MQRC Scheme Information Session
Professor Peter Nelson
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Performance and Innovation)
What we will cover today

What is the MQRC scheme and what does the scheme support?

An overview of changes to the scheme

Selection criteria and what the MQRC Review Panel is looking for

Process for applying for funding under the MQRC scheme
What is the MQRC Scheme?

Aims

The Macquarie University Research Centres (MQRC) Scheme is the means by which major, coordinated, cohesive and high-performing research groupings are branded, promoted and supported as Macquarie University Research Centres.

The scheme exists to deliver on the four key research objectives of the Strategic Research Framework by seeding development of future externally-funded research centres by supporting the development of high-quality research environments and aiding the branding and visibility of high performing researchers.
What is the MQRC Scheme?

Funding

- $50,000 p.a. to support centre management, administration and activities
- Initial three years funding (subject to ongoing satisfactory performance)
- Potential for extension of another three years (to maximum six years)
- Funding should not be requested to directly support research projects.
Changes to the MQRC scheme

Overview

- Maximum six year central funding period for MQRCs.

- Evaluation of Centre applications based on a case for Centre sustainability beyond central funding, in addition to evaluation based on strategic research objectives and priorities.

- Milestone reporting and robust panel review and feedback.

- Ongoing support for Centres to meet aspirational targets through regular Centre fora, workshops and speakers.

- Centres may now roll-over unspent funds except in the final year of funding (unless a case can be made for this).
Scheme Selection Criteria

1. Research Centre Outcomes

The proposed or existing Centre:

a. articulates a vision, trajectory and plan, including milestones, over a three to six-year period to seed development of future externally-funded research Centre/s

b. articulates how the vision and plan for the Centre contributes to the Strategic Research Framework Key Objectives

Guiding questions:
- What is the vision for the Centre?
- What does the Centre plan to do to enable the Centre vision?
- What are the Centre’s plans for developing a sustainable funding model/stream?
- What milestones will be met over a period of three to six years to achieve the vision/plan?
- Which SRF Key Objectives do the aims of the Centre contribute to? How will the Centre contribute to these?
Scheme Selection Criteria

2. Subject Matter

a. The focus of the Centre is on a significant research problem or issue.

b. A cohesive program of activities is planned to address the research problem.

Guiding questions:
- What is the research problem or issue that the Centre will address? How is it significant to the discipline area/s and/or with relation to the Strategic Research Framework and/or National Research Priorities?
- How does the proposed research program of activities contribute to addressing the problem or issue?
Scheme Selection Criteria

3. Research Center Team

a. Centre members have demonstrated quality research relevant to opportunity with relation to publication track record, success in external competitive grants and/or industry partnerships, research impact, and HDR supervision and completions.

b. The Director and key research team members have demonstrated leadership capabilities appropriate to role and have capacity to deliver against proposed Centre outcomes.

c. Consideration has been given to diversity of the research team, gender balance, academic level profile of the key researchers, and inclusion of early career researchers.

Guiding questions:

• Why are team members suitable and relevant to the Centre vision and plans (Leadership capabilities and relevant experience) and what will each team member contribute?
• How has the Centre Director demonstrated leadership experience to lead the Centre?
• How is diversity, gender and/or academic level balance of the Centre appropriate?
Scheme Selection Criteria

4. Research Environment

a. The Centre has competitive advantage relative to other research being conducted in Australia and internationally.

b. Macquarie University is appropriate as the location for the Centre and has suitable infrastructure to support the Centre research program, vision and plans.

c. The Centre is able to provide a quality mentoring and coaching environment for early- and mid-career researchers.

Guiding questions:
• How does the grouping of researchers as an MQRC create competitive advantage in this research area relative to other research being conducted in Australia and internationally?
• How does the Centre build on existing competitive advantage for the researchers and research programs within the Centre to become nationally pre-eminent?
• What resources, infrastructure, environment or reputational value exists at Macquarie for the Centre?
• How will the Centre support the development of early and mid-career researchers?
Scheme Selection Criteria

5. Governance and Structure

a. The constitution of the Advisory Board is made with consideration to quality and breadth of experience appropriate to the work and aims of the Centre and with regard to what the Advisory Board is likely to bring to the Centre.

Guiding questions:
• What is the role of the Advisory Board? How will the Board support the Centre to meet its vision and plans?
• Who are the members of the Advisory Board? What experience and knowledge does each AB member contribute to the Centre vision and plan?
• How does the Advisory Board represent diversity and inclusion and gender balance?

Additional Instructions: Recommended size of ABs is 8-10. AB should be carefully constructed to support the vision and plans of the Centre. Consideration should be given to diversity and gender.
Application Process

Stage 1: Notice of Intention to Submit

Notification of Intention to Submit Notification of Intention to Submit should be emailed to research.preaward@mq.edu.au no later than 29 May 2019.

Notification of Intention to Submit should be no more than 1 A4 page and include the following details:
- Proposed Centre name
- Brief overview of the research problem/s the Centre will address
- Proposed Centre Director and team
- Administration contact

Following Notification of Intention to Submit the PVCR (P&I) will meet with each Director over 17 & 18 June. This meeting is intended to help clarify Centre aims, identify potential synergies between proposed Centres and provide guidance with regard to revised selection criteria.
Application Process

Stage 2: Full Application

Submission of the MQRC Application Form addressing the scheme selection criteria will close on 24 July 2019.

The MQRC Application Form will be available late May on the MQ Research Centres Scheme webpage.

A list of all current research centres at Macquarie is available here.
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