

2025 Research Excellence Awards

Excellence in Graduate Research – STEMM



Information and Guidelines

This award will be presented for outstanding research undertaken by a current or former Graduate Research candidate from the STEMM-based disciplines. The research activity can be in any field and must have been developed at Macquarie University in the past four years – research outputs/outcomes delivered prior to May 2021 will not be considered. Applicants who studied or are studying part-time and who can demonstrate research outcomes achieved prior to May 2021 as being related to the delivery of their degree post-2021, are eligible to apply.

The *Excellence in Graduate Research* award recognises excellence in scholarly research, the creation and application of research outcomes, the discovery of new knowledge or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way to generate new concepts, methodologies and understanding.

Judging Criteria

The applicant must be able to provide tangible evidence of research excellence and should specifically address how the work entered meets the following **three** judging criteria:

- 1. Originality (35%):** describe how your research is original.
- 2. Scientific rigour (30%):** describe the scientific or discipline specific rigour of your research, including evidence that your research has undergone peer review. This section can include:
 - Papers submitted to appropriate journals (single author or co-author). If listing co-authored articles, the applicant must provide a very brief (50 words) sentence description of their role in the production of the paper;
 - Attendance at conferences or meetings where your research is discussed or presented. This can include poster presentations and/or faculty-based research seminars.
- 3. Potential impacts (35%):** describe the potential impacts and wider benefits of your research.
 - The research should take the form of a significant and novel advance in research which has the potential to deliver substantial benefits to Australian and/or international communities in the fields of the creative arts, culture, education, the environment, health, industry, the law, public or social policy, technology or commercial enterprise.

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Guidelines for Submission

Prepare a single PDF application containing the following information:

- ☐ **Research summary:** a brief description of the research entered, including objectives and results to date (one-page maximum).
- ☐ **Judging criteria:** a brief description of how the entrant's activity addresses each of the judging criteria (three-page maximum).
- ☐ **CV:** curriculum vitae of entrant (two-page maximum).
- ☐ **Statement of Support:** a signed letter of support from the applicants' GR Supervisor that supports the application, and the quality of research submitted (one-page maximum).
- ☐ **Reference letter/s:** a minimum of one and a maximum of three reference letters supporting the application and the quality of the applicant. The letter(s) should be written by someone who is a senior academic (Level C or above) and who is familiar with the research and quality of the applicant. Judges will rely on the reference letter(s) to provide additional perspective and informed opinion on applicants (the letters are not included in the total page count).

Please also provide a:

- ☐ **Photograph:** with your application, please attach a separate jpeg file of yourself for promotional purposes (preferably landscape orientation and from above the waist and 10 MB).

Additional Information

- **Prize:** The *Excellence in Graduate Research – STEMM* category winner will receive \$3,000 (AU) prize money that will be allocated into the nominated bank account of the winning applicant.
- Applications with incomplete sets of supporting information will not be considered and judges will only consider what has been provided within the parameters (e.g. page maximums, PDF format single document).
- Applications must be no more than seven total pages in length (not including references or statement of support).
- GR Supervisors are to encourage their students to apply.
- Applicants are encouraged to engage GR Supervisors to review their applications and provide feedback to improve the quality.
- Previous winners of Macquarie University Research Excellence Awards *Graduate Research* categories are not eligible to re-apply.
- The deliberations of the judging panel are confidential, and all recommendations and decisions taken are binding and final and no correspondence will be entered into on such matters.
- The judges reserve the right not to award the prize if they feel the entries are insufficiently meritorious.
- No entries received after the closing date will be considered.

Please submit your application via the [online form](#) by 11:59 PM on 13 June 2025
Late applications will not be considered.