

Research Office

RMIT Foundation International Fellowships

2016 Outcome Summary

14 April 2016

1 Background

The RMIT Foundation was established in 1994 to encourage and support the philanthropic development and advancement of RMIT. The Research and Innovation Portfolio manages the International Visiting Fellowships and International Research Exchange Fellowships on behalf of the RMIT Foundation.

The RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowships support portfolios, schools and research centres/groups in attracting international leaders in their field to visit RMIT and present lectures, seminars or engage in other activities relevant to teaching, learning and research.

The RMIT Foundation International Research Exchange Fellowships provide support to international researchers to visit RMIT and undertake a period of research activity with collaboration at RMIT, as well as to support RMIT researchers in undertaking similar collaborative research activity overseas.

The maximum value of each Fellowship is \$10,000.

2 Scheme Summary

In 2016, sixty applications were received from across the University (three times more than 2015), of which fifty four were eligible. The eligible applications requested \$420,000 to fund visits from, and exchanges with, outstanding international researchers.

College Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellors, Research and Innovation, short listed their College's top 25% of applications, and the selection panel agreed to fund the top twelve applications, valued at \$82,000. See **Table 1** and **Table 2** for the breakdown of awards.

2016's selection panel comprised:

- Prof Calum Drummond (Chair; Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation, and Vice-President)
- Prof Xinghuo Yu (Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Capability)
- Ms Saskia Hansen (Executive Director, International Partnerships and Development) [for Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (International)]

Table 1. Breakdown by College of eligible applications received, short-listed and awarded

College	Eligible Applications	25% shortlist	Awarded
BUS	11	3	3
DSC	19	5	4
SEH	24	6	5

Table 2. Breakdown of Fellowships awarded

College	School	Awardee(s)	Scheme	Value
BUS	EFM	Prof Malick Sy	IVF	9,130
BUS	BITL	Dr Stan Karanasios	IVF	5,670
BUS	EFM	Dr Adrian Camilleri, Prof Robert Hoffman	IVF	6,300
DSC	A&D	Dr Heike Rahmann	IVF	2,859
DSC	M&C	Dr Marianne Sison	IVF	5,000
DSC	GUSS	Dr Kay Cook	IREF	9,973
DSC	M&C	Dr Catherine Gomes	IVF	3,640
SEH	Science	Prof Suresh Bhargava	IVF	8,100
SEH	Science	Dr Ravi Shukla	IVF	5,040
SEH	Science	Dr Xiaodong Li	IVF	7,350
SEH	Science	A/P Lawrence Cavedon	IVF	9,810
SEH	Science	Prof Dougal McCulloch	IREF	10,000

3 Background of Fellows and Proposed Outcomes

3.1 International Research Exchange Fellowships

Dr Kay Cook from the School of Global, Urban & Social Studies was awarded a \$9,973 RMIT Foundation International Research Exchange Fellowship. Vice-Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow Dr Cook will participate in a bilateral exchange with Dr Christine Skinner (University of York), on the research project, "Identifying the implications of recent child support policy changes in Australia and the UK for deliberate non-compliance and payment avoidance". Drs Cook and Skinner are two of the world's premier child support researchers.

Prof Dougal McCulloch from the School of Science was awarded a \$10,000 RMIT Foundation International Research Exchange Fellowship. One of RMIT's top recipients of research funding, Prof McCulloch will participate in a bilateral exchange with outstanding early career researcher, Dr Bianca Haberl (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), on the research project, "Light and tough: using extreme conditions to synthesise new materials based on boron, carbon and nitrogen". The project will enhance the existing relationship between researchers at RMIT and Oak Ridge National Laboratory – one of the world's leading research organisations.

3.2 International Visiting Fellowships

Dr Adrian Camilleri and Prof Robert Hoffmann from the School of Economics, Finance and Marketing were awarded a \$6,300 RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowship. The award will be used to facilitate the visit of Prof Gavan J Fitzsimons (Duke University), an internationally renowned scholar in consumer behaviour. Prof Fitzsimons's visit will involve deepening research collaboration and various talks designed to develop research potential. Based on his experience as a current editorial board member of A* journals, he will provide one-on-one intensive research feedback with College of Business staff on how to improve existing manuscripts prior to submission.

Dr Catherine Gomes from the School of Media and Communication was awarded a \$3,640 RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowship. The award will be used to facilitate the visit of Prof Brenda Yeoh (National University of Singapore): one of the world's foremost scholars on migration, family, and gender issues. In addition to various meetings and presentations, Prof Yeoh will be the primary keynote at a symposium on transnational mobility, will mentor staff and HDRs, and will work closely with Dr Gomes on developing an application for competitive funding in Singapore and Australia.

Dr Heike Rahmann from the School of Architecture & Design was awarded a \$2,859 RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowship. The award will be used to facilitate the visit of A/Prof Bradley Cantrell (Harvard Graduate School of Design). The 2014 TED Global Fellow's will stimulate high quality research in RMIT's Landscape Architecture programs through course/program reviews, meet with researchers, and give a public lecture, and a master class with HDRs. The visit will foster further research and teaching partnerships between Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, and RMIT, School of Architecture & Design.

A/Prof Lawrence Cavedon from the School of Science was awarded a \$9,810 RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowship. The award will be used to facilitate the visit of Adam Cheyer (Viv Labs), co-inventor of Siri (the iPhone's voice-based personal assistant) and founding member of change.org (the world's largest online platform for social change). Adam will work with RMIT's Intelligent Agents research group, inspire and mentor RMIT's student technology innovators and entrepreneurs, and promote RMIT's brand as a global university of technology, design and enterprise through a public lecture and engagement with Melbourne's startup community.

Prof Malick Sy from the School of Economics, Finance and Marketing was awarded a \$9,130 RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowship. The award will be used to facilitate the visit of Prof Liuren Wu (City University of New York). The outstanding researcher, entrepreneur, and financial consultant will collaborate with RMIT's finance researchers on joint publications and grant applications, will enhance RMIT's reputation in the finance sector through facilitated industry visits, and will advise current HDRs.

Dr Marianne Sison from the School of Media and Communication was awarded a \$5,000 RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowship. The award will be used to facilitate the visit of Prof Jan Servaes (City University of Hong Kong). Prof Servaes is a world-renowned expert in the area of communication and social change within the context of international and sustainable development. During his visit, he will deliver a public lecture, meet with various

RMIT staff to discuss potential research collaborations, and present a research seminar to staff and HDRs.

Dr Ravi Shukla from the School of Science was awarded a \$5,040 RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowship. The award will be used to facilitate the visit of Prof Kattesh V Katti (University of Missouri-Columbia). He is a distinguished researcher (250+ publications, h-index of 36) as well as the owner of two companies with over 150 invention disclosures and 55 patents. During his visit, he will foster the existing nanobiotechnology research collaborations, and will work with RMIT researchers on developing a joint multimillion dollar US-Australia nanobiotechnology grant as well as an HDR exchange program.

Dr Stan Karanasios from the School of Business IT & Logistics was awarded a \$5,670 RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowship. The award will be used to facilitate the visit of Prof David Allen (University of Leeds). His work on information systems has featured on the BBC and the Wall Street Journal, and his research has attracted more than \$20m in research funding. Prof Allen's visit will include nurturing high-performing HDRs and ECRs, working with researchers on publications and grants, as well as giving multiple seminars, presentations and lectures.

Prof Suresh K Bhargava from the School of Science was awarded an \$8,100 RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowship. The award will be used to facilitate the visit of Prof Kazunari Domen (University of Tokyo). With almost 700 publications and an h-index of 91, he is a world leading expert on heterogenous catalysis and materials chemistry. During his visit, Prof Domen will facilitate a full-day technical workshop for researchers, deliver a public lecture, and through meetings with researchers and University heads, will foster collaborations and partnerships between RMIT and Japan's leading university.

Dr Xiaodong Li from the School of Science was awarded a \$7,350 RMIT Foundation International Visiting Fellowship. The award will be used to facilitate the visit of Prof Kalyanmoy Deb (Michigan State University): one of the most cited computer science researchers in the world (83,000 citations, h-index 94). During his visit, he will deliver an IEEE CIS Distinguished Lecture at RMIT, as well as meet researchers from RMIT, Victorian universities, and industry partners to deepen existing research collaborations and partnerships.