



SIR FREDERICK McMASTER FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES

Sir Frederick McMaster (1873-1954) was a prominent grazier whose property "Dalkeith" at Cassilis in NSW was well known throughout Australia. During his life, Sir Frederick was a generous benefactor of CSIRO, and in his will he bequeathed a substantial proportion of the shares in his pastoral company, F D McMaster Pty Ltd, to the Organisation.

With the proceeds from the sale of these shares, CSIRO created the Sir Frederick McMaster Bequest Trust Fund to support distinguished overseas scientists selected to work for a period in CSIRO in furthering research in veterinary science or agriculture.

General Information

Eligibility

McMaster Fellowships are available to distinguished overseas scientists working in science areas directly related to animal health, agriculture and food sciences linked to primary production. They are only tenable in Australia and are only awarded in strategically important research areas. A Visiting Fellow should be a leader in a research discipline or experienced in directing research. In 2024-2025, the McMaster Fellowship is accepting applications from proposals being considered under the Quad AI-ENGAGE initiative. The McMaster Fellowship will support distinguished scientists from India, Japan and USA associated with a Quad AI-Engage proposal to visit Australia and be hosted by CSIRO.

Number of Fellowships

The number of Fellowships awarded each year depends on the income derived from the Sir Frederick McMaster Bequest.

Visiting Fellowship

Visiting Fellowships are for the duration of up to 12 weeks where the Fellow undertakes a range of activities that could include growing new or existing collaborative science networks, enabling skills and technology exchange, completion of specific research activities in collaboration with Australian science teams, contributing expertise to review areas of science, or other activities approved by the McMaster Selection Committee.

As a part of their visit, Fellows are required to design and undertake a program of visits to several locations within Australia and CSIRO, supported by the McMaster Fellowship grant. These visits could include delivery of seminars, participating in science forums and building broader collaborations across the Australian science community. The Fellow is also required to submit a report to the Sir Frederick McMaster Fellowships' Selection Committee at the end of their

Fellowship period. To ensure that the latter condition is met, half of the agreed budget will be allocated near to the time that the Fellow's arrival is expected, with the remaining half being allocated upon receipt of the Fellow's Report and Business' final assessment statement (see Conditions Section for further details).

Proposals

Grant proposals for a Fellowship can be made by Fellow candidates by completing a nomination form.

In addition to the nomination form, plus submit a Curriculum Vitae (three page maximum) covering the following:

- Name and address
- Educational history
- Professional positions
- Professional organisations
- Summary of nominee's honours, awards and achievements
- Research skills and activities relevant to project
- Optional letters of support (only from interested parties outside of CSIRO and/or the nominee's institution)

Closing Date

Applications close: **5pm Thursday, 23 January 2025**

This closing date aligns with the closing date for applications to the AI-ENGAGE Initiative through the Dear Colleague Letter on the National Science Foundation (NSF) [website](#).

Selection Procedure

Selection is made by the Sir Frederick McMaster Fellowship Selection Committee and is informed by the Quad AI-Engage merit review outcomes. The relevance of the Fellowship to Quad AI-Engage science and collaboration objectives is a critical component of the nomination.

A particular aim of the Selection Committee is to maximise the utility of the McMaster Bequest Fund. Thus, the Committee will carefully assess the reasonableness of the costing of each Fellowship nomination.

Budgets

Budgets for Fellows will be considered by the Selection Committee on an item by item basis. In preparing them, the following guidelines should be used:

Travel to and from Australia

Fellows will be given economy-class return air fares between their home country and Australia by the most direct route. The cost of relevant economy-class home country travel will be reimbursed.

Accommodation and living allowance

Fellows will be eligible to receive an accommodation and living allowance based on standard CSIRO rates.

Local travel

For travel within Australia, the relevant conditions are those applying to CSIRO staff.

Operating funds

Budgets should include provision for operating funds sufficient to ensure the successful completion of the Fellow's proposed work.

Conditions

Visits, seminars and interaction with industry

Fellows are required to undertake a program of visits within Australia, of seminars to scientific societies and of addresses to industry groups. The program should be submitted to the Selection Committee at the same time as the nomination.

Reports

Fellows are required to submit a report, prepared on the McMaster Report template, to the Selection Committee at the end of the Fellowship period.

The report (1-2 pages maximum) should include:

- A summary of discussions of relevant research topics and their implications for future work;
- Opportunities for future collaboration between CSIRO or other Australian institutions (e.g. universities) and the Fellow's organisation;
- A summary of visits, seminars and information discussions with Australian scientists and industry groups; and.
- A financial report accounting for use of the Fellowship funds.

Final reports must be submitted within three months of the completion of the visit. Funding for visits where reports have not been submitted in the three month time frame will be returned to the Trust for reinvestment.

The reports need to be in a form that can readily be disseminated widely within CSIRO.

Acknowledgment of CSIRO in publications

Acknowledgment of CSIRO and the Sir Frederick McMaster Fellowship award should be made when a Fellow submits for publication any manuscript embodying results of research undertaken in the course of the Fellowship.

IP, Patents and inventions

Considerations of IP will be determined on a project by project basis as part of the Quad AI-ENGAGE project that the visiting fellow is associated with. It is the Fellow's responsibility to adhere to these IP management requirements during the fellowship.

Receipt of other financial assistance

CSIRO should be informed of any obligation imposed on the Fellow by the other funding bodies and any conflict of interest that may result. CSIRO reserves the right to terminate the Fellowship where it becomes evident that a conflict of interest may arise.

Vacations, breaks in Fellowship and other absences

The whole of a Fellow's time should be devoted to the agreed work of the Fellowship except for any breaks approved by the Selection Committee. If a Fellow is absent from work continuously for more than one week because of illness, a medical certificate covering the period of absence must be provided to CSIRO. If such absence continues for more than four (4) weeks, the Selection Committee will consider what effect, if any, it will have on the Fellowship.

Premature cessation of Fellowship

The Selection Committee must be informed immediately if a Fellow wishes to cease work under the Fellowship before the agreed expiry date. Assistance will cease from the date on which a Fellow discontinues work. The Fellow will be required to refund to CSIRO any money paid in respect of the unexpired portion of the Fellowship.

Termination of a Fellowship by CSIRO

CSIRO may terminate a Fellowship at any time if it is not satisfied that the Fellow has complied with the conditions above and amendments to these conditions as and when advised.

Adherence to CSIRO policies and procedures

The McMaster Fellow will be engaged under the terms and conditions of CSIRO's Procedure for Visiting Scientists.

During the visit, when travelling on CSIRO business the Fellow's travel will comply with CSIRO's Travel Procedure.

Contact Information

CSIRO AI-ENGAGE Initiative team

Email: AI-Engage@csiro.au