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## Invitation to apply for a Macquarie University Research Fellowship within the new Faculty Centre for Scaffolding the Ageing Mind

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### THE OPPORTUNITY

The Centre for Scaffolding the Ageing Mind within the Faculty of Human Sciences at Macquarie University is inviting outstanding early career researchers to apply for a Macquarie University Research Fellowship (MQRF). There are up to 10 competitive 3-year fellowships awarded across the University. This represents an excellent opportunity for early career researchers to work at a leading Australian university, to develop their international research profile, and to build a career as a high impact research and innovation leader of the future within a growing interdisciplinary research centre. Researchers from around the world are eligible to apply if they have been awarded a PhD within the last 3 years (after 1 March 2016), or earlier if they can demonstrate periods of significant career interruption.

### THE CENTRE FOR SCAFFOLDING THE AGEING MIND

The Centre for Scaffolding the Ageing Mind is a coordinated, concentrated hub of research excellence in cognitive ageing, seeking to understand how cognition can be scaffolded especially within an ageing population. Members represent a range of disciplines, including experimental psychology, clinical neuropsychology, and philosophy. We live our cognitive lives surrounded by internal and external, social and material supports; resources that become an integral part of our cognition. Scaffolding may have benefits across the lifespan, but especially for individuals who need additional support, such as people who experience both normal age-related cognitive decline and pathological cognitive decline seen in dementia. Within the Centre, scaffolding is studied through three main research themes:

*Scaffolding via social resources:* Social resources may play an important role in scaffolding cognitive functioning in older adults and people with dementia. Current projects include whether social scaffolding provided by partners within older, long-married couples can mitigate the effects of cognitive decline, and whether the link between hearing loss and dementia is related to a loss of social support.

*Scaffolding via embodied resources:* Embodied resources are activities and practices that may scaffold cognitive functioning in older adults and people with dementia. Current projects include joint skilled action with a partner (involving both social and embodied resources), the effects of procedural, or motor skill-based, memory cues in older adults, and whether music acts as a scaffold for memory, cognition and identity in people with dementia.

*Scaffolding via psychological resources:* Psychological resources are mental capabilities that may help scaffold cognitive functioning in older adults and people with dementia. Current projects include the effect of strengthening the resilience of older adults through reflection on past events, and whether resilience can scaffold cognitive functioning.

<https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-centres-groups-and-facilities/healthy-people/centres/centre-for-scaffolding-the-ageing-mind>

## ABOUT THE MQRF SCHEME

The MQRF Scheme has three main objectives:

- To provide support to researchers within 3 years of the award of their PhD who have an outstanding track record (relative to opportunity) and/or who show evidence of excellent research potential.
- To provide an incubation research period for early career researchers, allowing them to increase their edge in securing research funding from non-University sources.
- To enhance the research capabilities of existing and emerging areas of research strength at Macquarie University. To contribute to one or more of the University's Future-Shaping Research Priorities.

Applicants must first go through an initial Expression of Interest stage, involving submitting a brief application. These are due to the University by the **30<sup>th</sup> of May 2019**, but will need to be developed in consultation with your sponsor and the Faculty Research Office in advance of that deadline. Full applications are by invitation only, and will be due on **5<sup>th</sup> August 2019**. Funding commences in 2020.

Up to 10 MQRF positions will be offered for 2020, and awarded on a competitive basis. The fellowships are offered in two formats: 100% research over three years or 75 % research and 25% teaching over 4 years. Fellowships must commence by 30 June 2020. The salary range for the Fellowship will be awarded at Step 6 of Level A of the Academic Salary Scale, plus annual leave loading and 17% employer superannuation. Applicants may apply for up to \$50,000 over three years for research costs associated with the proposed project (up to a maximum of \$20,000 in any one year).

For more information on the MQRF scheme, please visit the Macquarie University information page. Links to the Funding Rules and Instructions to Applicants are available for download.

[https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-funding-and-grant-opportunities/fellowship-and-grant-opportunities/internal\\_funding/mq-research-fellowships](https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-funding-and-grant-opportunities/fellowship-and-grant-opportunities/internal_funding/mq-research-fellowships)

## ABOUT MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Macquarie University is one of Australia's top 10 universities and is located on a large, green campus within the Macquarie Park Technology Cluster, just a short train ride north of the Sydney CBD. Macquarie's recent 50-year anniversary highlights the University's swift ascension into the ranks of world-leading research-intensive universities. Macquarie's research and teaching excellence spans a diverse range of disciplines and is a testament to the University's commitment to continued excellence and innovation.

Macquarie University has approximately 40,000 students, 10,000 of whom are international. Macquarie researchers have a strong track record in collaboration, nationally and internationally. More than 137 countries have enjoyed research collaborations with Macquarie since 2010. Over 150 researchers at Macquarie across 17 subject areas have published research that is in the top 1% of the world, and Macquarie has a strong commitment to research with \$1 billion invested in infrastructure and facilities in recent years. Furthermore, 96% of Macquarie's research activity is regarded by the Australian Government as being of world standard or higher.

## CONSIDERING APPLYING?

We invite potential candidates to approach the Director of the Centre for Scaffolding the Ageing Mind, Dr Celia Harris, or another Centre member who may be a suitable sponsor, to begin discussions as soon as possible. Include a brief, one paragraph description of your proposed research project and how it fits with the themes of the Centre, along with your curriculum vitae, detailing your qualifications, employment history, publications, other research outputs, previous grant success, any research student supervision, and referees. We advise of your suitability for this scheme, send you the EOI form, and assist with your application.

## CONTACT

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