

# UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

**CLOSING DATE: August 8, 2008**

The University of Newcastle Research Fellowship Scheme is an initiative introduced in 2006 to support outstanding early career researchers seeking to commence an academic/research career. The Scheme provides appointments of up to 5 years duration (renewable for a further term by mutual agreement and subject to the availability of funding) commencing at Lecturer level B1 although a higher level may be considered. The successful applicant will receive a Research Support Grant of \$15,000. Up to 2 Research Fellowships will be supported in 2008 under this Scheme.

We are seeking applications from outstanding early career researchers with a PhD or equivalent Doctoral qualification awarded no earlier than 1 January 2003. This will be a highly competitive scheme, and applicants are expected to have an outstanding track record relative to opportunity.

Applications will be assessed on excellence, both in relation to the proposed research project and the track record of researcher. Applications will be assessed equally on quality of the research project, and track record (relative to opportunity) of the applicant. The Fellow will be located within the one of the following Priority Research Centres at the University of Newcastle:

- Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research
- Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing

The application form and related information is available from:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/fellowships.html>

For further information please contact:

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### Guidelines and Conditions – 2008 application round

#### 1. Eligibility

Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent Doctoral qualification awarded no earlier than 1 January 2003. An outstanding candidate can request a waiver of this requirement from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) by emailing a request to Ms Lyn McBriarty prior to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008. Normally applicants would be expected to have two to three years post-doctoral experience prior to appointment. The University particularly encourages applicants seeking to join the institution from another organisation in Australia or from overseas. In 2008 applications will only be considered for research programs contributing to the following two Priority Research Centres:

- Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research
- Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing

Applicants who have requested Fellowship support from other sources in 2008 (for funding commencing in 2008 or 2009) may submit the same project proposal to The University of Newcastle Research Fellowship Scheme provided full disclosure is made in the application. If successful, the University may, at its sole discretion, permit the applicant to defer the commencement of The University of Newcastle Research Fellowship for an agreed period.

#### 2. Application and Selection Process

The application form is to be completed and submitted with all required attachments to Research Services, The University of Newcastle by August 8, 2008. The application form is available from the University website.

It is essential that intending applicants contact the Director of the relevant Priority Research Centre prior to submitting their application.

Applications will be assessed equally on quality of the research project, and track record (relative to opportunity). The University will initially short list applicants and, where necessary, conduct interviews either in person or by tele- or video-conference. The University may, at its absolute discretion, request that short listed applicants present a seminar or make other research presentations prior to finalising the appointment of a Fellow.

#### 3. Conditions of Award

The Fellowship is awarded under the following conditions:

1. Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent Doctoral qualification awarded no earlier than 1 January 2003;
2. Fellows must become employees of The University of Newcastle and are expected to be based full-time at the University for the duration of the Fellowship (other than for periods of approved leave or travel);
3. The duration of the Fellowship shall normally be for a maximum period of four years, with annual reviews. In exceptional cases a five year appointment may be made to highly ranked candidates and would involve annual reviews and a significant performance review mid way through the third year of appointment;
4. Appointments must commence within six months of receipt of a formal letter of offer, unless approved otherwise by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research);

5. A minimum cost economy class airfare to Newcastle and reasonable removal expenses will be provided to each successful applicant and their dependents. Claims for travel and removal expenses must be approved in advance and will normally be paid on production of appropriate documentation acceptable to the University.
6. A salary (taxable) will be provided, commencing at Lecturer level B1, although a higher level may be considered, of the University's Academic salary scale <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/payroll/index.html> .
7. A research support grant of up to \$15,000 will be provided upon commencement of appointment to assist Fellows to establish their research program in the host School, Priority Research Centre. The Head of School and/or Director of the relevant Research Centre must approve expenditure of the start-up grant;
8. Fellows are expected to contribute to teaching and supervision within the Host School and Faculty on an agreed basis not exceeding 25% of a normal teaching load. Applicants will be appointed to academic positions within the University commencing at Lecturer level;
9. Through the University's Managing for Performance Initiative, Fellows are required to provide an annual report of their research work, including grants awarded, grants applied for and their status, details of student supervision or co-supervision and other teaching related activities, conference presentations and publications; and details of the intended program for the following year. This should be forwarded to Research Services and be accompanied by an evaluative commentary by the Head of School and Director of the relevant Priority Research Centre by 31 December each year.
10. Fellows are required to provide a final report covering all aspects of the work undertaken prior to the end of their appointment. This Report must be forwarded to the Research Office at the completion of the Fellowship, or on termination if earlier. This should be accompanied by an evaluative commentary by the Head of School and Director of the relevant Priority Research Centre;
11. Fellows shall be entitled to annual, sickness (personal leave) and parental leave in accordance with the University's relevant policy for academic staff. All annual leave must normally be taken within the year in which it accrues and in all cases within the term of the Fellowship. Requests to suspend or vary the terms of an award for any reason must be submitted to the Research Office and approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research);
12. Fellows are expected to actively seek external research funding to support their research program throughout the term of the Fellowship;
13. Any Fellow considered not to be making satisfactory progress will have the Fellowship reviewed by a committee appointed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) which, at its absolute discretion, may terminate the Fellowship or place other conditions on the Fellow to assist the Fellow to improve their performance; and
14. The Fellow will be required to comply with all University policies including the University Intellectual Property Policy: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000169.html>

#### **4. Application Information**

Applicants must complete and attach the Application Form including all required attachments and necessary signatures. Attachments should be clearly typed on single sided A4 pages, using 11 point font size with at least a 2 cm margin on each side:

##### **Attachments:**

##### **1. Research Plan:**

Maximum four page description of the proposed research project including bibliographic references (additional pages will not be considered by the Selection Committee), using the following headings:

- Title of the Project
- Project Summary (200 words)
- Aims and Significance of the Project
- Research Plan/Methodology
- Timeline
- Publication Plan

##### **2. Curriculum Vitae:**

Include full academic record at undergraduate and postgraduate level; prizes; awards; postdoctoral/ other academic appointments; and full publication record for the period 2003 – 2008 inclusive.

##### **3. Academic Evidence:**

Attach copies of transcripts, plus proof that all requirements for the award of a doctorate have been met.

##### **4. Details of all Other Current Fellowship Applications:**

Attach details of all current applications for Fellowship or Salary support for 2008-9 (include details of Funding Agency and Scheme, Project Title and Funding Requested).

##### **5. Confidential Referee Reports:**

Attach up to two confidential referee reports. Each report must be no longer than 1 page. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that referee reports are submitted to Lyn McBriarty, Director, Research Services. Late reports will not be considered.