

## **Strategic Research Fund Funding Rules and Guidelines in relation to Category 1 schemes**

Disbursement of the Strategic Research Fund will align with the goals of the ECU Strategic Plan 2017-2021, specifically:

Strategic Goal 2: Advancing research and knowledge translation; and  
Strategic Goal 4: Ensuring organisational sustainability.

To this end, the Strategic Research Fund (SRF) supports research that aligns with these goals, which is strategic in nature and would enhance the whole of ECU's research reputation. Requests for the SRF to fund administrative, routine or operational research costs will not be supported.

Allocation of funding from the SRF is overseen by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) (DVCR) and is used to support, or to contribute to, a range of strategic university-wide initiatives for research.

Examples of SRF support that may be considered for research funded through Category 1 schemes include:

- Contributions to successful international and national collaborative research partnerships (e.g. CRC<sup>1</sup>, CRE<sup>2</sup>, CoE<sup>3</sup>, NHMRC and ARC funding schemes, etc.), based on a well-argued business case provided to the DVCR (see below)
- Salary shortfalls for Category 1 (Nationally Competitive) Fellowships that are administered and appointed within ECU, shared with the relevant School
- Salary shortfalls for specifically named ECU staff employed as researchers on a grant, at the level and FTE requested in the grant, shared with the relevant School
- Postgraduate Research Scholarships will be considered on a case-by-case basis, where the application seeks HDR stipend funding
- Co-investment in Strategic Research Infrastructure

### **Eligibility and conditions of funding**

- In the instance of limited funding available from the SRF, preference will be given to research that strongly aligns with one of ECU's Research Theme areas<sup>4</sup>.
- Allocation of funding from the SRF will only be approved based on a well-justified business case that demonstrates a clear return-on-investment to ECU and the relevant School/s.

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<sup>1</sup> Cooperative Research Centre

<sup>2</sup> NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence

<sup>3</sup> ARC Centre of Excellence

<sup>4</sup> To be articulated following the Research Review outcomes being made publicly available in 2019

Acceptance of this business case must be obtained from the school, then the DVCR, prior to grant submission.

- To be eligible for consideration for SRF funding to support Category 1 funding, the ECU researchers associated with the funding application are required to participate in the ECU peer-review support processes before submission, this includes meeting the submission timelines set by ORI.
- Awarded Category 1 grants sometimes provide less funding for salaries than is required through ECU's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. Shortfalls will be paid commensurate with the level and FTE requested in the grant submission. For example, if the funded grant requested a 0.6FTE researcher, then the SRF (and relevant School) support will only cover the difference between the amount awarded and a 0.6FTE appointment at ECU at that level.
- Any funding provided from the SRF will only be for the duration of the grant funding and is contingent on supported researchers retaining their employment or enrolment, if an HDR student, at ECU.
- In all instances, the SRF and relevant School will share the funding of the salary/scholarship gap and any project cost contribution on a 50/50 basis.
- Funding from the SRF must be requested and agreed to before the application is submitted. Funding will not be provided to post-submission or post-award requests.

## **Applying for Fellowships**

### **Salary shortfalls**

ECU researchers with outstanding track records are encouraged to apply for nationally competitive full-time Fellowships which can support their salary. For approved Fellowship schemes (attached), any salary shortfalls (not including any special/market loadings) will be shared between the School/Institute and the SRF on a 50/50 basis. If a loading is required, this should be discussed with the School.

Schools, at their discretion, can choose to provide additional funding to support the costs of conducting research.

## **Expectations of ECU-co-funded Research Fellows**

In return for funding from the SRF, the Fellow is expected to make a significant contribution to ECU's research culture by:

- actively participating in university-wide and school-based research initiatives including both internal and public research forums (3MT, 1 Minute to Pitch it, seminars, etc.)
- HDR supervision/co-supervision as appropriate
- participating in the ECR/MCR network, if appropriate to career stage
- active research promotion through links with the communications/marketing team, including writing for The Conversation, etc.
- having an ECU-linked social media presence (further information is available [here](#))

- register for, and use, an [ORCID iD](#) for their research outputs.
- lodge ECU publications with [Research Online](#) within the university's timelines.

Fellows in receipt of SRF funds must also agree to provide a profile of themselves and their research for ECU's public promotion purposes. This may be edited by the marketing/promotions team and distributed widely by the University<sup>5</sup>.

## **Requests for support for ARC Centres of Excellence; NHMRC Centres of Research Excellence; Cooperative Research Centres**

A [business case template](#) must be completed and submitted to the DVCR with the relevant Associate Dean Research and Executive Dean/s signatures for discussion and final approval by the due date advised by ORI, before ECU will commit to a Centre bid. A total per annum cash commitment not exceeding \$100,000 may be considered from the SRF (i.e. the University provides up to \$100,000, with 50/50 from School/SRF), depending on a well justified business case that demonstrates the return-on-investment to ECU, co-investment from the relevant School/s, the partnership and collaboration arrangements, ECU's overall role in the project and the size and nature of contributions from partner organisations. This includes applications that are both to be administered through ECU and those led by other institutions.

## **ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF)**

The SRF may provide financial support for strategic LIEF submissions, only when they are strongly supported by the School/s with co-funding cash contributions, as follows:

- Strategic State bids – 50/50 or shared co-contribution with School(s) participating in the bid
- ECU-led LIEF bids – 50/50 or shared co-contribution with School(s) participating in the bid

LIEF bids in which ECU is a partner but is not the lead organisation will require any cash contribution to be provided in full by the relevant School(s).

All LIEF bids must be aligned with one of ECU's Research Themes<sup>6</sup>.

Please note: (a) any LIEF contributions require prior approval from the DVCR and School/s before negotiations are conducted with external partners and (b) any University contributions will take into account the likely ECU usage.

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<sup>5</sup> Contact the Corporate Communications team

<sup>6</sup> To be articulated following the Research Review outcomes being made publicly available in 2019

## What the SRF does not fund

The SRF will not provide co-funding to successful Category 1 funding to support any of the following:

- Equipment for individual research projects
- Project/laboratory consumables
- Research assistants or technical support staff for individual research projects
- Administrative assistance
- Conference registration/attendance
- Teaching and learning activities
- Membership of organisations
- Conference attendance costs
- Other travel-related expenses

## Management of approved SRF Funding

- All approved funding from the SRF must be used/expended in the planned year and only for the approved purpose.
- Any change in the purpose of expenditure must be first re-approved by the DVCR and the relevant Exec Dean/s.
- There will be no increase to the amount of SRF funding initially approved, during the project.
- Based on ECU's budgeting principles, deferral of approved funding to the following calendar year cannot be accommodated, except in exceptional circumstances.
- Recipients of funding will be required to submit a report on outcomes obtained using the SRF support.

### Enquiries

All enquiries to Professor Margaret Jones, Director, ORI  
[margaret.jones@ecu.edu.au](mailto:margaret.jones@ecu.edu.au)

*Revised 21 December 2018 Professor Caroline Finch DVCR*

### Strategic Research Fund – Approved Competitive Fellowship Schemes

Funding Body	Funding Scheme
Alzheimers Australia Dementia Research Foundation	Postdoctoral Fellowships (full salary only)
Australian Research Council	ARC Future Fellowships
Australian Research Council	ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award
Australian Research Council	Australian Laureate Fellowships
Australian Rotary Health Research Fund	Australian Rotary Health - Fellowship
National Heart Foundation of Australia	Postdoctoral Fellowships
National Heart Foundation of Australia	Future Leader Fellowships
National Breast Cancer Foundation	Investigator Initiated Research Scheme (IIRS)
National Health and Medical Research Council	Investigator Grants
Australian Federation of Graduate Women	The Freda Bage Fellowship, Commemorative Fellowship
Australian Unity Foundation	Australian Unity Heritage Fellowship
BrightFocus Foundation	Alzheimer's Disease Research - Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards
Cancer Council of WA Inc	Research Fellowship
Cancer Council of WA Inc	Postdoctoral Fellowship
Cancer Research Trust	Postdoctoral Fellowship
CSL Limited	Centenary Fellowships
European Commission	Marie-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship
Forrest Research Foundation	Forrest Research Fellowship
Healthway (WA Health Promotion Foundation)	Healthway - Fellowship
Healthway (WA Health Promotion Foundation)	Visiting Fellowship
Human Frontier Science Program	Postdoctoral Fellowship
Multiple Sclerosis Research Australia	Postdoctoral Fellowship
Myer Foundation	Creative Fellowships
Raine Medical Research Foundation	Clinical Research fellowships
Winston Churchill Memorial Trust	Fellowship

**NB: This list is subject to ongoing review**