The Master of Research Exchange Program
Information Pack for Applicants

About the program

In 2015 Macquarie University introduced the Master of Research Exchange program in the newly created postgraduate degree structure, making it the first Australian university to fully align with Asian, European and North American qualifications. With the addition of greater international experience to qualifications, as a graduate of the new Master of Research you will enjoy enhanced employment opportunities and pathways to further your studies and research overseas.

The Exchange program demonstrates our commitment to research excellence. It provides you with a more intensive research experience abroad before beginning your doctoral study, as well as better articulation and joint PhD options with overseas universities.

Why participate in a Master of Research Exchange?

- Increase the value of your Research Training.
- Employers will look favorably on your overseas experience - it shows initiative and a proactive approach to further develop your career opportunities.
- We live in an increasingly interdependent world, so this is a great opportunity to network with academics in your field and work independently whilst adding value to your Macquarie University Degree.
- Prepare the way for further research collaboration with Macquarie University’s International Partner Universities for a Cotutelle or Joint PhD.

Eligible Participants

Bachelor of Philosophy/Master of Research Exchange Program

- **Outbound** - Currently enrolled Macquarie University (Domestic/International) student’s participating in the Master of Research Exchange with an approved International Partner University.
- **Inbound** - International student’s currently enrolled with an approved International Partner University participating in the Master of Research Exchange with Macquarie University for a period of their enrolment.
Before you apply general information

- Speak to an MRes Advisor in your faculty about how the exchange program will fit into your Master of Research Program and when the best time is for you to travel.
- Find a University and relevant subjects that would fit with your discipline and units.
- If you are in Year 1 and wish to undertake coursework exchange units, you will need to check the semester dates of the Partner University and the availability of units.
- Prepare a detailed study plan.

Partner Universities: Macquarie University partners with many well regarded International Universities from a number of countries. Please see the included Partner Directory in this information pack to find a country that interests you and offers units that suit your requirements.

- Apply for the MRes Exchange program with Macquarie, all study plans must be approved by the MRes Advisor and the Faculty Associate Dean HDR.
- The MRes exchange program is open all year round. However, to ensure a successful outcome please plan 2 to 6 months in advance as applications are subject to Partner University approval and to meeting Macquarie University requirements. Also, applicants will need to take into account varying semester dates with International Partner Universities.

Duration of the Master of Research Exchange

Students are allowed to undertake an Exchange Program from 3 months up to 12 months depending on the stage of their enrolment.

Year 2 Students can also participate in this program and complete part of their research abroad also, however they have to bear in mind that the Macquarie University thesis submission date for year two would remain unchanged.

Students should also be aware that the Northern Hemisphere operates on a different timetable. The academic year there extends from August/September through to May/June, with the summer break from June to September.

Costs and Funding

The estimated cost of exchange would be based on the following factors;

1. Tuition Fee:

For 2015 MRes Exchange, tuition fees will be paid directly to the home university. Students do not pay tuition fees to their host university while on exchange. All students participating in any exchange program will be enrolled into a corresponding load of study at Macquarie University to represent their overseas studies.
2. **Travel Insurance:**

It is a requirement of the exchange program that all students purchase their own travel insurance to cover them for the duration of their entire journey overseas.

All students must be covered under a comprehensive insurance policy from the day they leave Australia until the day they return to Australia (inclusive). Choice of provider and policy purchase lies with the applicant, however it is recommended that the coverage meet the following minimum requirements:

- Unlimited medical expenses
- Medical evacuation costs and repatriation costs
- Public liability insurance

3. **Overseas Student Health Cover:**

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) requires all students on student visas and their families (on student dependent visas) have medical insurance while in Australia.

Allianz is Macquarie University's preferred provider of Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). With a policy from Allianz you are covered from the time you touch down in Australia until the time the policy expires.

4. **Application Fee:**

There is no application fee.

5. **Other costs:**

Students are required to purchase their own airfare.

They should also budget and arrange for living expenses such as:

- Accommodation
- Food
- Transport
- Entertainment

Macquarie University Accommodation Services have dedicated accommodation staff who can give you information on your accommodation options, including university accommodation, residential colleges, private accommodation, temporary accommodation and homestay.

Universities who participate in MRES Exchange

I. University of Potsdam, Germany:


Potsdam University is located in the Greater Berlin area. The University was newly created after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Potsdam is a strategic Partner University of Macquarie University. The International Doctorate for Experimental Approaches to Language and Brain (IDEALAB) consortium, of five full partner universities. Macquarie collaborates with the Universities of Potsdam, Groningen, Trento and Newcastle to provide candidates with strong International Research Training experience which is funded by the European Union’s Erasmus Mundus Program.

For more information visit http://em-idealab.com/consortium.html

Leading and focus research areas include Cognitive Sciences, Geosciences, Functional Ecology and Evolution, Plant Genomics and Systems Biology, Public Policy and Management, Unsettled Cultures and Empirical Educational Studies. Master of Research Exchange is encouraged particularly for the second year of the Master of Research program and in the disciplines of - English and American Studies - Computing - Cognition Science.

II. University Of Heidelberg, Germany:

http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/index_e.html

Heidelberg University is a very old-established (since 1386) research intensive university, high placed in the world’s top 100 rankings and in the top 3 in Germany. Heidelberg is a strategic partner of Macquarie University, with Cotutelle enrolments in computing and linguistics. Heidelberg’s fields of research focus are: Molecular and cellular basis of life, Structure and pattern formation in the material world, Cultural dynamics in globalised worlds, Self-regulation and regulation: individuals and organisations.

III. University of Hamburg, Germany:

http://www.uni-hamburg.de/index_e.html

The University of Hamburg is a long - established research intensive university, comfortably placed within the world’s top 200 on most assessments. Hamburg is a strategic partner of Macquarie University. Macquarie University has had a long association with Hamburg including undergraduate student exchange and joint research in several disciplines.

Hamburg’s key research areas are: Climate, Earth, Environment, Matter and the Universe, Neurosciences, Multilingualism, Governance, Heterogeneity and Education, Infection research and Structural Biology.

Master of Research exchanges are encouraged for one year, 6 months or 3 month stays. Macquarie students outbound can choose courses from the full range of Master - level courses available in the
division to which they have been admitted at Hamburg and Hamburg students inbound can choose courses from the full range of Master level courses available in the Faculty to which they have been admitted at Macquarie.

IV. **Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany:**

http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/1.html

Göttingen University is an old-established research-intensive university comfortably placed in the world’s top 100 on most rankings. There is a strong connection in the discipline of Ancient History, with Macquarie and Göttingen is among the few universities world-wide with an expertise in Coptic Studies.

Hamburg is a strategic partner of Macquarie University Master of Research exchange is encouraged in the disciplines of:
- Physical Sciences (priorities are: Biophysics and Astrophysics)
- Biological Sciences (priorities are: Biodiversity and Conservation)
- Computer Science
- Ancient Cultures
- Economics and Finance

V. **Tel Aviv University, Israel:**

http://www.english.tau.ac.il/

Tel Aviv University (TAU) is a large and comprehensive institution of higher learning and is home to over 30,000 students studying in nine faculties and over 125 schools and departments across the spectrum of sciences, humanities and the arts. The University is consistently ranked in the top 20 in the world in terms of scientific citations and among the top 100 universities internationally. Tel Aviv is a strategic partner of Macquarie University.

Master of Research exchange is particularly encouraged in the discipline of Archaeology (Archaeology and History of the Land of the Bible)
MRes Exchange FAQ

The subjects taken in the Master of Research Exchange Program taken overseas, will they count towards my credit points and my degree?

Yes. As an outbound MRes candidate, the subjects that you will be undertaking at our approved Partner University will need to be approved prior to your enrolment. A corresponding Exchange unit will be recorded on your transcript which will be counted towards your MRes degree. The candidates study plan will also need to be approved by the MRes Advisor.

What fees are payable for my Master of Research Exchange units?

There are no tuition fees payable at the Partner Universities but students are expected to cover the cost of their accommodation, food, travel insurance and additional expenses. Tuition fees are payable at the Home University and this forms part of the agreement of the exchange.

Are there any requirements to go on the Master of Research Exchange Program?

The subjects need to be approved and in line with your program of study and fit in with the timeline of your MRes program. The details of the subjects to be undertaken are to be provided on the study plan section of your MRes Exchange Application Form. This will need to be considered and approved by your supervisor, MRes Director, the HDRO Director and Partner University.

Do I have to get my subjects approved before I apply for the exchange program?

Yes, all exchange units need to be approved before you undertake the MRes Exchange. It is important to speak with your MRES Advisor to make sure the MRes Exchange program fits in with your formally approved Study Plan of the MRes program.
How will my grades appear on the transcript?

Grades for the Exchange units will be converted to the Macquarie equivalent grades and will appear on your official Macquarie transcript.

Will I have to find a supervisor at my Partner University if I go in the second year of Master of Research?

It is important to speak with your Department MRes Advisor to make sure the MRes Exchange Program fits in with your MRes Study Plan agreed to with your supervisor. If you are planning to go on the MRes Exchange in your second year, you will need to work with your supervisor to find a suitable supervisor at the Partner University prior to the exchange. All exchange arrangements need to be approved before candidates undertake the exchange.

Will the host University arrange accommodation or will I be allowed to find my own accommodation?

Candidates will need to arrange their own accommodation at the Partner University. They may liaise with the partner institution for assistance with accommodation. Please contact the HDR Office for the appropriate contact at the partner institution prior to your departure.

For Outbound International students, does the OSHC provide insurance cover at the Host University?

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) is medical insurance required by the Australian Government for international students studying in Australia on a student visa. OSHC is only valid in Australia. If international candidates wish to undertake the MRes Exchange at one of our partner universities, they will have to arrange their own medical insurance for the exchange period while overseas. Upon their return to Australia, they can liaise with the OSHC provider to request a holiday credit for the period they were off shore.

Can the subjects I study be subjects outside of my department?

This is approved on a case by case basis. Candidates need to discuss the units that they wish to take at the partner university with the MRes Director. Units undertaken in the MRes Exchange need to be
relevant to their MRes thesis or meet the requirements for their first year coursework component of the MRes and be approved by the Supervisor, MRes Director, HDRO Director and Partner University.

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Who pays for my flights and general expenses of the Master of Research Exchange Program?

Candidates who are approved for MRes Exchange will be responsible for their own flights and living costs. There is no centrally funded Macquarie University funds to support MRes Exchange. Candidates may wish to check with their individual faculty to see if faculty funding is available.

Candidates can apply to be considered for the Nathen Rhead Memorial Scholarship which has been set up to assist inbound and outbound Bachelor of Philosophy and year 2 Master of Research candidates going on an approved Master of Research Exchange to a Macquarie University partner institution. Funding for this scholarship has been made from donations made to this memorial fund.
## MRes Academic Advisors By Faculty:

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