (Consilience)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research excellence at scale within disciplines or across disciplines in area/s of competitive advantage Significant external opportunities and promote MQ strengths Proposed by Faculties/collectives All curated by Faculties and aligned with their Strategic Plans Co-funded (cash or in-kind) by Faculties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 8 per round \$50,000 p.a. each Funded up to 5 yrs Priority for in-kind support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem focused and externally oriented (esp. to non Cat 1 space) Brings multiple collectives together with aspiration for consilience Research excellence at scale within <u>and</u> across disciplines in area/s of competitive advantage Significant external opportunities and promote MQ strengths Proposed by Faculties/collectives or calls by DVCR All curated by Faculties and aligned with their Strategic Plans Co-funded (cash or in-kind) by Faculties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 4 per round \$100,000 p.a. each Funded up to 5 yrs Priority for in-kind support plus support to build consilience
Faculty Research Centres (managed by Faculties)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging collectives on trajectory to MQRC (Consilience or Strength at Scale) or excellent within discipline/more narrowly focused collective best situated at Faculty level Proposed by collectives/Faculties and predominantly funded (cash or in-kind) by Faculties 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DVCR support where available to co-fund or top up 	

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KINDS OF RESEARCH COLLECTIVES OVER TIME AND TIERS OF SUPPORT

Mature, Sustainable Centres (Mature MQRCs and other national or university collectives)		Ongoing funding outside the MQRC Scheme budget (including external government, industry and/or philanthropic funding; internal operating or co-funding)	
MQRCs (Strength at Scale)	Funding via the DVCR Centre budget for up to 5 years	MQRCs (Consilience)	Funding via the DVCR Centre budget for up to 5 years
Faculty Research Centres (managed by Faculties)		Centre funded by Faculties with co-funding/top-ups from the DVCR where available; all members also can access range of other DVCR funding that supports excellent research (internal schemes or co-funding)	
Faculty Research collectives (managed by Faculties)		Collective funded via the Faculty, from external funding or unfunded; all members also can access range of other DVCR funding that supports excellent research (internal schemes or co-funding)	

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EFFECTIVE SUPPORT INCLUDING CASH AND IN-KIND

- \$50,000 p.a. for MQRCs (Strength at Scale)
- \$100,000 p.a. for MQRCs (Consilience) to support larger scale and consilience activities
- DVCR funds where available to co-fund or top-up Faculty Centres
- MQRC (Strength at Scale) and MQRC (Consilience) applications require co-funding (cash or in-kind) from Faculties (e.g., workload allowance for Directors)
- Since many Centres request/require either Administrator or Business Partner support, we will aim to fund central support and other development needs where available
- We also will aim to direct more consistent in-kind support to MQRCs via a “Research Centres Service Squad” with highest priority to Consilience MQRCs:
 1. Priority access to Research Services, Research Innovation and Marketing/Media teams
 2. Additional weighting in HDR and Infrastructure initiatives or selection
 3. Targeted access to education/training for ECRs, MCRs, research partnerships and commercialisation, research integrity, research data management etc etc

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EFFECTIVE SUPPORT INCLUDING CASH AND IN-KIND

Support	MQRC (Strength at Scale)	MQRC (Consilience)
DVCR Centre Funding	\$50,000 per annum	\$100,000 per annum
Administration Support	Coordinated centrally and shared where available	Coordinated centrally and shared
Research Services Support Squad	Priority support	Priority support plus support to build consilience
Other DVCR Schemes and Funding	Priority support	Priority support plus support to build consilience
Faculty Co-Funding and In-Kind Support	Priority support	Priority support plus support to build consilience
Faculty Innovation Funding	Where available	Additional support to build consilience

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BUILDING SCALE, QUALITY AND EMERGENT SUCCESS

- **Current scale:**
 - Size including genuinely engaged internal and external members
 - Streams of work, mix and pipeline of levels
 - Leadership (“team of leaders”, “generous leadership”)
- **Current performance of individuals and collectives:**
 - Productivity, reputation, impact
 - HDR incl attractive to students, effective supervision, quality environment
 - Internal and external collaborations, external partnerships
 - Internationally or nationally competitive (or on trajectory)
- **Emergent aspirations for Centres:**
 - Emergent productivity, reputation, impact
 - HDR, ECR and MCR support and success
 - Unique strengths, competitive advantage

Building Scale

Kinds of Centres and tiers for support determined by scale of enterprise, current performance (nuanced by discipline), and aspirations (especially for emergence)

FUNDING TERM AND GOVERNANCE OF MQRCS

- Successful MQRCs will be funded for up to 5 yrs with annual reporting/evaluation and a major review at 3 yrs
- Propose to fund up to 12 MQRCs; **will only fill slots with appropriate bids**
- We will re-open the Scheme in 2023 and future years whenever slots are available (including based on transition to other funding or performance)
- Ongoing governance of all Centres will be managed via an MQRC Advisory Panel (including DDRIs, PVCs, others)
- MQRC Advisory Boards will be required to include a member of the MQRC Advisory Panel (or similar research leader)
- Unsuccessful current MQRCs will be supported via appropriate grandfathering (e.g., Faculty Centres) subject to agreement
- The MQRC 2023 Scheme may intersect with Faculty Centre review or application processes in some Faculties



MQRC Scheme 2023

APPLICATIONS

- All current MQRCs and proposed new Centres will be given opportunity to apply to 2023 Scheme:
 - Apply to continue as an MQRC (Strength at Scale) against finessed, ambitious criteria
 - Apply for an MQRC (Strength at Scale) in a new iteration
 - Apply for an MQRC (Consilience) joining forces with other collectives
 - New collectives at scale welcome to apply
- All will be directed to DDRI in the first instance to ensure strategic fit; Faculty must endorse application via ED and DDRI
 - FROs will advise local Faculty processes (e.g., intention to apply)



TWO STAGE APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

- Two stage process formalising past practice and similar to MQRF:
 - Exploratory Expressions of Interest stage**, including Pitch Panels with internal and external experts
 - Full Proposals and Interview stage (with DDRIs and PVCs)

Stage 1, Expressions of Interest	
Eols open	Mon 4 Jul
DDVC and DDRIs host Themed Workshops and Centre Directors host Open Door Workshops	Jul-Aug
Eols close	Fri 26 Aug
Pitch Panels & feedback	Sep

Stage 2, Full Proposals	
Full Proposals open (by invitation)	Mon 26 Sep
Full Proposals close	Fri 4 Nov
Interviews & decision	Nov-Dec
Funding commences	1 Jan 2023

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STAGE 1: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- Look out for Themed Workshops and Open Door Workshops:
 - DVCR and DDRIs will host ½ day Themed Workshops in Jul-Aug **open to all** on different themes to encourage conversations and collective opportunities
 - Current Centre Directors will be encouraged to host Open Door sessions, inviting potential new collaborators from across the University to discussions re future iterations of their MQRC



STAGE 1: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- Expressions of Interest will be no more than 5 pages answering these 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?

