The Molecular Maverick Award

Established in 2024 and maintained by generous donations from the UQ alumni, business and scientific community. The Molecular Maverick Award celebrates individuals who break free from traditional boundaries, showcasing exceptional skills that position them as leaders and innovators in academia and industry.

1. Purpose

The Molecular Maverick Award recognises students who demonstrate exceptional skills that position them as science business leaders and innovators on a path to address challenges and create impactful solutions.

2. Definitions

In these rules:
Approved Program means any higher degree by research (HDR) program
Relevant Field means research related to chemistry and/or molecular biosciences
Head means the Head of School, School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences.
Award means the Molecular Maverick Award
SCMB means the School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences

3. Value and Number of Awards

(a) One award will be made on the recommendation of the Head in consultation with the selection committee and the pitching event judging panel.

(b) The value of the award is $5,000, subject to funds available.

4. Eligibility for Award

An applicant is eligible for the award if the applicant:
(a) submits an application to the Faculty of Science, by the closing date for applications
(b) is a domestic or international student in accordance with The University's Fee Policy
(c) is enrolled full-time in a HDR approved program in a discipline with research links to chemistry and/or molecular biosciences
(d) has completed two years of their PhD or one year of their MPhil (or equivalent) at the discretion of the Head of School
(e) has demonstrated the ability and/or potential to become a leader and innovator in science and industry
(f) participates in the Molecular Maverick [SCMB] pitching event

5. Selection panel

The Head of School of SCMB must establish a selection committee to short-list a maximum of 6 candidates to move forward to the Molecular Maverick pitching competition event. The selection committee will include:
(a) the Head, or delegate, as chair of the committee
(b) at least one member of the university's academic community currently supervising chemistry-related PhD[s], with knowledge of industry and experience in UQ/industry collaboration
(c) the Chief Executive Officer of UniQuest or delegate

The Head of School of SCMB must establish the judging panel comprising of,
(a) the Head, or delegate, as chair
(b) the Chief Executive Officer of UniQuest or delegate
(c) at least one founding donor or philanthropic supporter of the Molecular Maverick Award, or delegate; and
(d) additional initiative stakeholders as deemed appropriate by the Head of School

6. Selection Criteria

Eligible applicants are assessed on the following criteria:

(a) research focus, innovation and potential for industry translation
(b) strength of personal statement included with application outlining why the individual is a Molecular Maverick per the criteria and how they will use the award to create change
(c) demonstrated creative-thinking, entrepreneurial and leadership qualities
(d) presentation at the SCMB pitching event as determined by the judging panel
(e) other evidence deemed relevant to the applicant's future success as a Molecular Maverick

7. Conditions for award

(a) The recipient may hold the award in the year that the award is made subject to the recipient continuing to be enrolled full-time in an approved program and where applicable, in a relevant field
(b) If a recipient fails to satisfy rule 7(a) the recipient must show cause to the Head of School, why the award should not be cancelled
(c) The award may be deferred or interrupted for a maximum period of one year in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Head of School

8. Termination of award

The University may terminate an award:

(a) if the recipient does not show cause to the reasonable satisfaction of the University as provided for in rule 7(b)
(b) if the recipient interrupts their study without approval
(c) if the recipient commits serious misconduct