MID CAREER RESEARCHER “ACCELERATOR” SCHEME 2016 GUIDELINES

This new program is intended to identify and support our most outstanding mid-career teaching and research academics. It will help retain and develop the outstanding talent at Sydney and increase the overall level of research performance at the Sydney Medical School (SMS).

The SMS “Accelerator” program will provide funding and other targeted development support to give scale and impetus to the research careers of our teaching and research academics. The program provides recognition of excellence, incentive for ambitious and high-quality researchers who would benefit from the transformative capacity that the funding could provide.

PURPOSE OF THESE GRANTS
Funding of up to 50k per annum (one year in the first instance) will be provided for successful applicants. The funds are intended to supplement rather than replicate funding available from external sources. Applicants are not required to formulate a new project for which they require funding.

Funds may be spent on research costs such as: direct research costs, personnel or equipment; professional development activities such as travel to key conferences or meetings or attending training courses (up to 10% of the total award); and relief from teaching administration or (where appropriate) full teaching relief for specific periods as negotiated with Heads of School/Discipline.

TIMETABLE
Applications close: 4 July 2016.

DEFINITIONS
MID CAREER: To be considered mid-career under this scheme the applicant must have been awarded their PhD more than ten years ago and hold an academic appointment with the Sydney Medical School as a teaching and research academic at level C or D at the time of application. Applicants who are eligible for Sydney Medical School ECR funding schemes will not be eligible for this award.

ELIGIBILITY
- Applicants who do not satisfy the definition of MCR above may present their case as to why they should be considered an MCR within their application.
- Candidates must hold a PhD or equivalent and would normally be expected to have permanent resident status in Australia.
- Applicants must be members of the academic staff of the Sydney Medical School, and on the payroll of the University of Sydney as teaching and research academics.
- Applicants must demonstrate evidence of ongoing affiliation with the Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, by providing a list of publications and other research productivity (e.g. grants and student supervision) for the last five calendar years (or the longest time applicable). Applicants must also agree to have their forthcoming research productivity correctly affiliated to Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney and administered by the University of Sydney to
be eligible to apply for this scheme. [NB affiliation must be with the Sydney Medical School or University of Sydney].

- Applicants must demonstrate that they have an appropriate research track record including a history of publications, HDR supervision and grants. For the purpose of this scheme an applicant must have at least one scored grant from a category one funder in the past three years where they were lead investigator.
- The applicant must also nominate a sponsor who will provide advice over the duration of the scheme, given that this scheme is intended to provide a transformative impact on their research careers beyond the duration of the award.

APPLICANTS WILL BE INELIGIBLE IF:

- The amount requested includes the applicant’s salary or part thereof.
- The applicant is a PhD student, an Early Career Researcher or holds a Professorial appointment.
- The application does not follow the requirements stated on the application form.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Applicants may make only one application to this scheme in each round.
- This scheme is a single applicant scheme.
- The applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have a salary for the ongoing duration of the scheme. The applicant’s salary cannot make up any part of the budget request. If they do not have a continuing appointment a statement from their Head of School/Institute should be included in their application to demonstrate that they will be employed for duration of the award.
- The applicant must clearly explain in their application how this funding will contribute to building their track record and how it will enhance their likely success in external funding rounds in the future.
- A budget must be submitted with the application and it should cover the whole cost of the project to a maximum of $50,000 over the year of award.
- Career interruptions will be taken into account and applications will be considered relative to opportunity.
- The assessment of applications and decisions of the sub-committee will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application must include:

1. Completed Application form
2. PhD award letter.
3. Research Overview. An outline of no more than three (3) pages describing current research projects, proposed usage of funds to be provided (budget), translational dimensions of project and the transformative capacity that funding in this scheme would provide. This statement must also indicate the alignment between the candidate’s work and the strategic research priorities of the Faculty and University.
4. CV. No more than ten pages listing key publications (citation rates and impact factors), HDR supervision and grant funding track record.
5. Letter of support from Head of School/Institute regarding the proposed application.
6. Nomination and letter of support from proposed sponsor indicating their willingness to act as an advisor for the duration of the scheme.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS
The following criteria will be taken into account by the assessment committee when they are considering the applications relative to other applications in the same round.

1. Excellence of Chief Investigator as demonstrated by Track Record relative to opportunity. This will take into account:
   - Career awards
   - Quality of publications
   - HDR Supervision
   - Grant Funding

2. Transformative potential: Has the candidate demonstrated the transformative capacity that funding would provide based on their current body of work and the funding request? Has the candidate indicated the potential translation of the work?

3. Environment: Can the funding be successfully implemented in the area where the applicant plans to do the work?

4. Sponsorship: Has the applicant identified a suitable sponsor who has committed for the duration of funding?

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
George Carayannopoulos
Office of Research & Research Training
Ph. 02 9114 0800
Email: george.carayannopoulos@sydney.edu.au