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|  | **2020 UNE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Scheme** **Frequently Asked Questions** |

**1. I have a new project under which I have funding for a postdoc at 0.4 FTE, and have chosen a researcher to take up this position. Can I nominate the same researcher for a 0.6 FTE position under the 2020 UNE-PDF scheme?**

No. As point ***2.1*** under ***Appointment Details and Research Funding Available*** within the ***Conditions of Award*** clearly states:

*UNE-PDF candidates are expected to focus full-time on the UNE-PDF research project for the duration of the Fellowship.*

**2. The guidelines say that the fellowship is for three years, but the project I would propose could be completed in one. Is there any provision for a one-year fellowship?**

No. The UNE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship may only be offered on a full-time three-year basis.

**3. Will everyone who received an invitation to submit a Full Application (Stage 2) be interviewed (Stage 3)?**

No. All Full Applications will be assessed by the DVCR Selection Committee during a shortlisting meeting, during which time they will also determine the number of candidates to be interviewed.

**4. Are there any specific Selection Criteria for the interviews?**

The ***Selection Criteria*** on **page 5** of the ***2020 UNE-PDF Research Scheme Application Pack*** document should guide your preparation for the interview. These are the only Selection Criteria available.

**5. Can an Adjunct of UNE be one of my additional senior academics listed on my Nomination Form?**

No. The two additional senior staff must be UNE full-time staff and may not be honorary staff (Adjuncts etc.).

**6.** **What constitutes a “senior academic”?**

A senior academic is Level C or above.

**7. If all or any of my nominators is in a discipline with ERA ratings below 4, can they still nominate me?**

Possibly. In line with *Action 1.1* in the *UNE Research Impact Strategy 2025,* this UNE-PDF round targets investment in excellence. All your nominators must be from disciplines which have an ERA rating of 4 or above, and/**or** have held a Category 1 or Category 3 grant within the last 3 years (2017-2019). You will need to establish that your nominators meet this eligibility criterion in the nomination stage of the application process.

**8. Do you have any details about the visa process?**

Once the candidate has been successful and is offered a postdoctoral fellowship position, UNE would sponsor the successful candidate via a visa. UNE would cover the costs of the nomination for the visa, however all other costs would be incurred by the UNE-PDF candidate. Annual professional development and training costs would be the responsibility of the host Faculty and/or Research Centre.

**Please note: there have been a number of important changes to the visa process and we would like to draw your attention to two main points which could affect you:**

1. Prior to applying for your visa, and if you are from a country where English is not the main language spoken, you will be required to sit an English Language Test and provide your results to UNE;
2. It is now standard procedure that you will be required to have a police background check completed and provide the results to UNE. If your family is also moving with you to Australia, they may also have to have a police background check completed.

**The Human Resources team is always on-hand to provide advice and guide you through the visa application process. For all visa-related assistance and enquiries please contact:**

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| **Recruitment Manager** | Ms Kasia Baker |
| **Email** | kbaker36@une.edu.au  |

**To ensure you have the latest information we also strongly recommend you visit the *Australian Government Department of Home Affairs* website:** [**https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/**](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/)

**9. Will UNE pay for me to relocate if I am successful in gaining a UNE-PDF position?**

No. The UNE Postdoctoral Fellow will be responsible for any relocation costs. The funding for the postdoctoral position covers salary only (*See page 4 of the 2020 UNE-PDF Research Scheme Application Pack - Section 2.4. Research Funding Available*).

**10.** **Can an Adjunct of UNE be one of my referees?**

No. As is clearly stated under the ***Application Process*** of the ***2020 UNE-PDF Research Scheme Application Pack***:

*External referees who are affiliated with UNE in any way will not be accepted.*

**11.** **My family lives in another state and would be unable to relocate to Armidale. How much time would I need to spend on-campus at UNE during the Fellowship?**

UNE-PDFs are normal academic positions, based in Armidale (place of residence over the full three years), with the expectation to spend at least 9-10 months per year at UNE as part of strengthening the research team and research culture on campus, with larger periods away outside this timeframe (e.g. for extended field work) requiring prior DVCR approval.

**12.** **Do references count towards the word count and length limits in my Nomination Form?**

No. Your references are not part of the word count or length limits indicated in the Nomination Form.

**Contact for further clarification:**

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| **Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)** | Professor Heiko Daniel |
| **Email** | dvcr@une.edu.au |