



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

www.newcastle.edu.au

## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

**FP7** is the short name for the *Seventh Framework Program for Research and Technological Development*. This is the European Union's main instrument for funding research in Europe and it runs from 2007 to 2013. The European Commission's budget for these seven years is €50.5 billion. FP7 is also designed to respond to Europe's employment needs and competitiveness. FP7 supports research in selected priority areas — the aim being to make, or keep, the EU as a world leader in those sectors.

The Seventh Framework Program (FP7) bundles all research-related EU initiatives together under a common roof playing a crucial role in reaching the European Union's Lisbon Strategy to become the "most dynamic competitive knowledge-based economy in the world". The 'knowledge triangle' — research, education and innovation — is a core factor in European efforts to meet the ambitious *Lisbon* goals.

The objectives of FP7 have been grouped into 4 categories plus a specific program on nuclear research and for the Joint Research Centre (JRC). For each objective, a specific program corresponds to the main areas of EU research policy.

- *Cooperation* — Collaborative research (61% of the budget)
  - Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology
  - Information and Communication Technology
  - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
  - Energy
  - Environment (including climate change)
  - Transport (including Aeronautics)
  - Socio-economic sciences and Humanities
  - Securities
  - Space
- *Ideas* — European Research Council, Frontier research actions (14%)
- *People* — Human Potential, Marie Curie actions (9%)
- *Capacities* — Research capacities (8%)
- *Euratom* — Nuclear research and training (5%)
- *Joint Research Centre* (3%)

The European Commission publishes 'calls' for the different programs at different times throughout the year. Research Services will monitor these calls and advertise them as they arise in Research Services 'What's New'. To subscribe go to <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/grants/lists.html>

For further details contact [Alan Hales](#) on ext 16468 or [Rebecca Palmer](#) (Wed-Fri) on ext 17739.

March  
2008  
RESEARCH DIVISION  
NEWSLETTER

**Stop Press:** 135 Australia Research Council Discovery Projects were submitted through the Research Office. More details in the next newsletter.

## MARIE CURIE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH STAFF EXCHANGE SCHEME (IRSES)

The European Commission has published a call for this scheme.

The IRSES call (FP7-PEOPLE-IRSES-2008) has been open since November 2007 and will close on 28 March 2008. The application must be completed with two European partner organisations. **IRSES provides support to strengthen long term staff exchange with Europe** (including research managers).

### Activities covered by IRSES

IRSES provides support for those Australian research organisations participating in a selected partnership to establish or reinforce long-term research co-operation through a coordinated joint and balanced program of exchange for two to four years of researchers for periods not exceeding 12 months. Technical and management staff may also participate in these exchanges.

The European Commission will support the travel and living costs of European staff travelling to Australia. In Australia, each organisation is expected to cover the mobility costs (i.e. travel and subsistence costs) of their outgoing researchers travelling to Europe. Under IRSES, staff exchanges are treated as secondments (i.e. exchange participants maintain salary in their institution of origin, and have the right to return).

### Application

The proposal must be submitted by a coordinator from a European Member State of FP7 Associated Country (list available in the guide for applicants). To be eligible, the consortium must include the organisation of the coordinator, an organisation from another European country (Member State of FP7 Associated Country), and an Australian organisation (or from any Third country).

Details about the Application are available in the guide for applicants ([http://www.feast.org/fp7/documents/IRSES\\_applicants\\_2008.pdf](http://www.feast.org/fp7/documents/IRSES_applicants_2008.pdf)). Details about the call are available in the "people" work program and in the FP7 calls pages FP7-PEOPLE-IRSES-2008: [cordis.europa.eu/fp7/calls/](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/calls/) (<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/calls/>).

### Funding for Australian staff

Australian staff will need to seek funding from their own institutions or/and any domestic sources. In order to assist participating Australian research organisations, the new Australian Government Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) will provide some support to help cover these mobility costs. Funding of \$60,000 has been reserved through the strategic policy element of the International Science Linkages program to assist Australian research organisations for this purpose. This funding is intended to support travel and subsistence costs for a number of exchanges over the period that IRSES is in place, and this initial level of support may be reviewed if demand is particularly high. Such funding would be available on a competitive basis and, to be eligible for consideration, Australian research organisations would need to demonstrate that they are a member of a selected partnership under the IRSES. In particular, the Department would be interested in supporting exchanges in certain research priority areas for collaboration with the European Union, including biotechnology and food, energy technologies (including clean energy), bioeconomy (including industrial biotechnology and agriculture) and climate change.

Further information is available from the FEAST secretariat:

Jean-Francois Desvignes-Hicks FEAST (Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology Cooperation)

web: [www.feast.org](http://www.feast.org) (<http://www.feast.org/>)

[info@feast.org](mailto:info@feast.org)

phone: +61 2 6125 7884

fax: +61 2 6125 7815

mobile: +61 415 482 650

## FP7 - PROFILE

### 'Cooperation - Health'

**Budget: €6 billion (2007 - 2013)**

The objective of the health research programme is to improve the health of European citizens, and increase and strengthen the competitiveness and innovative capacity of European health related industries and businesses. Global health issues, like emerging epidemics, will also be addressed. European collaboration with developing countries will allow those countries to develop research capacities.

#### **What's the benefit for citizens:**

Citizens will benefit from European health research since its emphasis will be put on: translational research (i.e. the translation of basic discoveries in clinical applications), the development and validation of new therapies, methods for health promotion and prevention including the promotion of healthy ageing, diagnostic tools and medical technologies, and sustainable and efficient healthcare systems.

**Clinical research** will tackle a number of diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular, infectious, mental and neurological diseases, and in particular those linked with ageing, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Through international multi-centre trials involving the required number of patients, new drugs and treatments would be developed in a shorter time frame.

#### **What's the benefit for researchers:**

European-funded health research will focus on:

- **Biotechnology, generic tools and medical technologies for human health**
  - High-throughput research
  - Detection, diagnosis and monitoring
  - Prediction of suitability, safety and efficacy of therapies
  - Innovative therapeutic approaches and intervention
- **Translating research for human health**
  - Integration of biological data and processes
  - Research on the brain and related diseases, human development and ageing
  - Translational research in infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, SARS, avian influenza)
  - Translational research in major diseases: cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes/obesity, rare diseases, other chronic diseases including rheumatoid diseases, arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases
- **Optimising the delivery of healthcare to European citizens**
  - Translation of clinical outcome into clinical practice
  - Quality, efficiency and solidarity of health care systems including transitional health care systems and home care strategies
  - Enhanced disease prevention and better use of medicines
  - Appropriate use of new health therapies and technologies

#### **What's the benefit for industry and SMEs:**

Research-based SMEs are the main economic drivers of healthcare, biotechnology and medical technologies. Strong EU-based biomedical research will enhance competitiveness of the European pharmaceutical and healthcare industries. It is therefore imperative that the EU creates an environment conducive to innovation in the public and private sectors.

## RESEARCH SUPPORT UNIT

### SEM/TEM 2009 ARC LIEF Grant Submission

The University will be applying for a 2009 ARC LIEF grant to upgrade the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) and Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) facilities in the EM/X-Ray unit. Under consideration is a field emission SEM for high-resolution imaging and a high voltage TEM for materials and biological imaging. Both machines would also have Energy Dispersive Spectrometers (EDS) for elemental analysis and digital imaging. Examples for SEM could be low vacuum mode for uncoated/vacuum sensitive samples; environmental SEM for examination of wet samples; electron backscattered detector (EBSD) for texture analysis and crystallographic analysis of materials; heating or cooling stages; cryo system for frozen samples; cathodoluminescence detector for mineral and crystal defects. TEM options could be double tilt specimen holder for electron diffraction; heating/cooling specimen holders; STEM attachment; electron energy loss (EEL's) spectrometer; ion beam thinner for materials sample preparation.

To register your support for any of these options or to suggest additional accessories contact [David Phelan](#) on ext 15667 to discuss your requirements.

## OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### 2008 Commercialisation Training Scheme Scholarships

The Commonwealth Government is providing funds to support research commercialisation training for a limited number of domestic Research Higher Degree students. Please note that the scheme is not available to international students. The closing date for applications is 20 March 2008.

The objective of the CTS is to provide high quality research commercialisation training for the next generation of Australian researchers as a means of equipping them with the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to bring research-based ideas, inventions and innovations to market.

The funding covers the tuition fees of a Graduate Certificate in Innovation and Commercialisation and also provides a living allowance (pro-rata, part-time APAL rate).

An information sheet, application form and scholarship conditions are available on the web at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/rhd/available-scholarships.html#cts>

Enquiries about the program should be directed to: [ResearchScholarships@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:ResearchScholarships@newcastle.edu.au)

## ANIMAL SERVICES UNIT

Additional ventilated caging, on loan from the Faculty of Health, is being installed at the Research Support Unit to expand the Balb/c mouse breeding colony to meet current increases in advanced orders.

The new autoclave for the Research Support Unit is scheduled for installation in mid April, and the autoclave for level 1 David Maddison Building is scheduled for installation at the end of April.

The David Maddison Building level 1 animal facility has been inspected by representatives of the Institutional Biosafety Committee; and by members of the Animal Care and Ethics Committee on Friday 7 March 2008.

Building works to allow Medical Sciences East animal facility to be certified as a PC2 animal holding facility area are almost complete. A biometric security system has been installed throughout the level 2 Medical Sciences animal facility and researchers have been contacted to ensure that they will be able to access the rooms in which their animals are held. Please contact [Robyn Gentle](#) on ext 16220 if you require access to this facility and have not yet notified Robyn of this requirement.

## SEMINARS

### Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL)

**Presenters:** Dr Lee Taylor, CHeReL  
Dr Glenda Lawrence, CHeReL  
Dr Sallie Pearson, University of NSW  
Professor Julie Byles, University of Newcastle

**Date:** Tuesday 18 March 2008

**Time:** 10.30am - 12.30pm, lunch included

**Venue:** Treehouse, Union Building

**Research Division contact:** Judy Alexander ext 18859

Registration required in HRonline for catering

### Description:

The Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL) was established in 2006 to create and maintain a record linkage system for health and human services in NSW and ACT. The University of Newcastle subscribes to CHeReL and this subscription entitles researchers at the University of Newcastle a quota of 'free' services. Staff from CHeReL provide an overview of these services and how these services are accessed.

### High Performance Computing

**Presenter:** Dr Joachim Mai, Australian Centre for Advanced Computing and Communications

**Date:** Thursday 3 April 2008

**Time:** 12pm - 2pm, lunch provided

**Venue:** Treehouse, Union Building

**Research Division contact:** Alan Hales ext 16468

Registration required in HRonline for catering

### Description:

The University of Newcastle is a member of the Australian Centre for Advanced Computing and Communications which entitles researchers to access their High Performance Computing services. Dr Mai will provide an overview of these services and how these services are accessed. Further information on the Centre is available on <http://www.ac3.edu.au/>

## RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

### HUMAN ETHICS

**Reimbursing Research Participants:** Can you pay research participants or not? If you can, how much is acceptable? When will paying participants be approved by the HREC? The Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) recently released a procedure document on *Reimbursing Research Participants*, consistent with the new *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*. See the Policy and Guidelines page at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/human/pol.html>. This procedure addresses various forms and methods of reimbursement and the factors to be considered when determining an appropriate amount.

### ANIMAL ETHICS

This time of year has the Unit preparing statutory annual reports for NSW Department of Primary Industries and the NHMRC "Statement of Compliance". Each animal used during the calendar year must be classified according to the species and strain, the reason they are used, and the types of procedures performed. ACEC activities are also reported (eg. number and types of inspections performed, meetings, applications considered and ACEC procedures). The outcome of the renewal of the applications for the University's accreditation as an animal research establishment and animal supplier's licence should be available this month.

On-line modules for the RATS program (Research Animal Training Scheme) are available throughout the year. This invaluable program includes animal research legislation, institutional requirements and ACEC applications, and practical sessions covering handling and basic research procedures, anaesthesia and surgery. Should you wish to participate please contact [Robyn Gentle](#) on ext 16220.

### DATA MANAGEMENT

The HERDC process for 2008 is progress. Please check the following link <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/researchperformance/pubpreload.html> to ensure that all of your publications for 2007 have been collected. An updated listing will be posted early in the week commencing 17 March. If you have already submitted your publications details these will be entered over the coming weeks as each publication is being audited at the point of entry. If your entry is missing 2007 publications you will need to contact [publications@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:publications@newcastle.edu.au) Please note that the 2007 publication collection process closes 31 March 2008. Publications for years other than 2007 can still be forwarded, and will be entered after the current collection is completed.

The Research Management System project (InfoEd) has commenced the implementation of the Grants module. The aim is to have the new grants database module and an online ethics process implemented by the end of this year to complement the recently implemented ethics database modules.

## FEBRUARY 2008

Human Ethics	Feb	2008	Animal Ethics	Feb	2008	Grants	Feb	2008
Total initial applications processed	23	35	Initial applications managed	11	22	External grant applications processed	24	32
Expedited	20	29						
Full Review	3	6						
Project variation applications	19	24	Renewal applications managed	8	11	External grant awards processed	19	49
Progress report/renewal applications	-	-	Variation applications managed	11	24	Value of external grant awards processed	\$16.83M	\$18.05M
Registration of HNEH approvals	9	14	Facilities/ procedures/Animals/ Records inspected	1	1			

Office of Graduate Studies

RHD completions since January 1 2008:	Masters	4
	PhD	12
	Total	16

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

For newsletter enquiries, contact: Rebecca Palmer on ext 17739 or [Rebecca.Palmer@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Rebecca.Palmer@newcastle.edu.au)