



ADMINISTRATION

1. When will the current round of Fellowships be awarded?

For the 2025 scheme, successful applicants will be notified by September 2024. Fellowships must commence between 1 January 2025 and 30 June 2025 unless otherwise approved.

2. How many Fellowships will be awarded?

It is anticipated that up to 16 McKenzie Fellowships will be awarded for 2025 commencement. It is an objective of the program that at least two of the fellowships are awarded to Indigenous researchers or researchers whose appointment supports the equity, diversity, and inclusivity of our research community.

3. What is the success rate for McKenzie Fellowships?

The McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme is highly competitive, with only 16 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

Option 1	Between 1 February 2021 and 7 March 2024.	Eligible
Option 2	Before 31 Jan 2021, and had a period of significant research or career interruption	Not currently eligible. Applicant must complete the Eligibility Exemption Request (EER) part of the EOI form.

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 EOI due date, you have completed all the required steps to be eligible to graduate with a PhD in any discipline from a university in any country, including Australian universities and 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 (EER) for applicants who will not be able to provide evidence that all degree requirements have been met by the EOI closing date.

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

McKenzie Postdoctoral 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 on this basis by the University and undertake research in an affiliated research institute-based Department of the University; if intended, this should be outlined in the applicant's research proposal and Endorsement Declaration. 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 (EER) has not been granted in a previous round, applicants cannot re-submit the same request.

APPLICATION

9. How do I submit my referee written testimonials?

If applicants are invited to submit a Full Application, you must request two academic referees to submit written testimonials to mckenzie-application@unimelb.edu.au by the full application deadline. Applicants must provide at least one reference letter from a referee who is not their PhD supervisor.

10. 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.

11. Is there a template for the referee testimonials?

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

- Relationship with the applicant (in what capacity they know the applicant and how long).
- Comment on the quality of the applicant's research outputs (within the context of the discipline).
- Comment on the applicant's overall achievements relative to their opportunities.
- Comment on their future research leadership potential.

12. What is the role of the Academic Contact?

The Academic Contact is required to liaise as necessary with applicant about their fellowship application. In the EOI process, the Academic Contact signs and submit the Endorsement Declaration that indicates the Academic Contact's view that the applicant offers strategic value to the school and confirmation of appropriate financial and logistical support for the fellow if they are successful. This Endorsement Declaration informs the deliberations of the faculty ranking committee, and central selection committee.

Additionally, 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.

¹ This includes affiliated institutes of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences: the Florey Department of Neuroscience and Mental Health (the Florey), the Medical Bionics Department (Bionics Institute), The Sir Peter MacCallum Department of Oncology (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre), the Department of Medical Biology (WEHI), the Centre for Youth Mental Health (Orygen), the Department of Paediatrics (Murdoch Children's Research Institute) and the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA).

13. Can I access copies of previous successful applications?

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

14. Are there any rules around the inclusion of preprints?

- Preprints in the project description are fine, but they can only be cited if publicly available (to enable panel members know their content to assess the project).
- For track record they can be listed (as under review, or accepted, in press, etc) as part of research output but must be clearly distinguished from published (peer reviewed) papers.

POST-AWARD

15. Can I transfer my Fellowship funds to another University?

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

16. 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 should seek a determination from their Faculty or School/Department about their remaining unspent Fellowship project budget. The salary component of the McKenzie Fellowship will cease and may be recouped.

17. Can I teach or do research supervision while on the default 3-year fellowship appointment?

Fellows who are commencing their fellowship in 2025 will be on a *research-only* appointment and will not be able to teach while on the fellowship. Some limited supervision of research students may be undertaken while on the fellowship if the research is related to the fellow's research. Any administrative work undertaken by the fellow should be closely connected with the research - for example, grant applications. If you are offered a McKenzie Fellowship, you can talk to your faculty research office and/or Head of School/Department about your prospective career pathway in view of the updated conditions of the research fellowship.

17. How can I access additional support and training on my Fellowship?

As early career researchers at the University of Melbourne, McKenzie fellows are able to access a range of support and development programs provided by faculty, RIC, and the [Researcher Development Unit](#). If offered a fellowship place, incoming fellows should contact the RDU on researcher-development@unimelb.edu.au to advise their commencement date and email contacts.