

# 2026 Macquarie University Lighthouse Fellowships (MQLF)

## Sponsor 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. Sponsors have a pivotal role in supporting applicants through the development of their application, the application process itself and in fostering their talent and research career throughout the Fellowship.

### Important dates

Stage 1: Scheme opens	25 February 2025
Applications close	31 March 2025
Stage 2: shortlist announced	May 2025
Sponsor/HoD statements due	14 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

### KEY FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION

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 but cannot be guaranteed.

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

### SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY

- Sponsors may only be named on one Fellowship application per round. This applies to both primary and co-sponsors (i.e. it is not possible to be a primary sponsor for one applicant and co-sponsor for another).
- Sponsors must have an employment contract covering the whole period of the Fellowship.

### SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Ensure you (and the co-sponsor, if applicable) are a good fit with the applicant and project, and you have the requisite expertise to support all aspects the Fellowship.

Support the applicant through the application process, including but not limited to reviewing the application prior to submission and preparing for interview if the applicant is shortlisted.

Advocate for and facilitate the applicant's negotiations with your Department/School. You and the applicant should consult early with your HoD/HoS on:

- the resources, systems, facilities (including animal facilities) and core infrastructure the applicant requires
- the Level/Step the applicant is to be appointed at (if higher than A6)
- appointment to a 75% research/25% teaching Fellowship over 4 years (if requested).

If the applicant is shortlisted by the Faculty to proceed to full panel assessment (Stage 2), you are responsible for:

- Helping the applicant to obtain written confirmation from the HoD/HoS of a starting salary higher than A6 (and, if applicable, the approval of the Faculty Executive Dean if a case can be made for a salary above A8) and/or a 4-year research and teaching appointment.
- Preparing and submitting a Sponsor/HoD Statement (form will be provided).

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Please email [MQLF@mq.edu.au](mailto:MQLF@mq.edu.au) if you have any questions.



### RESEARCH SERVICES

Macquarie University NSW 2109 Australia  
MQLF@mq.edu.au  
ABN 90 952 801 237  
CRICOS Provider 00002J



**MACQUARIE**  
University