



COVID19 CONSIDERATIONS

1. I missed out on the 2021 round of the McKenzie Fellowships as it was ultimately cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic. Will I be allowed to apply again this year?

The 2021 McKenzie Postdoctoral Scheme was suspended mid-round in 2020 as a result of the COVID19 pandemic. Consequently, applicants who previously applied in 2020 and were then eligible for the 2021 McKenzie Fellowships are invited to reapply now for the 2022 McKenzie Fellowship. For these applicants only, eligibility at the time of their original application in 2020 applies.

2. My proposed research project includes travel/international fieldwork/other activities which could be impacted by the lingering effects of the pandemic. Should this be addressed in the application?

Applications should be completed with practical considerations about how lingering global effects of COVID19 (travel restrictions, etc.) may impact their planned research activities. Where relevant, applications which demonstrate contingency plans to ensure the feasibility of the proposed work in the likely 2022 research environment will be considered favourably by the committee.

ADMINISTRATION

3. When will the Fellowships be awarded?

For the 2022 Program, successful applicants will be notified by November 2021. Fellowships must commence between 1 January 2022 and 30 June 2022.

4. 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 2022 commencement.

5. 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

6. PhD date of award

Option 1	Between 1 January 2019 and 23 August 2021	Eligible
Option 2	Between 1 Jan 2017 and 31 December 2018 with equivalent or less FTE research experience than the option 1.	Eligible to apply, must complete Part B3 of the full application form.
Option 3	Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2016 with equivalent or less FTE research experience than option 1.	Not currently eligible. May complete EER to determine eligibility prior to completing the full application.

Applicants who previously applied in 2020 and were then eligible for the 2021 McKenzie Fellowships are invited to reapply now for the 2022 McKenzie Fellowship. For these applicants only, eligibility at the time of their original application in 2020 applies.

7. 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.

8. 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 Clause 4.7 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.

9. Can I take up the Fellowship at a UoM affiliated MDHS Medical Research Institute or Department¹?

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 Medical Research Institute or Department; 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.

10. Can I hold my Fellowship at another affiliated institute of the University of Melbourne (not an affiliated medical institute)?

Yes, you are eligible to apply if you meet all other eligibility criteria listed in the Funding Guidelines. To take up the fellowship, you would need to be employed by a UoM budget unit Department or School. The Fellow cannot be directly employed by the affiliated research institute. If you belong to an affiliated medical institute, refer to FAQ 6 and footnote 1.

11. I am currently employed in an affiliated institute of the University of Melbourne. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, you are eligible to apply if you meet all other eligibility criteria listed in the Funding Guidelines. If you belong to an affiliated medical institute, refer to FAQ 6 and footnote 1.

12. 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.

¹ 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).

13. 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

14. How do I submit my referee written testimonials?

Your two academic referees must submit written testimonials to mckenzie-application@unimelb.edu.au by the deadline. There is no template for the written testimonial; this is at the discretion of the referee.

15. 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. Please bear in mind that two (2) selection panels will read the applications and they will respond better to brief and concise applications

16. In section G2, is the limit of 800 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 800 words (excluding references).

17. In section G2, are the headings themselves included in the word count?

No, the headings are not included in the word count.

18. Is there a template for the referee testimonials?

No. At a minimum, referees should comment on their relationship to the applicant, the applicant's academic performance/outputs as known to them, and their reasons for supporting the applicant in applying to the McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellowships Program (i.e. a general assessment of the applicant's capacity to successfully undertake the Fellowship).

19. What is the role of the Academic Contact?

Academic Contacts nominated in the application are expected to be a regular point of contact at The University of Melbourne, and to either provide informal mentoring to the successful Fellow throughout the period of their Fellowship or nominate an appropriate mentor.

20. Can I access copies of previous successful applications?

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

POST-AWARD

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

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

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

Any unspent funds will normally need to be returned, however McKenzie Fellows who apply for and are successful in gaining externally funded fellowships prior to the end of the appointment of the McKenzie Fellowship are able to retain the \$25,000 for project costs for the full three years.