OSP: The Practicalities
Outline

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OSP: The Intention

1. Contribute to Macquarie’s development as an internationally leading research intensive University.

2. Enhance the knowledge, skills and experience, connections and partnerships, access to new ideas and resources, and the international standing of its academic staff.

3. Produce tangible research outcomes through both the opportunity to engage with peers external to the University and the opportunity for an intense focus on research projects.
OSP: The Goal

OSP is considered a grant (grant of salary and/or grant-in-aid) by the University: It is an opportunity to focus on research for an uninterrupted, extended period.

- Clearly defined research activities (national or international focus)
- Building capacity as an individual or as an institution
- Clearly defined outcome(s)
OSP: The Goal (cont’d)

- Working with an international colleague towards a joint publication or grant proposal
- Pilot work in preparation for a new grant proposal
- The acquisition of new skills that will be used in a forthcoming grant proposal
- Access to, and experience with, specialist equipment that will be engaged in the analysis of data for the purposes of publication(s)
- Access to specialist resources or sites for the purposes of publications or grant proposals
Internal versus External OSP

**Internal**

- Located in Sydney
- Grant of Salary

**External**

- At least two months (continuously) outside Sydney
- Grant-in-Aid
- Grant of Salary

**Considerations:**

- Collaboration (national, international)
- New techniques, theoretical approaches
OSP: Outcomes

Short-Term Outcomes
- Journal Article
- Grant Proposal
- Book Chapter

Longer-Term Outcomes
- Monograph
- New Theory
- New Paradigm
Planning the OSP

Principles

1. Start planning early (establish contact through a conference/visit) (12 months)
2. Identify areas of genuine mutual interest (possibility of a long term association)
3. Establish whether there are research facilities available, together with accommodation (sabbaticalhomes.com)
4. Are there other opportunities afforded by the location of the OSP (e.g. Other Universities, research facilities, testing sites)?
5. Is transportation available or necessary?
6. Does the location offer opportunities to attend conferences that might otherwise be unavailable?
7. Consider contingency plans
Planning the OSP (cont’d)

Avoid the Planning Fallacy

Avoid setting overly ambitious goals both in the application and for yourself

Achievable goals with the possibility of additional outcomes should the possibility arise

Plan beyond the OSP: How will the OSP experience assist in achieving outcomes over the next three years?
Managing the OSP

Principles

1. Monitor your progress against the goals that were set as part of the OSP plan
2. Avoid procrastination (plan the day/week)
3. Plan to have breaks
4. Acknowledge and record achievements
5. Engage with your hosts (seminars/tutorials)
Managing the OSP (cont’d)

Changes can and will occur to OSP Plans.

Make sure that you discuss the nature of the changes with your Associate Dean (Research).

Document the changes (OSP Variation Form).

Have the changes approved by the Executive Dean.
Returning from OSP

One
- Complete the Report (within one month)

Two
- Follow-up short-term outcomes (grants, publications)

Three
- Follow-up longer term outcomes
How to find information about OSP

• Researchers can view the Funding guidelines;
  The application form template on the RO web site can be found at:
  The report form template on the RO web site can be found at:
• Researchers submit application to the RO ([grants@mq.edu.au](mailto:grants@mq.edu.au)) by the due date.
• Researchers can check their exact eligibility dates with HR central.