



# 2026 Macquarie University Lighthouse Fellowships (MQLF)

## Applicant information

The three aims of the Macquarie University Lighthouse Fellowships (MQLF) are to support researchers within three years of the award of their PhD who have an outstanding track record (relative to opportunity) and/or who show evidence of excellent research potential; provide seed funding for early career researchers, allowing them to increase their competitiveness for securing research funding from non-University sources; and to accelerate and increase the pipeline of research expertise within Macquarie University Strategic Research Initiatives, existing and emerging.

### Important dates

Stage 1: Scheme opens	25 February 2025
Applications close	31 March 2025
Stage 2: shortlist announced	May 2025
Stage 3: invitation to interview	June 2025
Interview period	30 June to 4 July 2025
Outcomes announced	Late July/early August 2025
Commencement	Between 1 January and 30 June 2026

### APPOINTMENT

Ten MQLF positions are offered each year. They can be undertaken as 100% research over 3 years or, at the discretion of the relevant Head of Department/School, as 75% research/25% teaching over 4 years.

Fellows are appointed at Level A Step 6, 7 or 8, commensurate with experience. A higher level may be negotiated with the relevant Head of Department/School and Faculty Executive Dean if your current salary is above the MQ Level A8 salary scale. But this is not guaranteed.

Fellows receive up to \$50,000 over the project for direct research costs.

### ELIGIBILITY

You must be an early career researcher (ECR) with no more than 3 years since conferral of your first PhD. For 2026 MQLF, if conferral was before 1 March 2022, you must make a convincing case for ECR status and provide evidence of career interruptions.

### FINDING A SPONSOR

Sponsors are pivotal in fostering your professional development and talent during your Fellowship.

Seek a sponsor early. Sponsors may only be a primary sponsor or co-sponsor for one Fellow per round. You can find a sponsor on our researcher profile pages: [researchers.mq.edu.au](https://researchers.mq.edu.au). You can search by

- Sponsor name
- Research area
- Department or School
- Faculty

You will nominate a primary and, if required, a co-sponsor on your application form.

Ensure your sponsor and co-sponsor are a good fit with you and your project and have the requisite discipline expertise to support all aspects of your Fellowship.

You should also discuss the resources, systems, facilities (including animal facilities) and core infrastructure you require to complete the proposed project to ensure that Macquarie can fully support your Fellowship.

### WORKING WITH YOUR SPONSOR

You must work with your sponsor to develop your application. Ensure you contact them early and provide them with sufficient time to provide feedback on your application prior to submission.

If you intend to propose a salary Level and Step above A6 and/or undertake a 75% research /25% teaching appointment rather than the standard 100% research appointment, you should enlist your sponsor's support in seeking approval for this from the Head of your prospective Department/School.

### FIND OUT MORE

Funding Guidelines, submission process, forms, FAQs and information webinars can be found on our [webpage](#) or scan the QR code.

If you can't find the answer to your question, email [MQLF@mq.edu.au](mailto:MQLF@mq.edu.au)



### RESEARCH SERVICES

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