MID CAREER RESEARCHER BIOMED-CONNECT SCHEME 2018 GUIDELINES

This program is intended to identify and support our most outstanding mid-career academics undertaking biomedical research, both basic and applied. This program runs in parallel to the faculty’s “Accelerator” scheme but focusses on building collaborations between biomedical researchers and those undertaking clinical or public health research to address issues of importance to human health. It will help retain and develop the outstanding talent at Sydney and increase the overall level of research performance in biomedical sciences within the Faculty of Medicine and Health.

The Mid Career Researcher Biomedical Science Scheme will provide funding support to build on existing collaborations or develop new collaborations that will give scale and impetus to projects to enhance applications for competitive funding.

PURPOSE OF THESE GRANTS
Funding of up to $50k per annum will be provided for 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 innovative research with a potential for translation into health care.

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 at level C or D (or equivalent) 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 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 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 three years where they were a named lead investigator (not limited to CIA).
- The applicant must be a biomedical researcher (either basic or applied) and the application must include collaborator/s (max 2) undertaking either clinical or public health research to address issues of importance to human health. Collaborators must be from outside the lead investigator’s discipline and school.
- Collaborators must be a member of Sydney Medical School, School of Medical Sciences, School of Public Health, or a Clinical school within the Faculty of Medicine and Health, or a member of a Medical Research Institute with a current University agreement in place, an affiliated local area health district or Sydney Health Partners and at level C or D (or equivalent).
- Successful applicants will be required to submit a research data management plan: https://library.sydney.edu.au/research/data-management/research-data-management-plans.html
- Applicants must have completed the Responsible Research Practice module in Career Path.
- 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 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.
- The lead investigator must be a biomedical researcher. Other investigators (max 2) must be from outside the lead investigator’s discipline and school. All investigators must hold level C or D appointments in the Faculty of Medicine and Health (or equivalent), LHD or Sydney Health Partners.
- 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 Online 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 (including details of recent unsuccessful applications and the score received) and any career disruptions.
5. Letter of support from Head of School/Institute regarding the proposed application.

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. Collaborative Network: Does the research bring together biomedical researchers and researchers from other areas? Authenticity and quality of collaboration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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