



OFFICE OF THE DVC (RESEARCH)

Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) Scheme 2008

Higher Degree Research (HDR) Scholarships at Macquarie University

Macquarie University funds HDR PhD Scholarships through the Macquarie Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) scheme. The goal of this scheme is in part to ensure that excellent researchers have the required support to expand their research and research training activities. In addition to CORE staff, the scheme also enables academic staff in other areas of the University to access research scholarship funding, for example as Competitive Research Grant awardees or International strategic HDR program participants.

Subject to funding availability, allocations are made on the basis of the four funding categories outlined later in this document to support both international and domestic PhD candidates.

Divisions are also encouraged to use their own funding to provide additional HDR scholarships to support academically qualified research students in other areas of research interest, areas of emerging research excellence or to further expand those areas where allocations have been made.

Externally funded scholarships continue to be available under schemes such as the domestic Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) and Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (E-IPRS) advertised on the HDRO website www.research.mq.edu.au/students/scholarships.

For further information on Higher Degree Research Scholarships, please contact the Scholarships Officer: leanne.price@vc.mq.edu.au or 9850 7663.

MQRES Scholarship Administration

MQRES allocations are managed by the Research Training Panel, chaired by the Dean HDR, and administered by HDRO (Scholarships). PhD scholarships pre-allocated under the plan are notified to the designated CORE director or Chief Investigator/staff member by the Scholarships Officer.

Designated academic staff may either nominate an eligible applicant to be considered for the award of an allocated MQRES PhD scholarship, or alternatively request HDRO to advertise their PhD project. Advertisements are displayed in HDRC-approved format on the HDRO and JASON (inter-university) websites. A suitable paragraph describing the PhD project and supervisory team contact information should be supplied to the Scholarships Officer for the advertisement to be drafted and for distribution to e-lists etc. Newspaper advertising can also be arranged as a Divisional or staff account cost - as a guide, scholarship advertising in The Australian Higher Education Supplement costs between \$1200 and \$2300.

All applications for admission and scholarships are assessed in the usual manner through the Higher Degree Research Office, and nominations for scholarships are subject to review by the HDRC to ensure the applicant meets current eligibility requirements (e.g. a minimum Level 3 academic rating; and an expected overall IELTS of 7 for international applicants). HDRO (Scholarships) is responsible for officially notifying scholarship outcomes. Please note that any informal notification to an applicant does not commit the University to making a scholarship offer.

The Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) Allocation Model

The total number of allocated scholarships depends on available funding, and will be reviewed as required by the Research Training Panel (RTP). The RTP, chaired by the Dean HDR, is responsible for MQRES award category recommendations.

Scholarships will be allocated to individual staff members for a limited term of 6 months. If not filled and/or offered, the scholarship will be reallocated unless a case (supported by a written request to the Scholarships Officer) for a 3 month extension to the deadline is approved by the chair RTP.

MQRES ALLOCATION CATEGORIES

1. Macquarie University CORE

1.1 5 scholarships each per annum:

Ancient Cultures

Climate Risk

Ecology and Evolution

Cognitive Science (MACCS)

Earth and Planetary Evolution (GEMOC)

Lasers and Photonics

[Minimum 2 scholarships per new CORE level B+ staff on commencement]

1.2 3 scholarships each per annum:

Animal Behaviour (CISAB)

Quantum Information Science and Security (QISS)

Biomolecular Frontiers

Social Inclusion (CRSI)

[Minimum 2 scholarships per new CORE level B+ staff on commencement]

2. Competitive Research Grant awardees

The second category supports targeted competitive research grant awardees:

2.1 National Competitive Grant awardees for 2008

[If an MQRES PhD project was listed as part of the grant application for a successful:

ARC Discovery Large, ARC Linkage, APF, ARF, QE11 or NHMRC grant]

2.2 Federation Fellows (a minimum of 3 scholarships within 5 years, with a limit of 2 per annum.)

2.3 Other nationally funded Research Centres

3. International strategic HDR programs

The third category encourages HDR collaboration with international partners to expand our collaborative research profile:

3.1 International HDR awardees and applicants – E-IPRS stipend and competitively rated on academic merit at a minimum of level 3

3.2 International HDR agreements (e.g. cotutelle, cohort research MOU) competitively rated on academic merit at a minimum of level 2

4. Competitive applications

The fourth category supports other merit based research:

4.1 Domestic HDR applicants – competitively rated on academic merit at a minimum of level 3

4.2 *Competitive allocation rounds are advertised for staff application when additional awards are available.*

The DVC (Research) reserves the right to amend the MQRES scheme and MQRES conditions of award.