

The University of Sydney

**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Early Career Research Excellence  
Support Award**

**GUIDELINES**

Last updated November 2008

# **EARLY CAREER RESEARCH EXCELLENCE SUPPORT AWARD**

## **General Description**

Early career researchers (ECRs) often report that they find it difficult to develop their research due to heavy teaching and administrative loads. This scheme is designed to support ECRs who have demonstrated excellence and research leadership by providing them with teaching relief for one or two semesters (i.e. a maximum of one year) to achieve specific research objectives.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to reduce their teaching load by up to a maximum of 40% FTE and will be expected to deliver specific research outcomes (initiation of research projects, publications, grants). Applicants may receive varying amounts of teaching relief, depending on proposed outputs, but in no case will it exceed a 40% FTE reduction for one year. Applicants should nominate and justify the amount and duration of teaching relief sought.

## **Eligibility**

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for an award. Candidates must have:

1. A full-time appointment within the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney for the duration of the award; under exceptional circumstances applications from candidates holding less than a full-time appointment for the duration of the award will be considered if the applicant can demonstrate that they will meet the objectives of the award, in which case teaching relief will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.
2. Been employed  $\geq 60\%$  full-time at the FHS in the year preceding the application with teaching and administrative responsibilities commensurate with Level B.
3. Been awarded a PhD in the last five years (from December 2003).
4. Exceeded the minimum research criteria for 'satisfactory' in each of the two years prior to the application.
5. An appointment at Level B (senior lecturers are not eligible for this award).
6. Become a member of a functioning research team and have a nominated research mentor.

## **Criteria for awarding**

Up to five awards will be made for a period of up to two semesters commencing in Semester 1 or 2, 2009. The following criteria will be used to award grants:

- Publication record relative to opportunity
- The level of grants previously held by an applicant
- The merit, scope and feasibility of the submitted plan for proposed research career development

## **Procedures**

Applicants should complete the Early Career Research Excellence Support Award application form available on the Faculty website at:

[http://www.fhs.usyd.edu.au/research\\_innovation/forms.shtml](http://www.fhs.usyd.edu.au/research_innovation/forms.shtml).

Please note the word limits specified in the form.

Completed application forms should be forwarded electronically as secure pdf files to the Senior Research Services Officer, Research & Innovation Office

[fhs.resadmin@usyd.edu.au](mailto:fhs.resadmin@usyd.edu.au)

Applications will be reviewed by a FHS committee comprising the Faculty Research Group Conveners, and chaired by the Director of Research & Innovation.

ECR awards may not be deferred. Applicants who are unable to take up the award in the year offered must reapply.

## **Reporting**

Successful applicants undertake to submit a final report which evaluates success in achieving each of the proposed research outcomes included in their applications. If applicants fail to meet their proposed outcomes, reasons for this need to be documented.

Reports must be submitted electronically to the Manager, Research & Innovation Office.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON  
5 December 2008**