

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

## 2024 McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellowships

### Frequently Asked Questions



#### ADMINISTRATION

##### 1. When will the Fellowships be awarded?

For the 2024 Program, successful applicants will be notified by early October 2023. Fellowships must commence between 1 January 2024 and 30 June 2024.

##### 2. How many Fellowships will be awarded?

It is anticipated that up to 10 McKenzie Fellowships and one Indigenous Research McKenzie Fellowship will be awarded for 2024 commencement.

##### 3. What is the success rate for McKenzie Fellowships?

The McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellowships Program is highly competitive, with only 10 or 11 Fellowships awarded each year. The success rate varies depending on the number of applications submitted in a given year.

#### ELIGIBILITY

##### 4. PhD date of award

<b>Option 1</b>	Between 1 November 2020 and 23 June 2023.	Eligible
<b>Option 2</b>	Between 1 November 2018 and 31 October 2020, and had a period of significant research career interruption between 1 November 2018 and 23 June 2023	Eligible to apply, must complete Part B3 of the full application form.
<b>Option 3</b>	Between 1 November 2012 and 31 October 2018 and there are exceptional extenuating circumstances.	Not currently eligible. May complete EER to determine eligibility prior to completing the full application.

##### 5. Are international applicants eligible to apply?

Yes, international applications are welcomed. Permanent residency or citizenship is not a requirement. However, a relevant visa will need to be obtained (and maintained) if the applicant is successful. Note that this scheme does not provide visa or relocation expenses.

##### 6. I do not yet have my PhD, can I apply?

If by the full application due date, you have completed all the required steps to be eligible to graduate with a PhD from a university other than the University of Melbourne (and can provide evidence of this), then you are eligible to apply. For the purposes of this scheme, submission of a thesis for examination is not enough to be considered eligible. As detailed in the footnote to clause 4.2 of the Funding Guidelines, RIC cannot support Eligibility Exemption Requests for applicants who will not be able to provide PhD evidence by the application closing date.

**7. Can I take up the Fellowship at a UoM affiliated non-medical research institute or MDHS Medical Research Institute (MRI)<sup>1</sup>?**

McKenzie Fellows must be employed 1.0 FTE by a Department or School of the University of Melbourne upon commencement of the Fellowship. The Fellow may be employed by a UoM Department or School and still perform a portion of their research in an affiliated MRI or affiliated non-medical research institute; if intended, this should be captured in the applicant's research proposal. It is expected that all research awards applied for by the Fellow during the tenure of the Fellowship are submitted, accepted and administered through the employing University of Melbourne Department or School.

**8. My Eligibility Exemption Request was deemed ineligible last year. Can I submit an EER again?**

Where an Eligibility Exemption Request has not been granted in a previous round, applicants cannot re-submit the same request.

**9. I have an appointment at The University of Melbourne that is or will be longer than 12 months at the time of application. Am I eligible to apply?**

According to the Funding Guidelines, applicants with an appointment of 12 months or longer (or a sequence of back-to-back appointments totalling 12 months or longer) at UoM are ineligible to apply. However, you may submit an Eligibility Exemption Request if you can make a compelling argument that your application should be allowed.

## APPLICATION

**10. How do I submit my referee written testimonials?**

Your two academic referees must submit written testimonials to [mckenzie-application@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mckenzie-application@unimelb.edu.au) by the deadline. Applicants must provide at least one reference letter from a referee who is not their PhD supervisor.

**11. Are there word and page limits to the application?**

Yes, there are word and/or page limits for different parts of the application. Where applicable, specific page and/or word limits are stated at the beginning of each part of the application. Please bear in mind that two selection panels will read the applications and it is best if applications are written in a clear and concise manner.

**12. In section C4, is the limit of 830 words for the entire project proposal or for each heading?**

The entire proposal section, including text under all 5 headings, should be no more than 830 words (excluding references).

**13. In section C4, are the headings themselves included in the word count?**

Yes, the headings are included in the word count.

**14. Is there a template for the referee testimonials?**

There is no prescribed template however Referees are requested to address the following points:

- Relationship with applicant (in what capacity they know the applicant and how long),
- Comment on the quality of their research outputs (within the context of the discipline),

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<sup>1</sup> These include the affiliated institutes of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, including the Florey Department of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Medical Bionics Department, The Sir Peter MacCallum Department of Oncology and the Department of Medical Biology (WEHI).

- Comment on their overall achievements relative to their opportunities.

**15. What is the role of the Academic Contact?**

The Academic Contact nominated in an application is expected to be the applicant's regular point of contact at The University of Melbourne, and to either provide informal mentoring to the successful Fellow throughout the duration of their Fellowship or nominate an appropriate mentor.

**16. Can I access copies of previous successful applications?**

Due to privacy considerations we are unable to provide copies of previous successful applications.

**POST-AWARD**

**17. Can I transfer my Fellowship funds to another University?**

No, the McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellowship is an internal grant. If you accept a position outside of the University of Melbourne, your McKenzie Fellowship will end and any remaining funds will be returned.

**18. Can I use any funds left over from my Fellowship once the three years are completed?**

McKenzie Fellows who apply for and are successful in gaining externally funded fellowships before their McKenzie Fellowship ends can retain any balance of the \$25,000 project costs provided that the Fellow remains at the University of Melbourne for the externally funded fellowship. The salary component of the McKenzie Fellowship will cease.