

Where Can I Obtain Further Research Funding and Maintain a Solid IP Position?

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Background – QUT’s Research Environment

- Over the period to 2011, QUT will very significantly raise its research productivity and impact. QUT will:
 - Increase investment towards research capacity building in key thematic areas
 - Increase external research income to \$100M per annum (including 20% from international sources)
 - Double the number of HDR students
 - Increase QUT’s involvement in large research consortia
 - Increase licensing and spin-off activity
 - Enhance our top ten position in research publications
 - Contribute to major national research priorities, including indigenous issues.

Capacity Building

- Research and research training capability of individual staff and the University will be maximised
- Ensure QUT's academic structure, staff profile, academic workload and promotion arrangements support enhancement of research productivity
- Foster Early Career Researchers (ECR's) by linking their research development to faculty or University-wide research programs
- Significantly expand the contribution of the HDR cohort to research productivity
- Focus capacity building in flagship thematic areas including the scholarship of teaching
- Ensure provision of high quality physical and virtual infrastructure, research support functions and access to world-class facilities

Developing a Track Record

Developing a competitive track record is a crucial component to a sustainable research career.

In general terms, a competitive track record has the following characteristics:

- Evidence of external competitive funding for research
- Publications in high quality journals
- Evidence of higher degree supervision and completions
- Evidence of collaboration and research linkages (national and international)
- Esteem measures (committees, fellow of the academy etc)
- Demonstrable impact of research outcomes
- Commercialisation of outcomes

Getting Started

- Map out your academic career and set 5 – 10 year goals
- Meet with your immediate supervisor to discuss career goals and workload in the context of school, centre, faculty and institute needs
- Be aware of Faculty and Institutional research priorities and targets
- Identify mentor (this person may be different to your supervisor)
- Time management is crucial to your programme of research. It is important to block time out whenever possible.
- Develop a network of peers and colleagues that meets weekly/monthly to discuss topics of interest and possible funding opportunities
- Search for an optimal balance between teaching and research. In an ideal setting, research should inform teaching.

How do I Identify Funding?

- Office of Research
 - Website
 - Emails
 - Newsletter (*Research News*)
 - [Funding calendar](#)
 - [SPIN database](#)
- Need to Network: Peers, HOS/ADR, Supervisors/Assessors of your PhD

External Funding

- Make sure that your main source of research funding is not from internal schemes. It is important to break into external funding as soon as possible
- Identify the national and local research priorities in your area
- Know the funding cycle (see OR funding calendar)
- Review results from previous rounds to ascertain the types of projects being funded
- Collaborate or perish

Australian Competitive Grants Index

- The Australian Competitive Grants Index comprises approximately 100 different fund schemes.
- To be part of the ACGR, schemes must meet a range of criteria including:
 - Funds must be provided on a nationally competitive basis and clearly be for research only.
 - The funding scheme must be nationally advertised and available to universities throughout Australia.
 - The funding scheme must have a well-defined mechanism for competition and selection by a well-qualified panel.
 - Funds must be provided through direct transfer from the funding agency to the higher education institution.

Examples of Major ACGR's

Australian Research Council (www.arc.gov.au)

Discovery

- - Federation Fellowships
- - Indigenous Researchers' Development
- - Projects (including Research Fellowships)

Linkage

- - International (Fellowships and Awards)
- - Projects (including Fellowships and Postgraduate Awards)
- - Centres of Excellence
- -Special research Initiatives

Examples of Major ACG's Cont'd

National Health and Medical Research Council (www.nhmrc.gov.au)

- - Australian-European Union Health Research Collaboration
- - Career Development Awards
- - Centres for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE)
- - Development Grants
- - Industry Research Fellowships
- - International Collaborative Research Grants Schemes
- - National Asbestos Centre (New)
- - Oral Health
- - Palliative Care (New)
- - Practitioner Fellowships
- - Post Doctoral Fellowship for Palliative Care Research (New)
- - Priority Driven Research Grants (AHMAC PDR) (New)
- - Program Grants
- - Project Grants
- - Research Fellowships
- - Special Program Grants in Type 1 Diabetes
- - Training Fellows
- - Urgent Research - Pandemic Influenza

Characteristics of ACG's

Typically ACGR's are focused on the following selection criteria:

- Track record
- Significance and innovation of the proposed research
- Approach and methodology
- Budget
- National benefit and alignment with priority areas
- Proposed outcomes
- Calibre of the team

Why are ACG's worth applying for?

- Prestigious awards due to competitive nature and peer review assessment
- Typically the granting agency does not seek intellectual property ownership or rights
- Focus on research training and career development
- Currently ACG's provide additional income to the university through Research Infrastructure Block Grant returns
- Facilitate collaboration with international research teams
- Flexible budget and longer term funding than contract or consultancy funding

Resources

- Associate Deans (Research)
- Office of Research Website – www.research.qut.edu.au
- Sponsored Programs Information Network - <http://www.research.qut.edu.au/oresearch/fundingoppor/spin.jsp>
- Funding Calendar - <http://www.research.qut.edu.au/oresearch/fundingoppor/>
- Precedent material – guidelines, funding agreement, successful grant applications etc
- Consultants

Resources

The Division of Research and Commercialisation is made up of two key offices:

1) Office of Research/Research Students Centre

- application-based funding schemes
- collaborative research
- HDR students

2) Office of Commercial Services

- contract research
- consultancy
- continuing professional education