Call for nominations

In 1993, on the recommendation of the Russell and Mab Grimwade Miegunyah Fund Committee, University Council established the Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellowship Program.

Nominations are now open for the 2019 Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellowships. Academic divisions may nominate academics who reside outside Australia and who are internationally distinguished in a field of interest to the University of Melbourne.

Normally, Fellowships are for periods of four to eight weeks. While visiting, Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellows must present a public lecture on a topic of their choice directed to an informed general audience. A reception and/or dinner must be held in conjunction with the address, and Fellows are also expected to contribute to the academic, intellectual and cultural life of the University during their stay. Indeed, the nominee’s proposed activities are considered an important element of the nomination and selection process.

For 2019, five or more Fellowships will be awarded at a maximum of $20,000 each. Nominations for 2020 Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellowships close at 5pm on Friday 24 May 2019. Deans will then have a one week to review the nominations by 5pm Friday 31 May 2019.

Previous recipients

To date, 140 Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellowships have been awarded. The following seven fellowships were awarded for 2019:

- Professor Andrew Shaughnessy, Vice President of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation; The Saunders Director of the Robert H Smith International Centre for Jefferson Studies at Monticello; Professor of History, The Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello; The University of Virginia
- Professor Sheila Blair, Norma Jean Calderwood Professor, Islamic and Asian Art, Boston College & Professor Johnathon Bloom, Hamad Bin Khalifa Endowed Chair in Islamic Art, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Mx Julie McNamara, Artist, Artistic Director, Vital Xposure, Disability-led Theatre Company, London
- Professor Matthias Mehl, Professor of Psychology, University of Arizona
- Professor Nadine Foster, Professor of Musculoskeletal Health in Primary Care, Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre, Research Institute for Primary Care and Health Sciences, Keele University; Director of Keele Clinical Trials Unit; National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Senior Investigator, Keele University, UK
Professor Murray Cox, Professor of Computational Biology, Massey University
Professor John Lygeros, Head, Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, ETH Zurich

Fellow responsibilities
During their period at the University, Fellows must present a substantial public lecture and several specialist lectures, or a short series of seminars on a topic of general interest to the University community. In addition, they must be available for consultation with staff and students and, if possible, to be engaged in research.

A copy of the public lecture must be retained by the host academic division. Note that Melbourne University Publishing reserves the option to obtain copyright for and publish the public lecture. Should there be reason not to grant this copyright, then a case must be made in writing as part of the nomination.

Duration of the visit
Normally, Fellowships are for a period of between four and eight weeks. The Committee will consider shorter periods if that is all the time that can be given by particularly eminent nominees.

Funding
The actual value of the award will depend on the proposed length of stay, the cost of the airfare and associated budgeted expenses. While the value of each award made will be up to $20,000, the selection committee, in its desire to support as many Fellows as possible, may allocate awards of less than $20,000.

Each grant must reserve $1,500 for promotion of the public lecture as well as $2,500 for a dinner and/or reception following the address. Beyond this $4,000, academic divisions may determine how the remaining funds are utilised. Any funds awarded as part of the Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellowship program can be used only to cover expenses directly associated with the visiting Fellow. These funds cannot be used to cover travel or other expenses for partners or family members.

It is expected that the allocated funding will be expended within twelve months of the award being granted. Any extension of this timeframe will need to be applied for in writing and approval cannot be anticipated. Funds not claimed by the end of the year following that for which they are allocated will be returned to the general pool of Miegunyah funds and may be allocated to other projects.

Public lecture and dinner/reception
Financial support for the presentation of the public lecture and associated dinner/reception will be provided through the Fellowship grant. Host academic divisions will be required to nominate a staff member to coordinate the lecture and dinner/reception, and an Event Guide will be provided to assist and ensure protocol is followed.

Formal procedures have been established concerning the distribution of invitations to the lectures and, in addition to representatives from the discipline or department concerned, guests will include members of the University Council and Senior Executive, members of the Miegunyah Fund Committee, and other appropriate corporate and external invitees.

Selection criteria
Nominations for Miegunyah Fellowships will be assessed against the following criteria:

• International standing and pre-eminence of the proposed Fellow. They should reside outside Australia and not previously have spent extended periods of time at the University of Melbourne. Academic divisions are encouraged to consider female candidates for nomination;
• Value of the proposed Fellow’s visit and contribution to the University;
• Appeal of the public lecture to the University and the wider community (consideration should be given to the title and description of the proposed public lecture to ensure its appeal is aimed at both the University and the wider community); and
• Appropriateness of the budget (see budget notes below).

Selection
Selection will be undertaken by a sub-committee of the Miegunyah Fund Committee, comprising:

• Professor Mark Considine, Provost;
• Sir Andrew Grimwade, Patron and Head, Russell and Mab Grimwade Miegunyah Fund
• Mr Angus Grimwade; and
Nomination process:
To improve tracking and reporting of applications, 2020 applications will be made through an online form via the SmartyGrants program.

Nominations must be submitted through the Miegunyah nominations webpage. Please note that each nomination must be supported by the relevant Head of Department/Division, as they will be a primary contact for the application. Once submitted, applications will be forwarded to the relevant Dean for their endorsement, and only applications which have received this endorsement will proceed to the Selection Committee. If there are multiple applications from a Faculty Deans will be asked to rank these for Selection Committee consideration. It is strongly recommended that you notify your Dean about a nomination prior to submission.

You can view the online nomination form on the Miegunyah nominations webpage. The nomination will need to include the following information:

- A brief statement about the distinction of the proposed Fellow;
- A working title and brief summary of the proposed public lecture;
- A clear outline of the Fellow’s proposed activities;
- The Fellow’s current curriculum vitae; and
- A detailed budget.

The budget must include the following information (see Miegunyah Budget Template):

- Cost of airfare. Note that business class airfares are permitted, but economy class airfares are encouraged (with the Fellow’s approval);
- Cost of accommodation. Note that some University Colleges provide accommodation at minimal cost to Visiting Fellows. This should be investigated before opting for hotel accommodation. See the Residential Colleges casual accommodation website;
- Other associated expenses (if applicable, and in accordance with the University’s visitor payment guidelines);
- $1,500 reserved from grant for advertising and printing costs; and
- $2,500 reserved from grant for dinner and/or reception.

Closing date and submission information
Nominations for 2019 Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellowships close at 5pm on Friday 24 May. Deans will then have a one week to review the nominations by 5pm Friday 31 May 2018.

Nominations and Dean assessments must be submitted electronically by online form. For further information, please contact Illy Paumolevuka, Chancellery (Academic).

Yours sincerely,

Professor Mark Considine
Provost

Copied to:
Sir Andrew Grimwade, Patron and Head, Russell and Mab Grimwade Miegunyah Fund