SCHEDULE

Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) Scheme 2013

Purpose

This Schedule outlines the Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) Scheme for 2013. It is consistent with requirements of the 2009-2011 Research Strategic Plan.

Macquarie University funds up to 200 HDR PhD Scholarships each year through the Macquarie Research Excellence Scholarship Scheme (MQRES). This allocation also includes up to five MQRES to support Australian Indigenous candidates completing an MPhil or PhD. The goal of this scheme is to ensure that excellent researchers have the required support to expand their research and research training activities. In addition to new 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.

Schedule

Subject to funding availability and scheduled candidature commencements, allocations are made on the basis of the four funding categories outlined below to support both domestic and international PhD candidates. MQRES applicants must meet a minimum level 3 scholarship rating according to the HDRC approved rating guidelines.

Faculties are encouraged to use their own funding or seek external funding opportunities and strategic partnerships to provide additional HDR scholarships to support academically qualified research students in areas of research excellence, including those areas where MQRES allocations have already been made. Faculties are also encouraged to provide supplementary funding where possible to support scholarship holders.

Externally funded scholarships, such as government funded Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA) and International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS) continue to be available and, along with other externally funded scholarship opportunities, are advertised on the HDRO website: www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/scholarships.

The MQRES Allocation Model for 2013 is as follows:

Cat. 1. Macquarie University Concentration of Research Excellence (CORE) new staff

Minimum 2 domestic MQRES per new CORE level B+ staff on commencement, normally to be filled in the first year of appointment.

Cat. 2. Competitive Research Grant awardees

2.1 Australian Competitive Grant awardees

One domestic MQRES or one international tuition fee only MQRES where it has been possible to list a MQRES PhD project as part of the grant application for a successful ARC Discovery, ARC Linkage or other grant listed on the Australian Competitive Grant Register (http://www.innovation.gov.au/Research/ResearchBlockGrants/Documents/2012ACGRList.pdf), and a minimum of $60,000 per annum is awarded to Macquarie for at least 3 years. The allocation is to be subsequently affirmed by the DVC R on confirmation of approved budget.

- for 2013 grant awardees MQRES to commence by 13 December 2013
- for 2012 grant awardees MQRES to commence by 1 July 2013

If Macquarie is not the lead partner, or it was not possible to list a MQRES PhD project as part of the submission, one domestic MQRES or one international tuition fee only MQRES may be allocated on the basis of a minimum of $60,000 per annum being paid to Macquarie for at least 3 years. Lesser amounts or other circumstances may be considered for an allocation by way of a special case application. For a full
international MQRES allocation to be awarded a minimum of $80,000 per annum for at least 3 years must be awarded to Macquarie. Allocations to be affirmed by the DVCR.

2.2 **Federation Fellows:** a minimum of 3 domestic MQRES within 3 years (limit 2 pa).

2.3 **Other nationally funded Research Centres:** MQRES as approved by DVCR.

**Cat. 3. International strategic HDR programs**

For HDR collaboration with international partners to expand our collaborative research profile.

3.1 **International HDR awardees and applicants** – IPRS stipend reserve list and exceptional opportunities.

3.2 **International HDR agreements** – e.g. co-tutelle PhD, joint degree, cohort research MOU

3.3 **1+1 China partner scholarships** - where Chinese partner universities have secured CSC funding for a scholarship, one matching MQRES on a one for one basis. Current preferred partner arrangements with e.g. Jilin University, Nanjing University, China University of Geosciences (Beijing)

3.4 **MQ CII India@75 Scholarships** – available to CII member universities in India

**Cat. 4. Competitive Domestic HDR applications**

APA reserve list and other exceptional opportunities.

**MQRES Scholarship Administration**

MQRES allocations are administered by HDRO (Management Team) on behalf of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) and Higher Degree Research Committee.

PhD scholarships pre-allocated under the model are notified to designated CORE staff or the Chief Investigator/staff member by the HDR Manager, Management Team following confirmation of allocation by the DVC (Research). Scholarships will normally be allocated for a limited term of between 6-12 months. If not filled and/or offered, the scholarship may be reallocated unless a case (supported by a written request) for a 3 month extension to the deadline is approved by the Director HDRO.

Unless otherwise specified at the time of allocation or, in the case of competitive research grant awardees, unless specified in the grant application and subsequently approved, MQRES are to be used to recruit suitably qualified domestic candidates. Awardees may seek a variation to this by way of a special case written request to the Director, HDRO for consideration by the DVCR.

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. **All Cat 2 allocations should be advertised**. A suitable paragraph describing the PhD project and supervisory team contact information should be supplied to the HDR Manager, Management Team (hdrschol@mq.edu.au). Advertisements are displayed in HDRC-approved format on the HDRO and JASON (inter-university) websites.

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 delegate to ensure the applicant meets current eligibility requirements (eg. a minimum Level 3 academic rating; and an expected overall IELTS of 7 for international applicants, minimum 6.5). HDRO 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 DVC (Research) reserves the right to amend the MQRES allocation scheme and MQRES conditions of award.

**Related Policies / Procedures/Plans**

Research Strategic Plan 2009-2011:

2009 Approved Partner Universities: http://www.international.mq.edu.au/research/partner

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**Approval Authority** Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)