

Distinguished Visiting Fellowship Guidelines

To enrich the ECU research environment and culture, ECU is offering two ECU Distinguished Visiting Fellowships to host outstanding researchers from interstate or overseas academic institutions in 2024. This opportunity aligns with ECU's strategic plan to undertake impactful world-class research, and the priorities of focused, world-class research, strong research culture, and partnerships for research.

These prestigious Visiting Fellowships are designed to build research capability within ECU by facilitating collaboration within and external to the university, and by bringing national and international research leaders to our campuses. Multi- and/or inter-disciplinary research foci are encouraged, as are applications across Schools.

Each Visiting Fellowship will be awarded up to \$20,000 from the Strategic Research Fund (SRF) to contribute to the cost of airfares, accommodation, incidental costs and any honorarium. Schools or ECU Research Institutes or Centres may choose to supplement this from their own resources.

Purpose

The purpose of this SRF funding is to bring national and international research leaders to ECU for a period of residency, during which time they will be expected to contribute to multiple activities, including but not limited to:

- expanding capacity and capability in the specific discipline areas;
- cultivating new, and consolidating established, partnerships;
- mentoring higher degree by research candidates (HDRs), early career and mid-career researchers including potentially providing a Masterclass around the topic of career development;
- being actively involved in university and School-based seminar and workshop programs, and public lectures; and
- engaging with the local and national media.

Competitive Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are sought from across all Schools. Researchers and Schools are encouraged to collaborate for this opportunity and multi-school submissions will be accepted. A lead School will need to be nominated, for accounting purposes.

Visits to all of ECU's campuses, including the ECU South West Campus, are encouraged for inclusivity of all academic staff and students.

Eligibility

The nominated Visiting Fellow must have:

- a continuing appointment at their home institution for the period of the Visiting Fellowship; and
- be a highly regarded national or international leader in their research field.

The Visiting Fellow must be based full-time at ECU for a minimum of two weeks.

Lead Applicants are required to meet the following criteria:

- must be an ECU academic staff member with at least 0.5FTE;
- have an ongoing position or have a current employment contract until 31 December 2024;

- approval provided in Expression of Interest by Associate Dean (Research) (or equivalent); and
- provide a clear plan about how the Visiting Fellowship will enhance their research outcomes.

Funding

Each Visiting Fellowship will be awarded up to \$20,000 to contribute to airfares, accommodation, incidental costs, and any honorarium. The funding will only be available to be expended in 2024, and unused funds on 31 December 2024 will no longer be available.

There will be no exceptions or extensions to this funding only being available in 2024.

Budget

Further contributions may be available from your School or Centre. It is assumed the lead School will provide office accommodation, computing facilities, laboratory space etc. as required to host the Visiting Fellow.

Funds can be used to support costs associated with the Visiting Fellowship including:

- Reasonable travel costs, to Perth and return¹. Consideration may be given to supporting costs for spouse and/or family travelling with the Visiting Fellow
- Accommodation and living expenses
- An honorarium
- Project and collaboration costs
- Workshop, public lectures etc, including any venue and catering costs
- Travel between ECU campuses

Funds cannot be used to support:

- Salaries
- Teaching or marking support
- Scholarships/HDR support
- Conference attendance and associated costs.

Funding from other sources including School or Strategic Research Institutes and Centres can support the Visiting Fellowship activities. Estimated funding amounts and activities are to be included in the Expression of Interest.

Travel must be consistent with ECU expectations and policies relating to travel and finance.

Further information is available at <https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/staff/centres/finance-and-business-services/our-services/ecu-travel>.

Applicants should provide and fully justify all costs for travel, including fares and per diem allowance for accommodation and meals. Travel (e.g., flights) should be separately itemised from per diem rates. Travel destinations should be clearly marked (e.g., Melbourne to Sydney). Estimates should be based on the Australian Tax Office reasonable travel allowances.

¹ This may include visa costs if an international fellow; Business class travel will be considered if it can be accommodated within the \$20,000 budget. Business class airfare travel expenses funded by SRF will be limited to 50% of the total funding provided.

Visiting Fellows are deemed employees of ECU for Fringe Benefit Purposes. Thus, when developing the budget, consideration should be given to tax implications and all costings should be reviewed by your School Finance Coordinator before submission.

Application Process

Applicants are required to submit a completed Expression of Interest Form to research@ecu.edu.au by **Monday 8 April 2024, 4.30 pm**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Key Dates

Round 1²

Call for EOIs:	Early February 2024
EOI deadline:	8 April 2024
Outcomes announced:	17 April 2024
Funds available from:	19 April 2024
All funds must be used by:	31 December 2024
Project report deadline:	31 March 2025

Assessment Process and Criteria

The Visiting Fellows will have proven national/international research leadership standing and be based outside of Western Australia. Their research will align with ECU's world-class research, and they will actively contribute to the growth of the nominated discipline area at ECU during their stay. In addition to their academic work, it is expected that they will give one or a series of masterclasses to HDR candidates and early to mid-career staff and at least one public lecture. They will be instrumental in developing collaborations across the discipline area within and external to ECU.

It is expected that the Visiting Fellow will spend at least 2 weeks at ECU.

The excellence of the nominated Visiting Fellow's and the Lead Applicant's CVs will be significant determinants in the award of a Distinguished Visiting Fellowship. The selection panel will take into consideration:

- the track records of the nominee and the host academic
- the strategic alignment of the nominee, ECU's research strengths and the host School's priority research areas
- the collaborative research project/program and planned quality research outputs to arise from the collaboration including the potential for building new linkages with national/international research institutions of excellence, and activities leading to the submission of applications to external funding bodies. The activities are expected to be realised in the short and medium term
- the strength of the outreach program including mentoring of early career researchers
- a masterclass program for early to mid-career researchers and public lectures

² If two Fellowships are not awarded a further round may be held. Any funding however must still be expended by 31 December 2024.

- the value to the University of the proposed program

Applications will be competitively reviewed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), or their delegate, and senior research staff.

Administration and Reporting Requirements

Research Services will arrange for the successful applicants to have access to funding with Finance and Business Services Centre. The SRF funding will only be available during 2024 and must be expended by 31 December 2024.

Successful Applicants will provide a brief report to the Director, Research Services by 31 March 2025. The report will list the activities and outcomes of the Visiting Fellowship and will be accompanied by a summary of the benefits to the School, Discipline and University. Failure to provide this may make the applicant/s ineligible for other SRF support in 2025.

For further information, contact research@ecu.edu.au