MID CAREER RESEARCHER “ACCELERATOR” SCHEME 2018 GUIDELINES

This program is intended to identify and support the most outstanding mid-career teaching and research academics. It will help retain and develop outstanding talent and increase performance in medical research.

The Mid Career Researcher “Accelerator” program will provide funding and other targeted development support to give scale and impetus to the research careers of 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 will be provided to successful applicants. The funds are intended to supplement rather than replicate funding available from external sources and/or be used to gather preliminary data to support funding applications. Priority will be given to applications that foster multidisciplinary and/or innovative research.

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.

TIMETABLE
Applications close: 2 Oct 2018

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, School of Medical Sciences, School of Public Health or a Clinical School within the Faculty of Medicine and Health 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 must be
  1. members of the academic staff of the Sydney Medical School, School of Medical Sciences, School of Public Health or a Clinical School within the Faculty of Medicine and Health and on the payroll of the University of Sydney at level C or D
  
  Note: Staff from Sydney Nursing School, Sydney Pharmacy School and Sydney Dental School are not eligible to apply in the 2018 round.

  or;

  2. have been formally appointed with an academic title (including clinical and conjoint appointments) equivalent to level C or D to the Sydney Medical School, School of Medical Sciences, School of Public Health or a Clinical School within the Faculty of Medicine and Health in accordance with the “Honorary Titles” policy.
Note: Professional staff, casuals, adjuncts and honorary research affiliates may not apply.

- Current Faculty of Medicine and Health title holders salaried by independent Medical Research Institutes with a current University agreement in place can apply.
- Applicants who have held an Accelerator grant in the previous year are eligible to apply for continuation of funding for a second year.
- 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.
- Applicants must demonstrate evidence of ongoing affiliation with the Faculty of Medicine and Health, 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 the Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney and administered by the University of Sydney to be eligible to apply for this scheme. [NB affiliation must be with the Faculty of Medicine and Health 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 (e.g. not NFFC) from a category one funder in the past two years where they were a named lead investigator (not limited to CIA).
- Applicants must demonstrate evidence of ongoing teaching responsibilities.
- Applicants must have completed the Responsible Research Practice module in Career Path.
- 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. Preference will be given to sponsors outside the applicant’s immediate research group.
- Successful applicants will be required to complete a progress/outcomes report on conclusion of the first year.

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 applicant holds, is awarded or has held in the last year a University of Sydney Equity (e.g. Brown, Thompson or Laffan), SOAR or Robinson fellowship.
- 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.
- Successful applicants from previous rounds of this scheme can apply but must outline the research conducted as part of that award, outcomes and how it relates to the current application.
- 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 use 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. Previous awardees seeking an extension of their current award should include progress to date, details of what will be achieved with further funding and list grant applications supported by the award.
5. CV. No more than ten pages listing key publications (citation rates and impact factors), HDR supervision, grant funding track record (including details of recent unsuccessful applications and the score received) and any career disruptions.
6. A table detailing teaching activities, leadership and development in learning and teaching in the past two years including course codes, numbers of students and role. Template provided at: [http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/research/support/internal-funding.php#ECR%20PhD](http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/research/support/internal-funding.php#ECR%20PhD) Note: HDR supervision should be included under item 5, not within this table. 
7. Letter of support from Head of School/Institute regarding the proposed application.
8. Nomination and letter of support from proposed sponsor indicating their willingness to act as an advisor for the duration of the scheme and how they will contribute to the career development of the applicant.
9. Successful applicants will be required to complete a progress/outcomes report on conclusion of the grant.

**CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS**

The following criteria will be taken into account by the assessment committee in 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
- Contributions to the discipline, faculty or university

2. Transformative potential: Has the applicant demonstrated the transformative capacity that funding would provide based on their current body of work and the funding request? Will the research improve the applicant’s competitiveness for grant funding?

3. Research Priorities and Environment: Does the research align with the faculty’s research themes or the university’s multidisciplinary initiatives? 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
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