



## DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH)

### RESEARCH BULLETIN #14 March 2009

PROFESSOR LES FIELD

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR  
(RESEARCH)

Dear Colleagues,

This is DVC(R) Bulletin #14 to provide an update on important issues affecting researchers at UNSW. If you missed the previous bulletins – the contents are available at <http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/newsletter.html>.

#### **1. NEW HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

New Conditions for the Award of the PhD came into effect on 1 January 2009. New procedures for Annual Reviews, including confirmation of candidature for commencing students are available on the GRS web site (<http://www.grs.unsw.edu.au/policy/policyhome.html>), and are also hyperlinked to the Conditions for the Award of the PhD in the 2009 Online Handbook. While the changes from the previous conditions are relatively minor, they include changes to the definition of “School” where a student can be enrolled as a PhD candidate and also to the nature of the examination process.

#### **2. RESEARCH SHOWCASES**

In 2009, I will be hosting a series of Research Showcases aimed at identifying opportunities for collaboration across the University. **Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability** will be the first Showcase for 2009 to be held on **18 & 19 May** in the Tyree Room and Foyer of the **Scientia Building**.

I am **now seeking abstracts for presentations** from staff and students on all related topics from which to build the program for the Showcase. Further information, including the Abstract template and the full 2009 program of showcases is available from <http://www.unsw.edu.au/research/res/researchshowcases.html> or by contacting Briony Stocker on 9385 2784. Abstract submissions should be sent to [research-showcase@explode.unsw.edu.au](mailto:research-showcase@explode.unsw.edu.au) **no later than 14 April 2009**.

#### **3. FUTURE FELLOWS**

Heads of Schools and Centres and Research Directors are encouraged to pro-actively identify potential applicants for the next round of ARC Future Fellowships. While dates are yet to be confirmed by the ARC, the application guidelines are expected to be released in September with a closing date in mid-November 2009. The Ministerial announcement of successful 2010 ARC Future Fellowships, which will be useful in identifying the relative success of international/Australian and internal UNSW vs external applicants, is expected in September 2009. An Expression of Interest process, coordinated by the Research Strategy Office will be released in April.

#### **4. 2009 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENT SUPPORT (PRSS) SCHEME**

\$600,000 has been approved for PRSS funding in 2009 to cover 2 application rounds (January-round 1; June-round 2). We received almost 300 applications for round 1, the same number as for all of 2008. In round 1, \$472,500 (75% of the budget) has been awarded to 194 students who have not previously been supported by funds from the PRSS scheme. A further \$157,500 (25% of the budget) will be available for round 2 applications which open on 1 June 2009.

## **5. VISIT UNSW PROGRAM FOR PROSPECTIVE LOCAL HDR STUDENTS**

The Visit UNSW program provides travel and accommodation support for outstanding prospective local students (resident in Australia or NZ) to visit campus and meet potential supervisors and visit Schools. This year the program will be held in each semester. Applications will open on the Graduate Research School web site on 6 April and close on 18 May for students to Visit UNSW on Friday 12 June. A similar program will be held in semester 2 with the Visit UNSW day scheduled to coincide with Pgrad EXPO week in early October (dates to be confirmed).

## **6. ADVERTISED EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS**

Researchers are reminded that all applications for research funds must be submitted via the GMO, including applications from external agencies who request applications be submitted directly to them by paper/online. The GMO needs to ensure that, if grant applications are successful, UNSW is able to comply with the grant agency's funding conditions, and is able to administer the grant. Serious problems still arise particularly when researchers submit direct to funding agencies. For example (i) failing to properly include infrastructure support in budgets (which results in a potential shortfall in funding when the grant is awarded); and (ii) non-provision of requisite institutional support letters (which may make the grant application ineligible for funding); (iii) it is also important that Head of School sign-off is secured in advance of submission to the funding body, given that projects can present resourcing issues with the School. Go to [http://www.gmo.unsw.edu.au/ApplyingForFunds/ApplyingForFunds\\_index.html](http://www.gmo.unsw.edu.au/ApplyingForFunds/ApplyingForFunds_index.html) for a refresher on what to do when applying for funding.

## **7. FREE MONEY!**

Google has been in the process of digitising past works held in university library collections. These now come up on Google Book searches. Following copyright litigation in the US, a settlement with authors and publishers was reached. As part of this settlement, Books, Book chapters, Journal articles and theses by Australian authors that Google has scanned can be subject to a rights claim. The settlement incorporates a one off payment of US\$60 for books and a proportion for book chapter etc, plus future entitlements to revenue streams. Further information is available at: <http://www.googlebooksettlement.com>. The deadline to opt-out of the settlement altogether is 5 May 2009, and the deadline to submit the form for a cash payment is 5 January 2010. You can also remain in the settlement but exclude future uses of your work in the Google database by 5 April 2011.

## **8. INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT**

This is a reminder about UNSW's requirements for undertaking contract research. All Contract Research must include a minimum of 30% of the research contract to cover infrastructure support. This is a requirement of the Trade Practices Act (we cannot use public money to offset our costs for undertaking contract research) but more importantly is an essential element of UNSW budgeting so that the University can recover indirect costs associated with: (i) provision and maintenance of buildings and physical infrastructure; (ii) university-wide IT, library and other supporting infrastructure; (iii) basic telecommunications; (iv) our insurance and legal services; (v) financial management services; (vi) security; (vii) our non-faculty administrative services. For additional information see <http://www.dvcresearch.unsw.edu.au/newsletter/infrasupport0707.pdf>.

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