**2026 ARC DECRA Grant Development and Submission Process**

***For INTERNAL Macquarie University applicants:***

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| **Date** | **Milestone** | |
| 6 Jan 2025 |  | Submit Expression of Interest by 12 pm. |
| 30 Jan 2025 |  | DECRA scheme opens. |
|  | Download DE26 grant opportunity documents from [GrantConnect](https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/ViewDocuments?GoUuid=18b27cc3-901c-4252-aa32-46ad9fd37953), such as i) Grant Guidelines and ii) Instructions to Applicants. If you are a new user of GrantConnect you will need to register for an account. |
|  | Download DE26 Macquarie University resources from [DECRA information webpage](https://www.mq.edu.au/research/our-research/funding-and-grants/australian-research-council/discovery-early-career-researcher-award) such as i) Advice Toolkit and ii) Budget Calculator. View the [successful grants library](https://www.mq.edu.au/research/our-research/funding-and-grants/training-and-support/successful-grants-library) for examples of past awarded projects. |
|  | Create DECRA application in [RMS](https://rms.arc.gov.au/) (the ARC Research Management System) if you are invited to full application by your Faculty Research Office. If you do not already have an RMS account, click on “Request New Account”. |
|  | If your PhD was awarded before 1 March 2020, you must complete an [[Eligibility Exemption Request Form](https://www.mq.edu.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0011/547049/Career-Interruption-Eligibility-Exemption-Request-Template.docx)](https://www.mq.edu.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0011/547049/Career-Interruption-Eligibility-Exemption-Request-Template.docx). The eligibility exemption request form must be complete and well-justified with evidence (as required) to support your request for an eligibility exemption request. Incomplete forms, or forms lacking supporting evidence, will be returned to applicants. It is the responsibility of the applicant to complete this form. |
|  | Create draft application record in the Macquarie University Research Management System, Pure. (see [Quick Reference Guide](https://wiki.mq.edu.au/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=272106472)). |
|  | Select an **optional** strategic review deadline in [this booking calendar](https://outlook.office365.com/book/MQStrategicGrantReview@mq.edu.au/s/T5QcGvR6kkmAV8lABPfFYg2). |
|  | Select a **mandatory** compliance and eligibility check deadline [in this booking calendar](https://outlook.office365.com/book/MQComplianceEligibilityGrantReviewBookingCalendar@mq.edu.au/s/-DYhiJJ8UEKQ-gdK_P6FTA2). |
| 4 Feb 2025 |  | Attend webinar “Developing your Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence for the DECRA Scheme” ([register](https://macquarie.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqduCrrj4vHdIOa_Xpd6mM7dZzWHf5Hrd1)). |
| 6 Feb 2025 |  | Attend webinar “Developing your DECRA Project Description and Letter of Support” ([register](https://macquarie.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIqdu6spzoqG9ygfD0QPchTY8E0ALIHQ9Nq)). |
| 11 Feb 2025 |  | Attend webinar “Building your DECRA Budget” ([register](https://macquarie.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldOqgrjwjE92Lz9BPQ_XOAvoBH9zJoX8A)). |
| 13 to 19 Feb 2025  Select a date and time for an **optional strategic review** in the [booking calendar](https://outlook.office365.com/book/MQStrategicGrantReview@mq.edu.au/s/T5QcGvR6kkmAV8lABPfFYg2) |  | Submit a first complete draft of your application in the ARC RMS by clicking on “Submit to Research Office” in RMS (this will require all Parts to be green in RMS). Your application will be returned to you in RMS within 2 business days so you can continue to work on your application. The Grant Development Team will complete a strategic review of your application and provide feedback via Pure within 10 business days. You do not attend your booking in person. |
|  | Upload any required confirmations from the Faculty or Department/School for any cash or in-kind financial contributions (other than the DVCR contributions) by adding approval emails to your Pure record. You must upload to Pure approvals for salary gap contributions from your Faculty or Department/School. |
| 26 Feb 2025 |  | Submit any [requests not to assess](https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/apply-funding/grant-application/request-not-assess) to the Research Office in RMS. Use this to exclude up to 3 people from assessing your application. |
| 27 Feb to 5 Mar 2025  Select a date and time for a **mandatory compliance and eligibility check** in the [booking calendar](https://outlook.office365.com/book/MQComplianceEligibilityGrantReviewBookingCalendar@mq.edu.au/s/-DYhiJJ8UEKQ-gdK_P6FTA2) |  | Submit a final draft (i.e. a complete draft with all Parts finished) of your application in RMS by clicking on “Submit to Research Office” by your booking date to receive a compliance and eligibility check. Your application will be returned to you in RMS within 2 business days so you can make any changes and corrections required once you receive the compliance and eligibility check. The Grant Development Team will complete a compliance and eligibility check and provide feedback via Pure within 3 business days. You do not attend your booking in person. |
|  | Upload any required confirmations from the Faculty or Department/School for any cash or in-kind financial contributions (other than the DVCR contributions) by adding approval emails to your Pure record. You must upload to Pure approvals for salary gap contributions from your Faculty or Department/School. |
|  | If you have been awarded ARC funding in the past, you must check you have met the obligations regarding previously funded projects, including the submission to the ARC of final reports by the due date shown in your Person Profile in RMS ([view guide to checking the final report due date and status in RMS](https://www.mq.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1177037/Guide-to-Checking-the-Final-Report-Due-Date-and-Status-in-RMS.pdf)). It is the responsibility of the applicant to review this information. |
| 5 Mar 2025 |  | *Research Services submits requests not to assess to the ARC.* |
| 11 Mar 2025 |  | Finalise all documentation in your Pure record (e.g. current PDF of your application, approvals of any Faculty or Department/School financial support). Click on “Send for internal approval” in Pure. This will initiate institutional approvals of your application by your Head of Department/School and Deputy Dean, Research and Innovation, which are required before your application can be submitted to the ARC. |
| 18 Mar 2025 |  | *ARC deadline: Research Services will submit your application to ARC by 5 pm.* |
| 19 Mar 2025 |  | Complete anonymous survey on the quality of support and feedback you received from Macquarie University staff during the development and submission of your application. This will assist us in identifying resources and operations that worked well and ways in which we can improve our service to researchers in the future. |
| 25 Jun 2025 |  | Rejoinder period opens. |
| 8 Jul 2025 |  | Rejoinder period closes. |

***For EXTERNAL Macquarie University applicants:***

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| **Date** | **Milestone** | |
| 6 Jan 2025 |  | Submit Expression of Interest by 12 pm. |
| 30 Jan 2025 |  | DECRA scheme opens. |
|  | Download DE26 grant opportunity documents from [GrantConnect](https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/ViewDocuments?GoUuid=18b27cc3-901c-4252-aa32-46ad9fd37953), such as i) Grant Guidelines and ii) Instructions to Applicants. If you are a new user of GrantConnect you will need to register for an account. |
|  | Download DE26 Macquarie University resources from [Dropbox](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/vabe7uhzr7syjl27ssq5y/ACCaPRGNNotyhYd-nX51RmI?rlkey=4nbqy458ceakoh00c0x1h6usx&dl=0), such as i) Advice Toolkit and ii) Budget Calculator. |
|  | Create DECRA application in [RMS](https://rms.arc.gov.au/) (the ARC Research Management System) if you are invited to full application by your Faculty Research Office. If you do not already have an RMS account, click on “Request New Account”. |
|  | If your PhD was awarded before 1 March 2020, you must complete an [[Eligibility Exemption Request Form](https://www.mq.edu.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0011/547049/Career-Interruption-Eligibility-Exemption-Request-Template.docx)](https://www.mq.edu.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0011/547049/Career-Interruption-Eligibility-Exemption-Request-Template.docx). The eligibility exemption request form must be complete and well-justified with evidence (as required) to support your request for an eligibility exemption request. Incomplete forms, or forms lacking supporting evidence, will be returned to applicants. It is the responsibility of the applicant to complete this form. |
|  | Email [grant.development@mq.edu.au](mailto:grant.development@mq.edu.au) to request they create a draft application record in the Macquarie University Research Management System, Pure. |
|  | Select an **optional** strategic review deadline in [this booking calendar](https://outlook.office365.com/book/MQStrategicGrantReview@mq.edu.au/s/T5QcGvR6kkmAV8lABPfFYg2). |
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| 6 Feb 2025 |  | Attend webinar “Developing your DECRA Project Description and Letter of Support” ([register](https://macquarie.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIqdu6spzoqG9ygfD0QPchTY8E0ALIHQ9Nq)). |
| 11 Feb 2025 |  | Attend webinar “Building your DECRA Budget” ([register](https://macquarie.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldOqgrjwjE92Lz9BPQ_XOAvoBH9zJoX8A)). |
| 13 to 19 Feb 2025  Select a date and time for an **optional strategic review** in the [booking calendar](https://outlook.office365.com/book/MQStrategicGrantReview@mq.edu.au/s/T5QcGvR6kkmAV8lABPfFYg2) |  | Submit a first complete draft of your application in the ARC RMS by clicking on “Submit to Research Office” in RMS (this will require all Parts to be green in RMS). Your application will be returned to you in RMS within 2 business days so you can continue to work on your application. The Grant Development Team will complete a strategic review of your application and provide feedback via email within 10 business days. You do not attend your booking in person. |
|  | Source any required confirmations from the Faculty or Department/School for any cash or in-kind financial contributions to your project (other than the DVCR contributions) and request [grant.development@mq.edu.au](mailto:grant.development@mq.edu.au) add the email approvals to your Pure record. You must obtain approvals for salary gap contributions from your Faculty or Department/School. |
| 26 Feb 2025 |  | Submit any [requests not to assess](https://www.arc.gov.au/funding-research/apply-funding/grant-application/request-not-assess) to the Research Office in RMS. Use this to exclude up to 3 people from assessing your application. |
| 27 Feb to 5 Mar 2025  Select a date and time for a **mandatory compliance and eligibility check** in the [booking calendar](https://outlook.office365.com/book/MQComplianceEligibilityGrantReviewBookingCalendar@mq.edu.au/s/-DYhiJJ8UEKQ-gdK_P6FTA2) |  | Submit a final draft (i.e. a complete draft with all Parts finished) of your application in RMS by clicking on “Submit to Research Office” by your booking date to receive a compliance and eligibility check. Your application will be returned to you in RMS within 2 business days so you can make any changes and corrections required once you receive the compliance and eligibility check. The Grant Development Team will complete a compliance and eligibility check and provide feedback via email within 3 business days. You do not attend your booking in person. |
|  | Source any required confirmations from the Faculty or Department/School for any cash or in-kind financial contributions to your project (other than the DVCR contributions) and request [grant.development@mq.edu.au](mailto:grant.development@mq.edu.au) add the email approvals to your Pure record. You must obtain approvals for salary gap contributions from your Faculty or Department/School. |
|  | If you have been awarded ARC funding in the past, you must check you have met the obligations regarding previously funded projects, including the submission to the ARC of final reports by the due date shown in your Person Profile in RMS ([view guide to checking the final report due date and status in RMS](https://www.mq.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1177037/Guide-to-Checking-the-Final-Report-Due-Date-and-Status-in-RMS.pdf)). It is the responsibility of the applicant to review this information. |
| 5 Mar 2025 |  | *Research Services submits requests not to assess to the ARC.* |
| 11 Mar 2025 |  | *Your application will be sent for internal approvals to the Head of Department/School and Deputy Dean, Research and Innovation* *of the host Faculty, which are required before your application can be submitted to the ARC.* |
| 18 Mar 2025 |  | *ARC deadline: Research Services will submit your application to ARC by 5 pm.* |
| 19 Mar 2025 |  | Complete anonymous survey on the quality of support and feedback you received from Macquarie University staff during the development and submission of your application. This will assist us in identifying resources and operations that worked well and ways in which we can improve our service to researchers in the future. |
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