



Changes to Eligibility for DVCR Co-Funding

MAXIMISING YOUR CHANCES OF EXTERNAL FUNDING SUCCESS

Eligibility for the DVCR Co-Funding Scheme is now contingent upon on-time submission of grant applications by the Macquarie University submission date. Many applications for external funding require cash and in-kind contributions from the host institution in order to be considered for funding. In most cases, researchers request cash contributions, such as project support funds, funding for research associates, scholarships and major equipment, from the DVCR via the [DVCR Co-Funding scheme](#) to support their external funding applications. To be eligible to request this DVCR Co-Funding, grant applications must be submitted internally, via Pure, by the Macquarie University submission date. See below for more information on this important eligibility change.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Applications for major grant rounds must be submitted to the Research Services Pre Award team 4 or 5 weeks prior to the external deadline, depending on the scheme. Please refer to the [fellowships and grant opportunities webpage](#) for information on deadlines and processes.
- Applications for miscellaneous grants (including, but not limited to, Perpetual; MNDRIA - Motor Neurone Disease Research Institute of Australia; NSW Environmental Trust; Ian Potter Foundation; Australian Rotary Health) must be submitted to the Pre Award team two weeks prior to the external deadline.
- Applications that do not have a Pure record and/or do not have all the appropriate approvals in Pure (Head of Department [HoD] and Associate Dean Research [ADR]) will not be submitted to the external funding body.

FAQs

WHY DO WE NEED INTERNAL DEADLINES FOR EXTERNAL GRANT APPLICATIONS?

Macquarie's internal deadlines for external research funding applications are critical for the following reasons:

- External grant schemes, such as those from the ARC, NHMRC, Cancer Council and Perpetual Funds, are complex and ever-changing. It takes a team of Macquarie experts behind the scenes to make sure all applications both align with the strategic objective of the external funding body and are compliant and eligible for funding. **The hard work of the Faculty Research Office teams, central Research Services Pre Award team and Office of Advancement team ensures that each application is of the highest potential quality, with the greatest chance of success.** Interesting fact, some funding bodies, such as the ARC, have deemed applications ineligible based on the incorrect use of font sizes – compliance and eligibility checks will ensure your application meets all criteria for consideration for funding.

- The strategic reviews and compliance checks often find areas for improvement in applications and on-time submission to the internal deadline makes certain that researchers have ample time to make the changes required to have the highest chance of success.
- Each **external funding application, and accompanying DVCR Co-Funding requests, require appropriate approvals in Pure** (formal approval from your HoD and ADR). Prior to consideration by the DVCR for Co-Funding, the Co-Funding application is considered by the Faculty Research Office teams and then sent to Pre Award for consideration, and pending no further information is required, sent to the DVCR for final consideration. When applications are submitted late, it increases the risk that the application will not be considered by the Faculty or the DVCR which can then result in an application not proceeding to final submission. Be aware, applications that do not have a Pure record or do not have approvals in Pure prior to submission to central Research Services Pre Award team will not be submitted to the external funding body for consideration.
- ‘Un-Fun’ Fact: in 2018, Macquarie University submitted 523 applications for external research funding through the central Research Services Pre Award team. Of these applications, over 67% were submitted after the internal deadline.

BUT, I SUBMITTED ON-TIME AND IT TOOK AGES TO GET FEEDBACK! WHY SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT IT?

- Fair point! **We are improving our processes and between the Faculty Research Offices and central Research Services Pre Award team, we are working on ways to increase our turnaround time for feedback on grants that were submitted on-time.** We will provide each applicant with notification of their place in the queue and advice on when they should expect feedback. Additionally, the Pre Award Proposals Team will provide a weekly update to Faculty Research Offices about our progress on compliance and eligibility checks.

SO, WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM LATE TO SUBMIT FOR THE INTERNAL DEADLINE?

- Great question! We realise this will be a change for many of our researchers and will be phasing the revised eligibility for DVCR Co-Funding into effect. The first time you miss the internal deadline, you will receive an email from the Manager, Pre Award informing you of the changes to eligibility for DVCR Co-Funding. It is critical to note that late submissions of any applications, whether they require DVCR Co-Funding or not, will have an impact on your future eligibility for DVCR Co-Funding.
- If you have submitted an application after the Macquarie University submission date a **second time** (for example, you submitted an application for an ARC Discovery Project after the Macquarie University submission date to the Pre Award team and then, later in the grants cycle, you submitted an application for an ARC Future Fellowship after the Macquarie University submission date to the Pre Award team), you will **only be eligible for 75% of your total request for DVCR Co-Funding.** For example, if your DVCR Co-Funding request is for \$100k, you will only be considered for funding up to \$75k. Please note that HDR Scholarships are included as the request for DVCR Co-Funding and will be impacted if your application is late. For example, if you requested an international MQRES as DVCR Co-Funding for your external funding application and your application was submitted late, it is likely your request will be modified down to a domestic MQRES.
- If you have a **third application** for external research funding that is submitted late to the Pre Award team, you will **not be eligible to request DVCR Co-Funding** to support your application for external funding.

- Important note: the Pre Award team will cease to issue warnings for late submissions and applicants will be ineligible for DVCR Co-Funding if they miss the internal deadline after the 30th August, 2020. After this date, the first submission of a late application will impact eligibility for DVCR Co-Funding. We are allowing a period of time for our researchers and their support staff to adjust to the new eligibility requirements for DVCR Co-Funding. Please review the [fellowships and grant opportunities webpage](#) for more information. Prior to any additional changes, we will communicate closely with Faculty Research Offices to ensure the change is widely communicated and available to all researchers eligible to apply for external funding.

WHEN DOES THIS CHANGE TAKE EFFECT?

- **While this change is effective immediately for all external funding applications, we will gather data on the effectiveness of this change on the currently open ARC 2021 Discovery Projects scheme.** Applications for Discovery Projects are due to central Research Service Pre Award team on the 29th of January, 2020 (NOTE, some Faculties have internal deadlines that must be met as well, which are prior to the Research Services deadline. If you do not know what these deadlines are, please contact your relevant [Faculty Research Office](#) for more information).

If you submit your Discovery Project application after the Macquarie University internal deadline of the 29th of January, you will receive an email from the Manager, Pre Award to inform you of next steps for your late submission. Applicants who submit complete applications on-time will receive in-depth compliance and eligibility checks (this can equate to half a day of a Proposal Officer's time or more depending on the quality of the application submitted for review). The submission of incomplete applications will be considered late, and will be returned to the applicant for completion. Applicants who are late will receive reduced checks and will likely not receive the standard second check of their application. Please be aware that applicants that submitted after the Macquarie University deadline risk submitting applications that are less competitive for funding or ineligible for funding should there be errors in the application.

EEEEPS! LIFE HAS GONE PEAR-SHAPED AND I'M GOING TO BE LATE! WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- **Let us know!** We are here to help, and we know that there are times when best made plans get side-tracked by things out of our control. If you run into trouble and can provide us with detailed information about your timeframe, we can work with you. Email the Pre Award team (research.preward@mq.edu.au) as soon as you think you may miss the internal deadline. Please note, reasons for late submission to the internal deadline include: short timeframes from a grant opening until its closing date (this is particularly important for grants which are sporadic, e.g. MRFF); the application has been invited by the funder (and has a short turn-around time of 6 weeks or less); an applicant has had medical issues or carer responsibilities which has meant they are unable to complete in time (e.g. on maternity/parental leave, illness, misadventure, in hospital, etc.).