SCHEDULE

Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) Scheme 2012

Purpose

This Schedule outlines the Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) Scheme for 2012. 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 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 the domestic Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) and International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) continue to be available and are advertised on the HDRO website: www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/scholarships.

The MQRES Allocation Model for 2012 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 National Competitive Grant awardees
If a MQRES PhD project was listed as part of the grant application for a successful ARC Discovery, ARC Linkage, APF, ARF, or QE11 grant, or on award of an NHMRC grant and the allocation subsequently affirmed by the DVCR on confirmation of approved budget.
- for 2012 grant awardees MQRES to commence by 14 December 2012
- for 2011 grant awardees MQRES to commence by 1 July 2012

If Macquarie is not the lead partner, or for other national competitive grant schemes not listed, a MQRES may be allocated on the basis of a minimum of $40,000 per annum paid to Macquarie for at least 3 years. Lesser amounts will be considered for an allocation by way of a special case application.

2.2 Federation/Laureate 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 – eg. co-tutelle PhD, joint degree, cohort research MOU.

Cat. 4. Competitive Domestic HDR applications
APA reserve list and other exceptional opportunities.

MQRES Scholarship Administration
MQRES allocations are administered by HDRO (Scholarships 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 Scholarships Manager 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 applications, 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 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 first advertised. A suitable paragraph describing the PhD project and supervisory team contact information should be supplied to the Scholarships Manager (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)