



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

[www.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.newcastle.edu.au)

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2011

NEWSLETTER

RESEARCH DIVISION

## FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH)

Many of you will be aware of the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) outcomes. The University has enjoyed some excellent results in the ERA assessment, with particularly strong performance in some key research areas that deserves celebration.

ERA, an independent assessment coordinated by the Australian Research Council (ARC), is designed to assess research quality in Australia's higher education institutions by measuring the research performance of universities over the period 2003-08.

ERA assesses research at the discipline level and uses the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Field of Research (FoR) Codes at the 4-digit level to categorise research. Data submitted across the 157 4-digit FoR groups were also collated and assessed at the 2-digit level for a broader assessment.

The University submitted output for assessments under 57 FoR groups.

In total, 68 per cent of our research assessed under 4-digit FoRs has been rated at or above the world standard. This is a rewarding result and demonstrates that the University's strategy of recognising our strengths and directing investment into these fields has been a success.

Under the ERA assessment, a 5 rating is considered 'well above the world standard'; a 4 rating is 'above the world standard'; and a 3 rating is 'at a world standard'.

We are particularly pleased that Applied Mathematics at the University of Newcastle was rated the strongest in the country, receiving the only rating of 5, for this field. This reflects our considerable recent efforts in this area with the appointment of world leading researchers and the establishment of a Priority Research Centre; particular congratulations needs to go to Bob Antonia, Lyazid Djenidi, Natasha Boland and Jonathan Borwein, who contributed the bulk of the assessed outputs.

Our full list of FoR groups to receive a rating of 5 were:

- \* Applied Mathematics
- \* Plant Biology
- \* Oncology and Carcinogenesis
- \* Immunology
- \* Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- \* Civil Engineering
- \* Cardiovascular Medicine and Haematology

The University also achieved exceptional results in further seven FoR groups, each of which received a rating of 4:

- \* Social Work
- \* Religion and Religious Studies
- \* Physical Geography and Environmental Geoscience
- \* Physical Chemistry (incl. Structural)
- \* Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Science
- \* Cognitive Sciences
- \* Biochemistry and Cell Biology.

At the 2-digit level analysis we received a rating of 4 in the following FoR disciplines:

- \* Medical and Health Sciences
- \* Engineering
- \* Biological Sciences

Emerging research strengths in 34 other fields of research, including Human Movement and Sport Sciences, Nursing and Sociology, were awarded a rating of 3. These are pleasing results for these developing fields.

Please join us in congratulating those researchers whose outputs have been recognised as at or above world standard - this is an outstanding achievement.

For an extract of ERA results please see [www.newcastle.edu.au/division/research/era/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/division/research/era/index.html)

More information on ERA can be found at [www.arc.gov.au](http://www.arc.gov.au)

**Professor Mike Calford**  
**Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)**

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## OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### RHD Admissions

To date we have received 521 applications to commence a research higher degree in semester 1 2011. Of these, 289 have been successful in gaining admission, and 71 are still being assessed. The Admissions and Scholarships team are making every effort to maximize the number of successful applicants who commence their RHD.

### RHD Scholarships

Scholarship offers have been made to 49 international research candidates and 108 domestic candidates as a result of the annual main scholarship round. This is an additional 16 scholarships compared to 2010, and all domestic applicants who were eligible have now received a scholarship (have H1 or equivalent, GPA above 5.25 out of 7 and an overall score of at least 10 out of 20). Additional scholarships will be offered throughout 2011 as research grant funds become available.

At the end of 2010 we called for nominations for completion scholarships and as a result 44 scholarships were offered to support research candidates as they enter their final stages and write up.

### April 2011 Graduation Ceremonies

The Callaghan April Graduation Ceremonies will be held on 28, 29, 30 April and 6, 7 May 2011. Session times will be available from the following link:  
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/graduation/callaghan/>

Research candidates who are planning on submitting their hard bound thesis for ratification of their award in order to be included in these ceremonies will need to do so by Friday 25 March 2011.

If you were required to make corrections to your thesis, a signed Corrections Approval form must also be lodged with the Office of Graduate Studies along with your thesis by this date. The form must be approved by your principal supervisor, Head of School and Assistant Dean (Research Training). Approval may be obtained via email. Please

contact [Fiona.Madden@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Fiona.Madden@newcastle.edu.au) if you have questions relating to your hard bound thesis submission.

Upon receipt of the required documents, the Office of Graduate Studies will initiate the formal ratification of award process. When the award of your degree has been ratified your details will be provided to the Graduation and Prizes office for inclusion in the April Graduation Ceremony.

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## ANIMAL WELFARE AND TRAINING UNIT (AWTU)

The Animal Welfare and Teaching Unit provides professional and technical services to stakeholders on best practice in research animal welfare. The manager of the Unit, Robyn Gentle advises and trains personnel in the humane and ethical use of animals in research and provides veterinary clinical care to research animals. Robyn can be contacted by email: [Robyn.Gentle@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Robyn.Gentle@newcastle.edu.au), or telephone on extension 17086.

### Research Animal Training Scheme (RATS)

The online modules of the RATS program will be available from 21 February 2011. The first practical session on handling and basic research procedures and a new module on developing and using an animal welfare monitoring checklist will be offered in March. Anaesthesia and surgery modules will run during April and May.

There will be no charge for participants undertaking the rats program in 2011. For information on the program and details of how to register for any of the modules visit the training section of the Animal Ethics website at:  
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/animal-ethics/>

### Animal Welfare Monitoring Checklists

The AWTU will be visiting research animal holding facilities throughout 2011 to confirm that animal welfare monitoring checklists are being used in accordance with Animal Care and Ethics Committee approval. If you would like assistance with developing a specific monitoring checklist for your Animal Ethics applications, or advice on how to most efficiently use an already approved checklist please contact Robyn Gentle.

Seminars on developing and using monitoring checklists will be held during 2011 as part of the RATS program. Advice on registering for these seminars will be available from the training section of the ACEC website and will be circulated via the research animal email list.

### Animal Welfare Monitoring Checklists

The research animal email list is used to circulate information of interest to researchers using animals. If you would like to subscribe to this list please send an email to [Robyn.Gentle](mailto:Robyn.Gentle).

## Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) Recruiting Members

The University is currently seeking expressions of interest from both internal academic staff and members of the community who wish to be considered for future vacancies on the University's Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). To find out more, please refer to our web site at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/human-ethics/human-research-ethics-committee.html>.

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## NHMRC Funding Round (January - April 2011)

Please note, between 17-22 February, RGMS will only be accessible to Research and Practitioner Fellowship applicants and RAO's. All other applicants will regain access to RGMS on 23 February. If you wish to continue work on your application, please use the Offline Templates available at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/rgms/index.htm#Offline%20Forms>.

*Research Office and NHMRC Deadlines:*

### Research and Practitioner Fellowships

NHMRC Closing Date (Extended) - 22 February 2011

### Project Grants

Finals (Extended) - 22 March 2011

NHMRC Closing Date (Extended) - 5 April 2011

### TRIP Fellowships

Drafts - 28 February 2011

Finals - 14 March 2011

NHMRC Closing Date - 24 March 2011

### Centres of Research Excellence

NHMRC Closing Date - 25 March 2011

Please contact [stoy.drinic@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:stoy.drinic@newcastle.edu.au) if you wish to apply for a CRE.

### Career Development Fellowships

Drafts - 3 March 2011

Finals - 17 March 2011

NHMRC Closing Date - 31 March 2011

### Partnership Projects

Drafts - 4 April 2011

Finals - 18 April 2011

NHMRC Closing Date - 29 April 2011

### Early Career Fellowships

Open in RGMS - TBA

Drafts - 5 April 2011

Finals - 19 April 2011

NHMRC Closing Date - 3 May 2011

All applications are to be drafted and submitted in RGMS [www.rgms.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.rgms.nhmrc.gov.au).

Please ensure that the final version of your application is certified and submitted to the Research Office by the finals deadlines listed above. This deadline allows for a final compliance/eligibility check and sufficient time for submission of all applications to the NHMRC.

Further information will be circulated via the research-nhmrc email list when available. Please ensure you are subscribed.

## Draft Submission: ARC DP12 information

Please note that when your application is ready to review you will need to send an e-mail to [Neroli.Finlay@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Neroli.Finlay@newcastle.edu.au) to let us know your application has been validated and is ready for a compliance check.

Please do not submit in RMS until your final application is ready as you cannot make any changes once you submit in RMS.

We are already reviewing the applications we have received. We will review them and provide feedback in the order they are received.

Compliance Check: 14 February 2011

Finals due: 7 March 2011

If we receive an application after COB 14 February we will not be able to provide a compliance check due to our timeframes. We will however still provide a full final check. Applications received after 7 March are only checked for University Contribution.

## 2010-2011 STATISTICS

|                      |   | Oct<br>2010 | Nov<br>2010 | Dec<br>2010 | YTD<br>2010 | Jan  | YTD<br>2011 |
|----------------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|-------------|
| <b>Animal Ethics</b> | Animal Ethics Initial/Repeat Initial Applications Processed | 4           | 4           | 6           | 64          | 7    | 7           |
|                      | Animal Ethics Application Renewals Processed                | 10          | 13          | 4           | 100         | 19   | 19          |
|                      | Animal Ethics Variation Applications Processed              | 10          | 24          | 29          | 250         | 27   | 27          |
|                      | Inspections performed                                       | 3           | 1           | 1           | 21          | 0    | 0           |
| <b>Human Ethics</b>  | Total initial applications processed                        | 19          | 23          | 26          | 342         | 12   | 12          |
|                      | Expedited   | 16          | 19          | 25          | 304         | 7    | 7           |
|                      | Full Review   | 3           | 4           | 1           | 38          | 5    | 5           |
|                      | Project variation applications                              | 24          | 24          | 25          | 336         | 17   | 17          |
|                      | Progress report/renewal applications                        | 42          | 55          | 41          | 611         | 31   | 31          |
|                      | Registration of HNEH approvals                              | 9           | 21          | 13          | 160         | 5    | 5           |
| <b>Grants</b>        | External grant applications submitted                       | 9           | 19          | 3           | 515         | 9    | 9           |
|                      | External grant awarded                                      | 51          | 74          | 27          | 322         | 30   | 30          |
|                      | Value of external grants processed (\$ millions)            | 15.49       | 15.55       | 6.70        | 72.21       | 5.80 | 5.80        |

### RHD Completions

|                  | 1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| PhD              | 112                               |
| Master           | 25                                |
| Higher Doctorate | 1                                 |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>138</b>                        |

If you have ideas for articles, contact

[Sarah Taylor](#) on ext 54326

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