2026 Macquarie University Lighthouse Fellowships (MQLF)

Application Form

Key Dates

Scheme open date: Tuesday 25 February 2025

Scheme close date: Monday 31 March 2025, 11.59pm (AEDT)

Interviews (by invitation) 30 June to 4 July 2025

Anticipated outcomes announced Late July/early August 2025

Instructions

* This form is compatible with Word/Word for Mac. It will not function reliably in other programs such as Pages.
* By the above closing date, the following must be submitted via the Macquarie University application portal, **Workday** (see Funding Guidelines and FAQs for full submission information, downloadable from our [webpage](https://www.mq.edu.au/research/our-research/funding-and-grants/internal-funding/macquarie-university-lighthouse-fellowships)):
	1. this **Application form**, with **Project Description** appended (combined as one PDF)
	2. the **MQLF CV and Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence Form**
	3. **Evidence of PhD** conferral or submission date (see Funding Guidelines, Section 5).
* We will not accept any amendments to the Application Forms after the closing date.
* Do not delete any sections from the forms.
* Hard copies or emailed applications will not be accepted.

Application Forms that are incomplete or missing attachments will be ruled ineligible and will not be considered by the Panel. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all documentation is correctly completed and submitted as instructed.

By submitting this application, you declare that**:**

*If your PhD conferral is prior to 1 March 2022:* If shortlisted, I agree to provide acceptable evidence of career interruptions that demonstrate I have had no more than 3 years research time since PhD conferral (see Funding Guidelines, Section 4).

*If your appointment will start above Level A Step 6 or you intend to undertake a 4-year Teaching and Research Fellowship:* I have discussed my academic level and step and Fellowship type with my Sponsor, and they have agreed to negotiate approvals from the Head of Department/School (and Faculty Executive Dean, for appointment above Level A Step 8) if I am shortlisted to Stage 2 (see Funding Guidelines, Section 3).

*If applicable:* I have confirmed with my sponsor that any specialist equipment/animals required for the project can be accommodated and supported (as stated in Section 5.6 of this form).

Enquiries

**For information see our** [**website**](https://www.mq.edu.au/research/our-research/funding-and-grants/internal-funding/macquarie-university-lighthouse-fellowships) **which includes resources about the funding opportunity, and links to our webinars.**

If, after trying all our resources, you are still unable to find the answer to your question, email MQLF@mq.edu.au.

# Applicant

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title (e.g. Dr)** |  |
| **First name** |  |
| **Last name** |  |
| **Pronouns (e.g. she/he/they)** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Phone** |  |

# Host Department/School and Sponsor(s)

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| --- | --- |
| **Faculty** |  |
| **School or Department** |  |
| **Primary Sponsor\*** |  |
| **Co-Sponsor (optional)\*** |  |

*\*If your sponsor(s) are not from your proposed host School/Department or Faculty, add their affiliation in brackets after their name.*

# Proposed appointment

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| --- | --- |
| **What is your proposed commencement date?***You must commence your fellowship between 1 January 2026 and 30 June 2026. See Funding Guidelines, Section 9.* |  |
| **What is your proposed starting Level and Step?***Fellows are appointed at Level A Step 6. If you are currently, or were last employed, above Level A Step 6, take this into account when considering your MQLF starting Level and Step (see Schedule 1 of the* [*MQ Academic Staff Enterprise Agreement 2023*](https://www.mq.edu.au/about/about-the-university/jobs-at-macquarie/Macquarie-University-Academic-Staff-Enterprise-Agreement-2023.pdf)*).\** |  |
| **Which type of Fellowship do you propose to undertake?**[ ]  3 years – 100% research [ ]  4 years – 75% research, 25% teaching\* |

*\*If you are shortlisted to Stage 2 (University assessment), you must obtain written confirmation of appointment above Level A Step 6 and/or of appointment to a 4-year Fellowship from the Head of Department/School, through your sponsor. Appointment above Level A Step 8 must also be approved by the Faculty Executive Dean. See Funding Guidelines, Section 3.*

# Discipline area

Please indicate which discipline area your research aligns with. Select one.

|  |
| --- |
|[ ]  Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEMM) |
|[ ]  Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) |

# Proposed project

## Project title

Provide a short descriptive title of no more than 20 words.

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## Project summary

Provide a project summary focusing on the aims, significance, expected outcomes and benefits of this project. Write the summary clearly and in plain English. Avoid the use of acronyms and discipline-specific abbreviations and terms that an assessor outside your discipline may not understand. (Maximum 100 words)

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| Click or tap here to enter text. |

## FoR codes

Provide up to three 6-digit Field of Research (FoR) codes relevant to your proposed project. List the percentages **highest to lowest**. You **cannot** enter two codes with the same percentage. Government agencies require each code to have a different percentage to maintain statistical integrity (e.g. for two codes, a distribution of 51/49 is necessary to meet this requirement).

FoR codes and descriptors can be found on the [Australian Bureau of Statistics website](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-research-classification-anzsrc/latest-release).

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| --- | --- |
| **FoR Code** | **Percentage** |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

## SEO codes

Provide up to three 6-digit Socio-Economic Objective (SEO) codes relevant to your proposed project. List the percentages **highest to lowest** (as noted above, each must be allocated a different percentage). SOE codes and descriptors can be found on the [Australian Bureau of Statistics website](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-research-classification-anzsrc/latest-release).

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| **SEO Code** | **Percentage** |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

## Interdisciplinary research

If the proposed research project involves interdisciplinary research (i.e., combining two or more academic disciplines), please explain how your project will draw on those disciplines. (Maximum 50 words).

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| Click or tap here to enter text. |

## Project requirements

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| **Does the project involve recombinant DNA/potential biohazards (e.g. human blood?)** | [ ] Yes [ ] No |
| **Does the project involve human participants (including surveys, interviews)?** | [ ] Yes [ ] No |
| **Does your project involve animal modelling or experimentation with animals?** | [ ] Yes [ ] No |
| **If Yes, specify animal/s:** | Click or tap here to enter text. |

# Macquarie University Strategic Research Initiatives

Please mark which Strategic Research Initiative this project is aligned with. If this project is aligned with more than one Strategic Research Initiative, please ensure to indicate this by marking multiple selections in the table below. Applicants must be firmly aligned with the research environment and ambitions of at least one of the Strategic Research Initiatives.

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| **STRATEGIC RESEARCH INITIATIVES** |
|[ ]  **The BioInnovation Initiative** |
| **The Macquarie University Research Centres:** |
|[ ]  Astrophysics and Space Technologies Research Centre |
|[ ]  Data Horizons Research Centre |
|[ ]  Ethics and Agency Research Centre |
|[ ]  Future Communications Research Centre |
|[ ]  Hearing Research Centre |
|[ ]  Lifespan Health and Wellbeing Research Centre |
|[ ]  Motor Neuron Disease Research Centre |
|[ ]  Performance and Expertise Research Centre |
|[ ]  Smart Green Cities Research Centre |
|[ ]  Transforming Energy Markets Research Centre |
| **The Faculty Research Centres:** |
|[ ]  Australian Lymphoedema Education, Research and Treatment (ALERT) Centre |
|[ ]  Centre for Economic Impacts of Genomic Medicine (GenIMPACT) |
|[ ]  Centre for Emerging Risks |
|[ ]  Centre for Health Informatics |
|[ ]  Centre for Health Systems and Safety Research |
|[ ]  Centre for Healthcare Resilience and Implementation Science |
|[ ]  Centre for Nature Positive Finance & Business |
|[ ]  Centre for Transforming FinTech and Banking |
|[ ]  FSE Research Centre for Frontier AI Research |
|[ ]  FSE Research Centre for Pollinator Health and Security |
|[ ]  FSE Research Centre in Advanced Drone Systems Research |
|[ ]  FSE Research Centre in Applied AI |
|[ ]  FSE Research Centre in Multi-omics |
|[ ]  Future Ecosystems Research Network |
|[ ]  Health & Wellbeing Research Unit (HoWRU)  |
|[ ]  Macquarie Minds and Intelligences Initiative |
|[ ]  Macquarie University Centre for the Health Economy (MUCHE) |
|[ ]  Spinal Pain Research Centre |
|[ ]  The Centre for Environmental Law |
|[ ]  The Centre for Global Indigenous Futures |
|[ ]  The Centre for Housing and Urban Research |
|[ ]  The Centre for Research in Early Childhood Education |

# Alignment with Macquarie University Strategic Research Initiatives (20%)

Clearly demonstrate the links between the proposed MQLF proposal and the activities/goals of the relevant Strategic Research Initiative(s). How does your research fit within the current priorities and research plan of the relevant Strategic Research Initiative(s)? How will you and your research endeavours complement, grow or increase research capacity, add value to the area, set new directions, or address exciting new opportunities within the Strategic Research Initiative(s)? It is important that you can articulate the ways in which your research will accelerate and grow the relevant Strategic Research Initiative(s).

*If you were/are a PhD candidate at Macquarie University, or have had full-time, part-time, or casual employment at Macquarie University since the beginning of 2022, you must make a case for why it is appropriate for you to continue or recommence your research career at Macquarie University. Why is continuing at Macquarie is the best option for furthering your research career?*

**In short, why is this proposed research the best fit for accelerating the growth and productivity of the relevant Strategic Research Initiative(s)?** (Maximum 300 words.)

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## What are the potential benefits to both Macquarie University and the wider community in Australia (10%)?

Describe the potential national benefits, addressing the following three considerations:

1. How will the University benefit from the conduct of this project, including tangible benefits (such as publications, research, commercialisation, other income, capacity building and research impact), and intangible benefits (such as an enriched research culture and enhanced research reputation)?
2. What is the project about and what research gap is it addressing for Australia?
3. How could the research benefit Australians (economically, socially, environmentally, commercially, or culturally)?

It should be written in plain English and avoid technical explanations or jargon that would not be understood by an assessor without background in the area. Evidence-based outcomes directly related to the proposed research should be clearly articulated. (Maximum 300 words.)

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# Budget

Fellows receive up to $50,000 over the life of the Fellowship for direct research costs (up to a maximum of $20,000 in any one year).

A full budget is not required at this stage. However, you must indicate the anticipated expenditure for each year of the project. If your application is successful, you will be required to work with your Sponsor to develop a fully itemised budget prior to commencement of the Fellowship. Your final budget should, as far as possible, remain close to the annual expenditure you indicate in the application, so ensure your estimates are realistic.

## Indicative annual expenditure

In the table below, provide the indicative total expenditure for each year of the Fellowship. Provide the broad cost type that will be the major expense(s) in that year (e.g. Lab consumables, Fieldwork Travel, Research Assistant).

Ensure that it is clear in your Project Description under the FEASIBILITY, BUDGET JUSTIFICATION AND TIMELINE heading how these funded items will contribute to the research plan (e.g., if you are proposing to employ a Research Assistant, note which activities they will assist with, or indicate which specialist equipment or third-party services will be funded by the MQLF).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Amount $** | **Cost type** |
| Year 1 |  |  |
| Year 2 |  |  |
| Year 3 |  |  |
| (Year 4, if applicable) |  |  |

## Justification of salary-only Fellowship

If you do not require direct research costs (i.e., your Fellowship funding will be for your salary only) please explain below why you do not need project funding and present a convincing case for the feasibility of the research project.

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# Project description (35%)

**Attach your project description to the end of this form in one, single PDF document.**

The requirements of the proposal are below and must be adhered to:

* 4 A4 pages maximum, including figures and tables, inclusive of references.
	+ If information on Indigenous research is required under the heading FEASIBILITY, BUDGET JUSTIFICATION AND TIMELINE, an additional 0.5 pages will be allowed which means a total of 4.5 pages will be allowed.
* Single column, minimum of 2 cm margins on all sides, on A4 white paper. Ensure all table or diagram borders are within these margins.
* Single line spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font
* References, captions and diagram text only can be 10 point.
* Only use URLs and hyperlinks where essential, such as to reference publications that are only available online. URLs and hyperlinks should not be used to circumvent page limits, nor should they provide information that is not contained in the application.
* Remember that the panel is made up of assessors from multiple disciplines. **Avoid discipline-specific terms, acronyms, and jargon**. Make clear what you propose to achieve, why it is worth doing, and how you will do it in a way that academics outside your research area can understand.

**You must use the following headings, in this order:**

PROJECT TITLE

PROJECT AIMS AND BACKGROUND

PROJECT QUALITY AND INNOVATION

FEASIBILITY, BUDGET JUSTIFICATION, AND TIMELINE

COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

SPONSOR ALIGNMENT

REFERENCES

See Appendix 2 of the 2026 MQLF Funding Guidelines for additional information on the content of each section.

# Submission

Submit this completed form and Project Description **as a single PDF** (in addition to your 2026 MQLF CV and Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence Form, and evidence of PhD conferral or submission) via**Workday by 11.59pm (AEDT) on Monday 31 March 2025**.