

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS  
STRATEGIC RESEARCH INITIATIVES 2008

LINGUISTICS NEW RESEARCHER GRANTS  
GUIDELINES

Background to the Initiative

The aim of this initiative is to provide new researchers (see definition under Eligibility) with the opportunity to undertake a small, focused research project that will enhance their research track record and thereby increase the likelihood of their obtaining subsequent research funding through internal Macquarie schemes (e.g., The Macquarie University Research Development Grants Scheme, MQRDG) or external funding bodies.

Individual applications for funding up to a **maximum of \$10,000 over a 6 to 9 month period** will be accepted under this initiative. **Please note that individual researchers will not be eligible to re-apply to this scheme within 12 months of completing an award.**

Eligibility

The scheme is open to Linguistics staff members on continuing or fixed-term appointments (with at least three years remaining<sup>1</sup>).

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria.

- They must hold a PhD, awarded in the last ten years (from 1998), or must be collaborating on the project for which funding is requested with a more senior member of the Linguistics staff who is an active researcher with a PhD or strong research track record.
- They should not have held a large (more than \$25,000), externally funded grant in the past.

Applications

Applications for funding must be submitted on the specially designed form, which is a modified version of that used for MQRDG grants. Applications must be typed in at least 12 point font (**hand written applications will not be accepted**), and submitted electronically to Colm Halbert (chalbert@vc.mq.edu.au). **The closing date for 2008 is Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May.**

Project Outline. The project outline should be a maximum of two (2) A4 pages, set out under the headings provided in the application form.

Budget. A maximum of \$10,000 can be requested under this initiative for a project of 6 to 9 months duration. Accurate costing and a clear justification must be provided for all budget items. Under this scheme, you may apply for funds to cover aspects such

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<sup>1</sup> This appointment period is necessary for successful applicants to meet the obligation of submitting a MQRDG application (up to \$50,000 funding over two years) in the year following the funding period.

as: research assistance, teaching relief, small pieces of equipment (excluding computers), maintenance (e.g., DVDs, CDs, Test forms, postage, etc.), and travel (only where it is necessary for the collection of data).

### Assessment

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. All applications will be evaluated by a Departmental subcommittee (comprising at least three members), and endorsed by the Linguistics Department Research Committee. Assessment will focus in particular on aspects of the proposed project such as:

- Originality and innovation;
- Theoretical and/or applied relevance;
- Soundness of the methodology and planning;
- Feasibility (e.g., the likelihood of completing the project within the timeframe and achieving the stated outcomes).

### Obligations

Successful applicants are required to submit an application for a MQRDG<sup>2</sup> in the year following their successful application to the Linguistics New Researcher Initiative (i.e. for Linguistics grants awarded in June 2008, an application should be made to the MQRDG scheme in May 2009).

Funds must be fully committed within the funded period. To facilitate timely completion of projects (and use of funds), successful applicants will report at regular (three-monthly) intervals on the progress of their project to a designated member of the Linguistics Department Research Committee. In these interim reports, progress will be evaluated against proposed milestones for the research that will be built into the initial application process.

The final project report will be the completed MQRDG application.

### Further Information

Any questions relating to this initiative should be directed to either:

A/Prof Linda Cupples  
Head, Department of Linguistics  
Telephone: 9850 8788  
Email: linda.cupples@mq.edu.au

Prof Chris Candlin  
Chair, Linguistics Research Committee  
Telephone: 9850 9181  
Email: ccandlin@optusnet.com.au

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<sup>2</sup> In some circumstances, applicants might be permitted to submit an application to an alternative (possibly external) funding body, such as the ARC or NHMRC, instead. Such requests will be considered on an individual basis.