RMIT RESEARCH CAREER INTERRUPTION FELLOWSHIP
GUIDELINES

Purpose
To enable eligible researchers, with the potential to be research leaders in their field, to enhance or re-establish their academic research careers, where their careers have been severely delayed or otherwise constrained by a significant absence from the university. Such an absence might relate to family responsibilities including child bearing, child rearing or sustained care of a dependent family member; chronic illness or a secondment to an outside organisation in industry or the community.

Terms of Fellowship
- Up to 6 months full time;
- Staff replacement costs – up to $30,000 paid to the School to cover the applicant's absence;
- A research support grant of up to $6000 per year will be available.

This is intended to be a research-only position - any teaching commitment will be minimal.

The fellowship should be arranged in consultation with the appropriate Head of School.

Eligibility
It is recognised that there are many forms of 'career interruption' for researchers at RMIT at various times during their academic career. This initial 'Research Career Interruption Fellowship Scheme' is targeted at RMIT researchers with the potential to be research leaders in their field who:

- would have completed a PhD in their field no more than 5 years prior to application;
- would be within the first 5 years of their appointment at RMIT;
- have a continuing appointment or a contract with at least 2 years to run at the time of application;
- can demonstrate that their research career has been significantly retarded or interrupted by chronic illness, family responsibilities or external secondments. This will involve an absence from RMIT of at least 6 months.

Application Process
An application will consist of:

- the application form;
- CV and list of publications;
- half page profile of research activities, experience and strengths;
- half page statement regarding career interruption;
- statement (max. one page) regarding career plan, the place of the Fellowship in this plan and the research objectives of the university;
- description of research project (max. three pages) – aims, significance, approach, budget, expected outcomes.

In addition applicants separately will need to obtain and submit a referee report.

The application form and referee report form are available on the RMIT Research web site:
http://www.rmit.edu.au/research/sources

Selection Criteria
- Applicant's track record relative to opportunity;
- The demonstrated nature and extent of the career interruption, in the context of the aims of this Program;
• The likelihood that the Fellowship would enable the applicant to re-establish or enhance their career and improve their track record in order to compete more effectively for academic employment;
• The quality of the project, and its feasibility given the intended time frame, length of Fellowship and the available facilities and infrastructure.

Selection Process/Timelines

• Applications will be assessed by a small selection Committee which will include the PVC (R&I) and an appropriate Head of School;
• All applicants will be informed of the outcomes within a month of the closing date;
• Successful applicants should normally commence their Fellowship within three (3) months of the award being made, unless otherwise agreed with the Head of School.

Note: Researchers may apply whilst still away from RMIT in anticipation of a return during this timeframe.

Reporting
Fellows will be required to provide a final report on activities, research outcomes and achievements to the PVC (R&I) at the end of the Fellowship term.

Project Management
The Fellowship recipient:

• must obtain any necessary ethics approval before commencing the project;
• will be responsible for the acquittal of funds in line with the approved project plan and budget.

Schools/Colleges are expected to support successful applicants, including providing infrastructure and support and academic mentoring.

Submission of Applications
The application should be submitted through the Head of School.

Note: In addition, applicants should forward a copy of their application, accompanied by the Fellowship Guidelines, to their selected referee.

Once the Head of School recommends the application he/she should send the original plus three copies to:

Margaret Thorpe
Research Support Unit - Research & Innovation Portfolio
Level 2, Building 215
Bundoora West Campus
Plenty Road
Bundoora, Vic 3083

by no later than 17 June 2009.

Enquiries can be directed to Margaret Thorpe on tel. no. 9925-7405, email margaret.thorpe@rmit.edu.au