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MACQUARIE University

CHANGES TO DVCR SUPPORT ON NHMRC AND MRFF GRANTS SUBMITTED IN 2021

For NHMRC grants, including MRFF grants submitted via the NHMRC Sapphire grant portal, applicants will now be required to submit a formal DVCR Co-funding request. The formal DVCR Co-funding request replaces the previous support of the Strategic Research Fund (SRF), which was managed directly between your Faculty Research Office and the DVCR Office and was not directly visible to academics as internal co-funding for their successful grants.

The DVCR Co-funding is to support MQ researchers to successfully complete their proposed NHMRC and MRFF projects by providing up to 20% co-funding on funds to remain at Macquarie. The goal is for the DVCR Co-funding to facilitate MQ applicants in providing a 'top-up' of NHMRC salary costs (PSP's), which are lower than MQ equivalent salary rates.

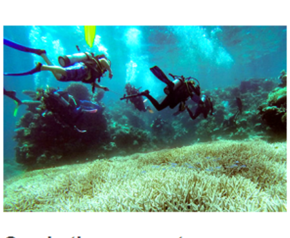
These changes align the principles of DVCR Co-funding with other external funding schemes and assist the University in rationalising the allocation of internal funding used to leverage competitive, external funding opportunities. As Macquarie researchers continue to excel in NHMRC and MRFF funding schemes, we need to find a mechanism to ensure all successful NHMRC and MRFF grants can be supported. As context, since 2015, Macquarie's application volume for NHMRC and MRFF funding has nearly doubled year on year. We know that health and medical researchers at Macquarie will be more active than ever in the coming years in applying for NHMRC and MRFF funding to support their research, hence the need to make changes to meet the growing volume of awards.

Eligibility for DVCR Co-funding is still contingent on submission of a full application by the Macquarie submission date. Further to this, the Pre Award team has recommended tracking the on-time submissions after pausing this due to the impacts on workload brought about by COVID-19.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

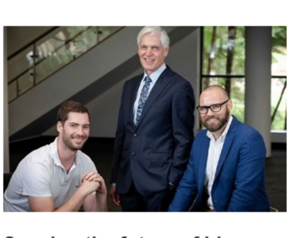
Read the interview with ARC DECRA Fellow **Dr Lyndon Koens** from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Learn about his area of research, recent successes and what he finds most rewarding.

SUCCESS STORIES



Combating ecosystem collapse from the tropics to the Antarctic

Distinguished Prof Lesley Hughes is among a group of 38 scientists from Australia, the UK and the USA who have identified 19 environments in Australia and Antarctica where ecosystem collapse is currently happening. The ecosystems include the Great Barrier Reef, mangroves in the Gulf of Carpentaria, the arid zone of central Australia, Shark Bay seagrass beds in Western Australia, Great Southern Reef kelp forests, Gondwanan conifer forests of Tasmania, Mountain Ash forest in Victoria, and moss beds of East Antarctica. Each of these ecosystems is undergoing some form of collapse, defined as potentially irreversible change to ecosystem structure, composition and function, driven by pressures such as climate change (especially increases in the severity and frequency of extreme events such as fires, floods, heatwaves, storms and droughts), habitat loss, invasive species, and over-exploitation for human uses. The paper, published in Global Change Biology, identifies 3 ways to fight eco-collapse: awareness, anticipation and action. Read more

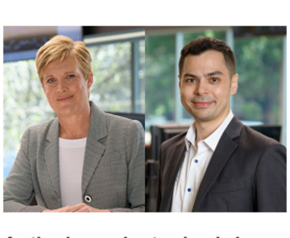


Sensing the future of bio-informational engineering

In a paper published in Nature Communications, **Thom Dixon, Dr Thomas Williams and Prof Sakkie Pretorius** take an in-depth look at what enhancements may be coming to biological systems. At the Macquarie-based ARC Centre of Excellence in Synthetic Biology, scientists are coming up with solutions to global agricultural, food production, manufacturing, healthcare and environmental challenges. Researchers are now at the point when synthetic biology techniques can allow information to flow from digital systems into living organisms, paving the way for technologies of vast potential. With the practices and techniques of synthetic biology now being integrated into multiscale designs that allow two-way communication across organic and inorganic information systems, biological devices are being reimagined as advanced cyber-physical systems. For example, if a grape on a vineyard had an engineered biosensor in its DNA, when low on water it could send electrical pulses to a satellite, alerting the vineyard manager that it was time to turn on the sprinklers. This optimises water use and could also optimise yield. Read more

Ancient Roman city reveals its winemaking secrets

The excavation of a Roman city on Turkey's southern coast by **Dr Emlyn Dodd** from the Department of History and Archaeology, has led to the unearthing of an ancient winery like no other. His findings, published in the Journal of Roman Archaeology and included in his recently published book Roman and Late Antique Production in the Eastern Mediterranean, underline the uniqueness of the wine press. As well as being built into the side of a temple in about the 4th century AD, the press had been constructed with stone and mortar from the ground up, distinct from other wine presses discovered in Rough Cilicia that were carved out of the bedrock. Grapes were laid out on the treading floor to expel their juices naturally to make the highest quality wine for the city's elite and for regional export. Then the grapes would have been trod to extract juice for mid quality wine, likely consumed by regular citizens. Lastly, mechanically pressed fruit was made into wine for the lower class and slaves. Read more

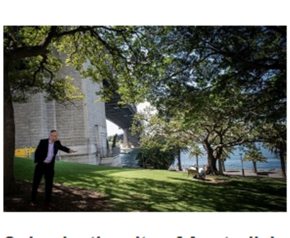


Anti-misconduct rules bring bankers into line

In the wake of a series of misconduct scandals in the banking industry including unreliable financial advice, mis-selling of financial products and charging fees for no service, the Banking Executive Accountability Regime (BEAR) was introduced in mid-2018. **Prof Elizabeth Sheedy and Dr Dominic Canestrari-Soh** from the Macquarie Business School have released a report detailing the benefits of BEAR, including:

- Individual accountability has had an empowering effect – decisions get made, problems get resolved and there is greater care and diligence being exercised.
- There is evidence of diminished groupthink in committee settings with the greater awareness that individuals, and not committees, are accountable.
- Risk and compliance functions are getting a bigger say as senior management consult them more.
- Directors and assurance teams find it easier to do their jobs because they can ascertain who is 'on the hook' when things go awry.

Read more



Solved – the site of Australia's first astronomical observatory

After investigating maps, letters and revisiting longitude calculations from the 18th century, **Prof Richard de Grijs** from the Department of Physics and Astronomy, has set the historical record straight about the site of the nation's first permanent astronomical observatory in a paper published in the Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage. Until now, historians were unclear where the first building was located that was used to tell local time and map the new settlement's precise position. In collaboration with Dr Andrew Jacob, curator of the Sydney Observatory, Prof de Grijs discovered the observatory was actually first established on the bluff behind today's Park Hyatt Hotel in The Rocks, on the eastern side of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Unfortunately any remnants of that first observatory, established by Second Lieutenant William Dawes, an iconic figure in the founding of colonial Australia, likely disappeared when the Sydney Harbour bridge was built in the 1930s. Read more

Exploring the remarkable world of synaesthetes

Cutting-edge research by **Lina Teichmann, Denise Moerel and Prof Anina Rich** from the Department of Cognitive Science, has thrown long-awaited light on the strange sensory phenomenon of synaesthesia. Synaesthesia is a neurological trait or condition that results in a joining or merging of senses that aren't normally connected. The most common is grapheme-colour synaesthesia, where letters, numbers or symbols evoke a colour experience. In their paper, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, the researchers were able to record the magnetic brain signals of people who see colours where the rest of us do not. The synaesthetic colour was apparent in the brain patterns after a delay of about 100 milliseconds compared to the neural signal when people see 'actual' colours, supporting the hypothesis of 'conceptual mediation'. Read more

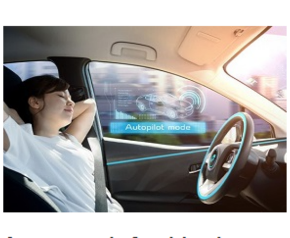
Grants awarded to advance pest animal and weed control solutions

Established pest animals and weeds are a significant threat to Australia's economy, environment and industries. The Advancing Pest Animal and Weed Control Solutions scheme aims to manage these threats. Macquarie is the lead on two successful projects:

- **Dr Fleur Ponton and Dr Ajay Narendra** awarded $379,294 for the project, *Improvement of control methods for small hive beetles through novel trapping and bio attractant tool developments*.
- **Dr Maciej Maselko, Prof Anwar Sunna and Dr Bishwo Mainali** awarded $974,848 for the project, *Developing insecticide resistant beneficials for integrated pest management*.

Macquarie is also a partner on a third project:

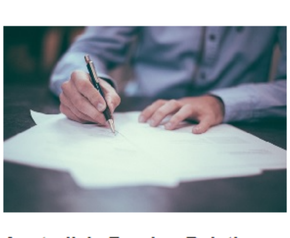
- **Assoc Prof Jaco Le Roux** awarded $392,803 for the project, *Weed genomics to advance lantana control, with lab-to-farm improvements in biotype identification and control agent matching tools*.



Are we ready for driverless cars?

Fully self-driving automation will be the next big mobility-related disruption and it is expected that this innovation will enter the mass market in the coming decades. **Dr Mauricio Marrone** from the Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance has published a paper in Technological Forecasting and Social Change, that looked at peoples' perceptions and acceptance of this technology. Perceived pros included utilising commuting time for eating, sleeping, watching TV or working, as well as a reduction in traffic accidents, improved fuel economy and reductions in congestion and travel time. Concerns about autonomous vehicles included high costs and maintenance expenses, road user fees, software and hardware issues, a rise in fuel consumption and emissions resulting from increased travel demand, legal issues relating to the protection of users and pedestrians, malicious hacking, safety concerns and the loss of jobs for alternative transport providers. The study found positive usage intentions where there were perceptions of reliability and safety, of price, of ease of use, of an improvement on existing mobility options, and of compatibility with existing mobility options. Read more

NEWS & INFORMATION



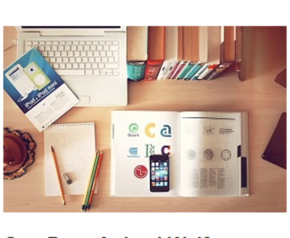
Australia's Foreign Relations Act 2020

On 10th March 2021, the requirements of the Australia's Foreign Relations Act 2020 came into force. From now on, new foreign arrangements must be notified to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade if they are with a foreign government entity, or a foreign university that lacks autonomy. Macquarie must notify the Australian Government when new foreign arrangements that meet these criteria are proposed, when those arrangements are agreed, and when those arrangements are varied.

An online form is being developed by Research Services to streamline this process. Until that form is live, please contact foreign.relations@mq.edu.au for advice on how the new reporting requirements may relate to you and your work.

By 10th June 2021, Macquarie must also notify the Australian Government of all existing foreign arrangements that are with foreign government entities or foreign universities that lack autonomy. More information will be provided about this in the future.

If you are the custodian of a written foreign arrangement with a foreign government entity or a foreign university, you can seek advice from foreign.relations@mq.edu.au and ask to be added to the Foreign Relations internal communications distribution list.



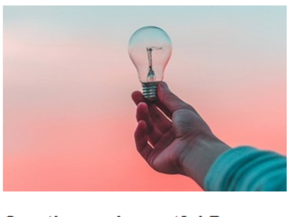
ComPass Animal Welfare Training - Replaced RACE

The Animal Ethics Committee is excited to announce the availability of a new animal welfare training program, called ComPass, which will replace RACE Module 1. ComPass has been developed in conjunction with ANZCCART, is hosted by the University of Adelaide, and is available immediately.

Who should complete the Training?
Everyone listed in a Macquarie University Animal Research Authority (ARA) must provide proof of attendance at an approved animal welfare course. From February 2021, new staff and students will be asked to complete ComPass training prior to addition to ARAs, replacing the previous program, RACE Module 1. Holders of RACE (Research Animal Care and Ethics Training) certificates should enrol in ComPass at the expiry of their five-year certification. It is currently a requirement that training should be refreshed every five years.

The free online training course is now available through ComPass on the ANZCCART website.

If you experience any technical bugs, please be patient and allow the Education Team at the University of Adelaide to implement a fix. Stay tuned for the next phases that will be individual modules, rather than a full course, so that users can pick what is most relevant to their needs. If you have technical issues, please email: anzccart@adelaide.edu.au



Creating an impactful Pure Impact Record

A well-crafted Pure impact record can be used to increase your visibility and showcase your research beyond Macquarie. It can also be used by Macquarie to track research impact stories for reporting requirements.

Please explore Macquarie researcher Dr Tim Ralph's well-crafted example for ideas and guidance when creating your own impact record. This impact record showcases research, engagement and impacts associated with 'wetlands in drylands'. In this program, researchers engage with industry collaborators and communities across Australia, and globally, to understand why these wetlands are so important, how they function, and what threatens them, in order to support and enhance their conservation and management. The impact record provides detailed information about the research program, impacts of the research, evidence for the impacts, as well as links to related media appearances, research outputs, activities, projects and prizes.

Please contact Research Assessments if you would like more information about using Pure's Impact module.

Australian Government
National Health and Medical Research Council

Nominations open for the NHMRC Biennial Awards

The NHMRC is seeking nominations of high achieving individuals and groups from the health and medical research sector for consideration for its 2021 Biennial Awards.

NHMRC awards recognise outstanding leadership, innovation and sector contributions, and include the:

- NHMRC Research Quality Award
- NHMRC Consumer Engagement Award
- NHMRC Ethics Award
- NHMRC Outstanding Contribution Award (nominations from NHMRC Council and Principal Committee Members only)

The NHMRC also seeks submission from the sector of digital scientific images for the NHMRC Science to Art Award — a competition that highlights the artistic beauty of Australian health and medical research.

Nominations for the 2021 NHMRC Biennial Awards close at 5pm AEDST on Thursday 1 April 2021:

- Biennial Awards nomination form (excluding Science to Art)
- Science to Art nomination form

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, PRIZES & AWARDS

2021-2022 Major Grants Round Calendar

View the 2021-2022 major grants round calendar. Please note, dates are subject to change by the funding agencies.

ARC Funding Schemes

Scheme	Opening Date	MQ Submission Date
LIEF	27 Jan 2021	3 March 2021
Linkage Projects - 2021 round 1	Continuous	16 March 2021
Centres of Excellence (EOI stage)	8 June 2021	30 June 2021
Linkage Projects - 2021 round 2	Continuous	19 July 2021
ITTC and ITRH	4 Aug 2021	1 Sept 2021
Australian Laureate Fellowships	1 Sept 2021	22 Sept 2021
DECRA	8 Sept 2021	13 Oct 2021
Future Fellowships	13 Oct 2021	3 Nov 2021
Linkage Projects - 2021 round 3	Continuous	18 Nov 2021

NHMRC Funding Schemes

Scheme	Opening Date	MQ Submission Date
Investigator Grants	3 Feb 2021	FMHHS: 25 Feb 2021 Other Faculties: 3 Mar 2021
Partnership Project (Round 1)	13 Jan 2021	10 Mar 2021
Synergy Grants	24 Feb 2021	24 Mar 2021
Ideas Grants	10 Mar 2021	7 Apr 2021
Postgraduate Scholarships	14 Apr 2021	12 May 2021
Development Grants	21 Apr 2021	19 May 2021
Partnership Project (Round 2)	25 Mar 2021	15 Jul 2021
Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies	30 Jun 2021	28 Jul 2021
Partnership Project (Round 3)	29 Jul 2021	3 Nov 2021

MRFF Funding Schemes

Scheme	Opening Date	MQ Submission Date
2020 Neurofibromatosis Research Grant	10 Feb 2021	10 Mar 2021
2020 Clinician Researchers: Applied Research in Health Grant	24 Feb 2021	15 Mar 2021
2022 Early Stage Translation and Commercialisation Support Grant	4 Mar 2021	18 Mar 2021
Rapid Applied Research Translation Grant	4 Mar 2021	Internal EOI closes 15 Mar 2021

WORKSHOPS

Crafting an Effective ARC DECRA Rejoinder

Friday 12 March 2021, 12:00-13:30, Zoom, Add to calendar

This workshop will provide strategic advice to 2022 ARC DECRA applicants on what to include in your rejoinder, pitfalls to avoid, suggested structures, as well as examples from rejoinders where the grant was successfully funded. More details

MRFF and US-based Grants: Research Services Drop-in Session

NEW DATE: Thursday 18 March 2021, 10:30-11:30, Microsoft Teams, Add to calendar

Research Services has commenced monthly online drop-in sessions. They are held on the second Thursday of each month. Researchers are invited to join and ask questions relevant to Research Services' activities and your current and anticipated research plans. Senior Research Services staff, including the Executive Director, will be in attendance to provide expertise from across all aspects of the research lifecycle.

The March session will focus on applying and preparing applications for the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) and US-based grants (e.g. NIH and DoD).

Crafting an Effective ARC Discovery Project Rejoinder

Friday 11 June 2021, 12:00-13:30, Zoom, Add to calendar

This workshop will provide strategic advice to 2022 ARC Discovery Project applicants on what to include in your rejoinder, pitfalls to avoid, suggested structures, as well as examples from rejoinders where the grant was successfully funded. More details

RESOURCES & TOOLS

Successful Grants Library

The Successful Grants Library contains external and internal grant and prize applications that were successfully awarded. Electronic and hard-copy versions of the library are available.

Advice Toolkits and Budget Calculators

Available for many of the major external funding schemes. View all

Developing Research Partnerships

Information and processes for developing and submitting research proposals to external organisations. Learn more

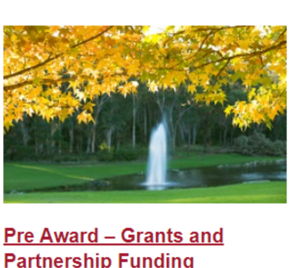
Researcher Development Calendar – myRDC

Easily search and register for professional development events from all sectors of the university. Learn more

On-Request Workshops

Provided on-request for academic departments, research centres, or small groups and can be customised to suit particular needs. Learn more

MQ Research Services Teams

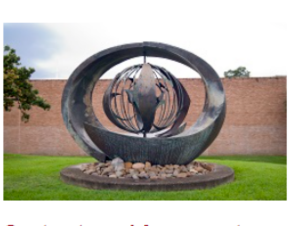


Pre Award – Grants and Partnership Funding

Contact Grants or Partnerships

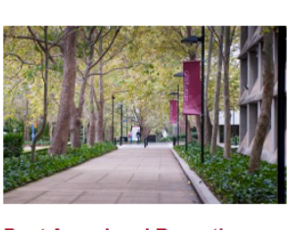
Ethics, Integrity and Policies

Contact Human Ethics, Animal Ethics or Research Integrity



Contracts and Agreements

Contact us



Post Award and Reporting

Contact us

YOU *to the power of us*

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