

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

MACGEORGE FELLOWSHIPS AND  
MACGEORGE HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS

2020/2021 Guidelines

The 2020/2021 Guidelines relate to Macgeorge Fellowships and Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships awarded for the period July 2020 to June 2021.

The deadline for submitting applications is **Wednesday, 4 September 2019, at 5.00 pm.**

Further information about Macgeorge Bequest can be found at —  
<https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/governance/macgeorge/macgeorge>

## 1. MACGEORGE FELLOWSHIPS

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Macgeorge Fellowships are open to artists, performers, writers or researchers in the visual, creative and performing arts, music, architecture, conservation, literature, creative writing, language, history, philosophy and anthropology. They must be nominated by an appropriate Department/School of the University of Melbourne to be eligible, and the Department/School must give the nominee an Honorary appointment as a Visitor to the University if the nomination is successful. It is expected that most Macgeorge Fellows will visit the University between 4-8 weeks to work on a project, but the Committee will look favourably on a shorter period if that is all the time that could be given by the nominee.

During his lifetime, Norman Macgeorge expressed, on behalf of himself and his wife May Ina Macgeorge, a desire that the property at 25 Riverside Road, Ivanhoe be used for the benefit of “students ... with special emphasis on those studying Fine Arts, Literature, History of Philosophy” and “for the postgraduate in all the Arts rather than for the undergraduate who has not yet acquired sufficient knowledge either at an accredited art school or the University.” Fellows are welcomed into the University community, and invited to participate in the intellectual life of the campus in ways that benefit students in the arts. Macgeorge Fellows will be expected to deliver a public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop on topics of interest to the University community, be available for consultation with staff and students, and be engaged in research, writing or artistic endeavour during the Fellowship.

Please find attached at **Attachment 1** a list of past Macgeorge Fellows.

### 1.1 Benefits of the Fellowships

The main benefit of the Macgeorge Fellowships is to provide an uninterrupted period of research, writing or artistic endeavour. During this period, the Fellow will be able to focus on his/her discipline whilst being encouraged and supported by the University and its environment.

Most Fellows have benefited enormously from being part of the University community and their work has been enriched by the experience of the residency.

The Macgeorge Fellow and Honorary Macgeorge Fellow will be provided with short-term accommodation at historic 'Ballangeich' on the banks of the Yarra River in Ivanhoe (former home of Norman Macgeorge) including full use of the house and extensive river-front gardens.

In addition to the residency, the Macgeorge Fellow will be provided with a contribution to travel fares and living expenses (see Section 5.2), access to the University's resources, opportunity to interact with University staff and students and deliver a public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop on topics of interest to the University community. The Macgeorge Fellow is not expected to take part in the teaching and supervision activities of the host Department/School.

## 1.2 Conditions of the Fellowships

The particular conditions of each Macgeorge Fellowship will be specified in the letter of offer, but it is stipulated that each Fellow will —

- (a) hold the Fellowship between 4-8 weeks;
- (b) hold the Fellowship concurrently with an Honorary appointment as an Academic Visitor to the University of Melbourne under conditions specified separately;
- (c) use the title of 'Macgeorge Fellow' for the duration of the visiting appointment to the University only;
- (d) spend 80% of their time in residence at 'Ballangeich' during their visit to the University of Melbourne. The value of this accommodation is estimated at \$5,000 (the cost of which is supported by the host Department/School and the Macgeorge Bequest Committee);
- (e) receive a contribution toward living expenses as part of the Fellowship;
- (f) receive return economy airfares to Melbourne;
- (g) deliver a public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop at the University of Melbourne during the Fellowship on topics of interest to the University community;
- (h) make the house available for any University business authorised by the Committee, e.g. open days, committee meetings. Efforts will be made not to interrupt the residency;
- (i) acknowledge the Macgeorge Bequest in any publication, advertisement, public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop issuing from the Fellowship. University Departments/Schools hosting Macgeorge Fellows and/or promoting public events supported by the Macgeorge Bequest are requested to acknowledge support of the Bequest in advertising of, during the proceedings of, any print promotions or publications arising from, the public lecture, oration, performance, symposium or conference presentation with the phrase: *Supported by the Macgeorge Bequest*.

## 2. MACGEORGE HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS

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Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships are open to artists, performers, writers or researchers in the visual, creative and performing arts, music, architecture, conservation, literature, creative writing, language, history, philosophy and anthropology who would benefit from interaction with the University community and the support of the University environment while working on a short-term project to advance their career.

They must be nominated by an appropriate Department/School of the University of Melbourne to be eligible, and the Department/School must give the nominee an Honorary appointment as a Visitor to the University of Melbourne if the nomination is successful.

### 2.1 Benefits of the Honorary Fellowships

The main benefit of the Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships is to provide the means of an uninterrupted period of research, writing or artistic endeavour at 'Ballangeich' including full use of the house and extensive river-front gardens. Macgeorge Honorary Fellows will be provided with a short-term residence, but not a contribution to travel fares and living expenses, because Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships do not include funding from the Macgeorge Bequest to the host Department/School.

### 2.2 Conditions of the Honorary Fellowships

The particular conditions of each Macgeorge Honorary Fellowship will be specified in the letter of offer, but it is stipulated that each Macgeorge Honorary Fellow will —

- (a) hold the Honorary Fellowship between 4-8 weeks;
- (b) hold the Honorary Fellowship concurrently with an Honorary appointment as an Academic Visitor to the University of Melbourne under conditions specified separately;
- (c) use the title of 'Macgeorge Honorary Fellow' for the duration of the visiting appointment to the University only;
- (d) spend 80% of their time in residence at 'Ballangeich' during their visit to the University of Melbourne. The value of this accommodation is estimated at \$ 5,000 (the cost of which is supported by the host Department/School and the Macgeorge Bequest Committee);
- (e) make the house available for any University business authorised by the Committee, e.g. open days, committee meetings. Efforts will be made not to interrupt the residency;
- (f) acknowledge the Macgeorge Bequest in any publication, advertisement, public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop issuing from the Honorary Fellowship with the words: *Macgeorge Honorary Fellow.*

(g) Time blocks for 2020/2021 are as follows:

Year	Periods of Residency
2020	5 July to 30 August
2020	6 September to 1 November
2020	8 November to 6 December
2021	31 January to 28 March
2021	4 April to 30 May
2021	6 June to 4 July

### 3. NOMINATION PROCEDURES

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The award of Macgeorge Fellowships and Honorary Fellowships is determined by the Committee which reserves the right to seek nominations through advertisement or direct solicitation.

#### 3.1 Who Can be Nominated?

Macgeorge Fellowships are open to artists, performers, writers or researchers in the visual, creative and performing arts, music, architecture, conservation, literature, creative writing, language, history, philosophy and anthropology.

Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships are open to artists, performers, writers or researchers in the visual, creative and performing arts, music, architecture, conservation, literature, creative writing, language, history, philosophy and anthropology who have great potential in their field.

Nominees can be Australian citizens or citizens of any other country. They must be nominated by an appropriate Department/School of the University of Melbourne to be eligible, and the Department/School must give the nominee an Honorary appointment as an Academic Visitor to the University of Melbourne if the nomination is successful.

#### 3.2 How Can I Make a Nomination?

Nominations should be developed as a partnership between a Department/School of the University of Melbourne and the individual. In making nominations, Departments/Schools must provide in the following order:

- (a) Memorandum/email from the Head/Director including statements about:
  - (i) the merit of the proposed Fellow;
  - (ii) the uniqueness of the opportunity for a visit by the proposed Fellow;
  - (iii) the expected benefits to the host Department/School from the visit by the proposed Fellow, including the anticipated interaction between the nominee and University staff and students;
  - (iv) how the Fellowship would facilitate the visit, and if the visit would take place without the Fellowship;
  - (v) the Department's/School's intention to provide the nominee an Honorary appointment as an Academic Visitor to the University of Melbourne, host a public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop by the nominee, and provide the Committee with a Fellowship report if the nomination is successful.

- (b) Details of the nominee including:
- (i) current curriculum vitae;
  - (ii) website/location where recent work by the nominee can be viewed/heard (the selection of recent work should be as representative as possible).
- (c) Proposed Fellowship program including:
- (i) a two-page description of the proposed project with details of —
    - activities that would be undertaken during the residency;
    - expected outcomes and benefits to both the nominee and the Department/School.

*PLEASE NOTE: The Committee will look favourably upon projects that are developed as a partnership between the nominee and the Department/School;*

    - how a residency at ‘Ballangeich’ would assist the project;
  - (ii) **two (2) sets of proposed residency dates** for the visit at ‘Ballangeich’ being the preferred dates plus the alternate dates. *Please note that Fellowships can not be undertaken prior to July 2020.*

Residencies will be allocated on the basis of time blocks provided and will be subject to availability, so the Committee requests that two sets of preferences are provided to facilitate scheduling. Please indicate if there is any flexibility of arrival and departure dates also. Please see at the end of Item 2 (page 3) for dates.

Nominees should note that August-October is the most frequently requested period of residency, so the Committee encourages the submission of alternate dates that fall outside this period;
  - (iii) proposed title and brief summary of the proposed public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop on topics of interest to the University community (for Macgeorge Fellowships, **not** Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships).
- (d) Proposed budget for the Fellowship itemising a contribution toward the following costs (see Section 5.2) (for Macgeorge Fellowships, not Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships):
- (i) economy class airfare for the nominee for the leg of the trip pertaining to his/her visit to the University of Melbourne only (see Section 5.2.1);
  - (ii) taxi fares/car hire fees for the nominee for the leg of the trip pertaining to his/her visit to the University of Melbourne only (see Section 5.2.1);
  - (iii) advertising fees associated with the public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop by the nominee (see Section 5.2.2);
  - (iv) venue fees associated with the public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop by the nominee (see Section 5.2.3);
  - (v) living expenses of the nominee during the visit to the University (see Section 5.2.4);
  - (vi) any other reasonable expenses associated with the Fellowship. The funding cannot be used for meals, gifts or spouse/partner/family expenses.

*PLEASE NOTE: For Macgeorge Fellowship nominations, all the above points must be included. For Macgeorge Honorary Fellowship nominations, include points 3.2(i)-(iii)b only.*

Applications received directly from individuals without a covering nomination by a Department/School of the University of Melbourne will not be considered. Only **one (1)** copy of the nomination papers is required, and these should be submitted to the Office listed below. If sending by post, the nomination papers should be printed (*please do not submit anything handwritten*), single-spaced, single-sided and stapled once (*please do not place the submission in a folder or plastic sleeves*).

If sending electronically, the nomination papers should be combined as one document. Materials submitted with the nomination will not be returned.

### **3.3 Privacy Policy in Relation to Nominations**

The information we are asking you to provide will be available to and used by the Committee, administrative staff and where necessary professional advisers in order to assess the nominee for a Fellowship. The University has a comprehensive policy addressing issues related to the responsible use, collection and security of, and access to personal information which can be viewed at the following website: <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/unisec/privacy>.

You are entitled to access personal information held by the University under freedom of information laws as explained on the Privacy Officer's web site at <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/unisec/privacy>.

### **3.4 What is the Closing Date for Applications?**

For further information please visit — <https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/governance/macgeorge/macgeorge/> .

The deadline for submitting applications is **Wednesday, 4 September 2019, at 5.00 pm**.

## **4. SELECTION PROCESS**

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The number of Macgeorge Fellowships and Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships to be offered in any year shall be determined by the Committee. The Committee reserves the right not to award Fellowships in any given year if it sees fit. The selection process will be undertaken annually by members of the Committee. The Committee seeks to appoint Macgeorge Fellowships and Honorary Fellowships in the year preceding their arrival. Departments/Schools will be advised in writing of the outcome of their nomination.

## **5. OBLIGATIONS OF THE HOST DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL/FACULTY**

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### **5.1 Hosting the Visit**

For Macgeorge Fellowships, the nominating Department/School/Faculty **must** host the visit to the University by the Fellow including:

- (a) Making arrangements with the Department/School/Faculty for the Honorary appointment of the Fellow as a Visitor (either as an Academic Visitor or Honorary Fellow) to the University of Melbourne including payment of living expenses and assistance with obtaining a visa if required. The latest Department of Home Affairs rules and regulations for the appointment of Visitors can be obtained from the <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/> and the University's "Honorary Appointments and University Visitors Procedure (MPF1156) — <https://policy.unimelb.edu.au/MPF1156>.

*PLEASE NOTE: It is recommended that the successful Fellow seek advice from their nearest Australian Embassy, Consulate or High Commissioner's Office as to the appropriate visa for their visit and activities.*

- (b) Providing access to the University's libraries, internet and email facilities for the period of the fellowship.
- (c) Booking accommodation at 'Ballangeich'.
- (d) Making travel arrangements for the Fellow.
- (e) Organising a public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop by the Fellow.
- (f) Promoting the Fellow's visit and the public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop.
- (g) Preparing the house with provisions and setting up any equipment for the Fellow's arrival.
- (h) Greeting the Fellow upon arrival, and facilitating his/her interaction with the University community and entry to 'Ballangeich'.
- (i) Introducing the Fellow to the Chair of the Committee.

For Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships, the above hosting obligations apply in so far as access to the University's resources, interaction with the University community and entry to 'Ballangeich'. Making a contribution toward travel fares and living expenses and arrangements for a public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop are not required for Honorary Fellowships.

#### 5.1.1 Making an Honorary Appointment

For both Macgeorge Fellowships and Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships, the host Department/School/Faculty should arrange with Human Resources the honorary appointment of the Fellow as a Visitor (either as an Academic Visitor or Honorary Fellow) to the University of Melbourne. The host Department/School/Faculty is responsible for making the Visitor appointment.

- (a) Please follow the link — <https://staff.unimelb.edu.au/human-resources/honorary-and-university-guest-appointments>

To access the link above, you will need to be a current staff member as login is required to the Staff Portal.

*PLEASE NOTE: It is recommended that the successful Honorary Fellow seek advice from their nearest Australian Embassy, Consulate or High Commissioner's Office as to the appropriate visa for their visit and activities.*

Further details about Honorary appointments should be obtained from the Department's/School's HR consultant. See Section 5.2.4 (below) also.

### 5.1.2 Booking and Preparing the Accommodation

The Committee will make the Macgeorge house, 'Ballangeich' (contact details will be provided in the Fellowship confirmation letter to the host Department/School), available to the Fellow for a residency period. It cannot exceed 8 weeks or extend beyond the period of the Honorary appointment. Dates of the residency must be negotiated with the Committee in advance of the Fellow's arrival by providing proposed dates in the Fellowship nomination.

The Committee will allocate residencies to successful Fellows on the basis of preferred dates, but these are subject to availability. Confirmation of residency dates will be sent in writing to the host Department/School after the Committee has finalised the annual residency schedule. Any subsequent changes to the residency dates must be discussed with the Executive Officer (contact details below) to avoid overlap with other residents and activities at the house.

After receiving written confirmation of residency dates from the Committee, the host Department/School should liaise with the Executive Officer of the Committee of Management (contact details will be provided in the Fellowship confirmation letter to the host Department/School) to facilitate the Fellow's entry to 'Ballangeich' by picking up the keys and providing directions/escort to the house. This should be done at least 2-3 days in advance of picking up the keys.

The keys will be made available for approved Fellowships for the agreed period of residency only. At the conclusion of the residency, residents **must** return the house keys to the Caretaker or lock the keys inside the house upon departure. The keys are the property of the University, so must not be replicated or retained by residents at the end of the residency.

Host Departments/Schools should visit the house to prepare it for the Fellow's arrival. The kitchen and laundry cupboards will contain some basic items. Host Departments/Schools should supplement these with additional provisions to assist the Fellow in his/her first days of residence. These purchases should be charged against the Departmental/School Themis group code for the Fellowship.

Thereafter, residents are expected to provide their own grocery and personal items for the duration of their residency. Domestic linen such as bed sheets and towels are provided at the house. A cleaner hired by the University, will clean and tidy the house once during the week preceding the Fellow's arrival.

The Caretaker of the house (contact details will be provided in the Fellowship confirmation letter to the host Department/School) lives in the flat beneath the main residence of the house, and will be happy to assist with general house matters.

### 5.1.3 Equipment

The house is equipped with a desktop computer, printer, wireless connection and telephone. A University IT officer will visit the house before the Fellow's arrival to inspect and prepare the equipment for the Fellow's use. This includes checking remote access to University systems, installing any specialist software and providing printing cartridges, paper and other stationery etc. These items should be charged against the Departmental/School Themis group code for the Fellowship.

There is a wireless connection established at the House. Any queries about IT equipment at the house should be addressed to the Executive Officer. Any queries about telephones at the house should be addressed to the Executive Officer (contact details will be provided in the Fellowship confirmation letter to the host Department/School).

#### 5.1.4 Organising the Public Lecture/Performance and Departmental/School Seminar/Postgraduate Workshop

The host Department/School should organise the public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop by the Macgeorge Fellow. The topics will be the choice of the Fellow, but are expected to be of interest to the University community.

The host Department/School should book the seminar and lecture venue at the University through the University's Venue Management Office at — <https://services.unimelb.edu.au/venuehire>. See Section 5.2.2 below.

It should be noted that Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships **do not** require to deliver a public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop, however, it is optional for the Honorary Fellow.

#### 5.1.5 Promoting the Visit

The host Department/School should promote the Fellow's visit, especially the public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop through — <http://events.unimelb.edu.au>.

The Committee requests that all promotions and advertisements acknowledge the Macgeorge Bequest with the phrase: *Supported by the Macgeorge Bequest* (see Section 1.2.ix above), and that invitation lists to these events include the Committee members (contact details will be provided in the Fellowship confirmation letter to the host Department/School).

#### 5.1.6 Introducing the Fellow

The host Department/School should facilitate the Fellow's interaction with the University community. This should include an introduction to the Committee Chair (contact details will be provided in the Fellowship confirmation letter to the host Department/School). The host Department/School should make an appointment on campus for the Chair to greet the Fellow briefly on behalf of the Committee.

## 5.2 **Funding Arrangements**

The Committee of Management will contribute up to \$ 10,000 toward the cost of a Macgeorge Fellowship (but not a Macgeorge Honorary Fellowship). It is intended that this amount will contribute toward the expenditure items listed under Section 3.2(iv) and any other reasonable expenses associated with the Fellowship.

The Fellow will not receive the full \$ 10,000, because this funding contributes toward several costs including those accrued by the host Department/School in hosting the Fellowship. The actual value of the funding will depend on the proposed length of stay, the cost of air and taxi fares and associated expenses. *The host Department/School is required to draw up a budget based on Fellowship funding of the amount awarded, incorporating the items of expenditure listed under section 3.2(iv).* This budget must be included in the Fellowship nomination.

*PLEASE NOTE: Funding cannot be used for meals, gifts or spouse/partner/family expenses.*

It is required that funding from the Macgeorge Bequest be accurately recorded and appropriately spent for auditing and accountability. Therefore, the host Department/School/Faculty must establish a separate Themis group code for the Fellowship against which expenditure can be made, and against which the Committee of Management will make reimbursement to this host Department/School/Faculty from the funding allocation. Reimbursement will be made after the Committee of Management has received from the Department/School/Faculty a Fellowship report including the breakdown of the approved items of expenditure for the Fellowship (see Section 5.3 below).

It should be noted that no funding contribution will be made toward Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships.

### **5.2.1 Travel Fares**

For Macgeorge Fellowships, the funding allocation includes the cost of an economy class, return airfare for the Fellow. This will be for the leg of the trip pertaining to the Fellowship only. Thereafter for local trips in Melbourne, the host Department/School may choose to issue cab charge vouchers or hire a car for the Fellow to drive.

The host Department/School should use its Departmental/School corporate card to pay for the airfare and car hire fee, and charge this against the Departmental/School Themis group code for the Fellowship. Taxis should be paid with Departmental/School cab charge vouchers. Alternatively, the Department/School can later obtain from the Fellow the itemised, original, tax receipts showing the Fellow's payment of the car hire fees, taxi and airfares, and reimburse the Fellow directly. The receipt should clearly itemise the fare, tax and its status as 'paid'. These travel fares and hiring fees should be charged against the Departmental/School Themis group code for the Fellowship.

*PLEASE NOTE: Funding cannot be used for spouse/partner/family expenses.*

It should be noted that Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships do not entail funding from the Macgeorge Bequest, so do not provide for a contribution to travel expenses.

### **5.2.2 Venue Fees**

For Macgeorge Fellowships, the funding allocation includes a contribution toward venue fees associated with the public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop by the Fellow.

Venues can be booked via the University's Venue Management Office. Further details at <https://services.unimelb.edu.au/venuehire> can be found. Charges may be made for cleaning and onsite support.

It should be noted that Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships do not require delivery of a public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop. This is optional. Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships do not entail funding from the Macgeorge Bequest, so do not provide for venue fees.

### 5.2.3 Living Allowance

For Macgeorge Fellowships, the host Department/School should advise Human Resources of the payment of a living allowance for the Honorary appointment of the Fellow. The living allowance must be charged against the Departmental/School Themis group code for the Fellowship. The amount for the living allowance should have been calculated in the budget submitted with the nomination papers (see Section 5.2). All payments will be in support of travel and reasonable accommodation and living expenses as per University Policy. Please note that the living allowance is paid through accounts payable.

A guide to the 'Visitor Living Allowance' for international visitors, based on advice from the Australian Taxation Office, can be requested from the Finance and Planning Group.

It should be noted that Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships do not entail funding from the Macgeorge Bequest, so do not provide for living expenses.

### 5.3 Providing a Fellowship Report

The host Department/School must provide the Committee with a report on the outcome of the Fellowship including details of the —

- (a) project undertaken by the Fellow during the Fellowship;
- (b) public lecture/performance and Departmental/School seminar/postgraduate workshop delivered by the Fellow;
- (c) Fellow's interaction with staff and students;
- (d) Fellow's residency at 'Ballangeich';
- (e) Departmental/School/Faculty expenditure for the Fellowship. Please ask the host Department/School/Faculty Finance Officer to provide a covering statement of the total amount for which the Department/School/Faculty is seeking reimbursement with a breakdown of the expenditure items, and attach as documentation a printout from Themis that itemises the expenses and shows the Departmental/School Themis group code for the Fellowship. Reimbursement will be made after the Committee of Management has received the report and approved the items of expenditure.

The reconciliation and Fellowship report must be submitted to the Executive Officer within **two (2)** months after the conclusion of the Fellowship.

## 6. THE MACGEORGE BEQUEST

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### 6.1 Norman and May Macgeorge

Norman Macgeorge, artist and patron of the arts, lived at Fairy Hills, Ivanhoe, with his wife May from 1911 until his death in 1952. May was a fellow artist and granddaughter of overlander pastoralist and ships Captain John Hepburn (which he pronounced "Hebburn") 1800-1860 who built Smeaton House in central Victoria, a Colonial Regency Style Georgian building dated 1849-50, and now registered by the National Trust of Australia.<sup>1</sup> Further information about Norman and May Macgeorge is provided by the Ian Potter Museum of Art at —  
<http://www.art-museum.unimelb.edu.au/collection/named-collections/namecol/9>.

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<sup>1</sup> Marginson, Ray D, 'Welcome to the Macgeorge House', pamphlet, Parkville, The University of Melbourne, 12 April 1984.

On the death of May Macgeorge in 1970, the joint intention cherished by the Macgeorges and expressed in their wills came into effect. This was to leave to the University of Melbourne their house and land, furniture, paintings, books and all effects, together with some capital.

The bequest was to enable the fulfilment of their wish to promote the arts at the University of Melbourne, especially postgraduate study of the arts, and to ensure their house, which had for many years been a centre for encouragement of the arts, continue to be such. The Macgeorge Fellowships are funded by the Macgeorge Bequest.

## 6.2 'Ballangeich', the Macgeorge House

### 6.2.1 Architecture and Furnishing

In 1910 about one month after becoming engaged to May, Norman Macgeorge purchased a sub-division of the Fairy Hills estate in Melbourne. The land measured 0.762 hectares and was located at the junction of the Yarra River and the Darebin Creek.

He engaged the architect Harold Desbrowe-Annear to design a house on the large lot, and called it 'Ballangeich' after his boyhood home in Adelaide. Desbrowe-Annear was an exponent of the Arts and Crafts movement. The interior of the Macgeorge house features rich timber panels and floorboards. The living room and main bedroom are brightened by light through extensive windows looking over the landscaped garden and river. Timber doors, built-in furniture and cupboards, bracketed plate rails and timber mantle pieces over the fireplaces were some of the Arts and Crafts features installed by Desbrowe-Annear. The Macgeorges further furnished the house in the Arts and Crafts style, most notably the huge iron hood for the fireplace in the living room made by Norman Macgeorge and the custom built furniture of their own design.

Given their extensive social circle and contacts in the art world of Melbourne, the house became a cultural centre visited by many notables of the era.<sup>2</sup>

Since bequeathed to the University of Melbourne in 1970 upon the death of May Macgeorge, the Macgeorge house has been subject to a continuing maintenance program in keeping with the original design and underwent major capital restoration works during 2012. Today it is a classified historic building of three bedrooms and a number of additional rooms. There are no dedicated studio facilities.

### 6.2.2 Garden

It had been thought for many years the formal garden layout was originally designed by Blamire Young. It has since been uncovered the garden was originally designed by Harold Desbrowe-Annear along with the house.

When Norman and May Macgeorge lived at 'Ballangeich', the front garden had a traditional layout with a circular driveway defined by beds of perennials, two circular oak lawns, small flower beds of annuals near the front door and, to the east side, a rose garden and orchard.

It was the rear garden leading down to the river that broke with tradition. When the Macgeorges purchased the land, it had been almost completely cleared of native vegetation, except for the river red gums near the creek.

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<sup>2</sup> Edquist, Harriet, 'An Up-to-Date Artist's Home', *Norman Macgeorge: Man of Art*, Parkville, Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne, 1991, pp.24-34.

They subsequently introduced sugar gums and other native plants to develop one of the early bush gardens of Melbourne in their increasing appreciation of flora and wildlife of the area.<sup>3</sup>

In 1994, the University of Melbourne undertook an extensive program of re-vegetation of the gardens aimed to beautify the property, create habitat and food sources for native wildlife, preserve rare, old and significant plant species, reintroduce other indigenous plant species, remove weeds that were competing with native plants for resources, and combat erosion near the river bank. In keeping with the theme of the domestic bush garden, the focus was on native vegetation.

Native plants that naturally occurred within the Ivanhoe Yarra Valley area were grown from seed collected locally, and planted in the thousands on the Macgeorge estate: wattles, native grasses, lilies, native daisies and pea-flowering shrubs to complement the original River Red Gums, Tree Violets, Wallaby Grass and Blackwoods.<sup>4</sup>

### 6.2.3 Bird Life

A survey of bird species observed at the Macgeorge House was undertaken in 1995-6 by Dr Colin Barraclough, then Lecturer in Chemistry at the University of Melbourne and President of the Bird Observer's Club of Australia. Dr Barraclough visited the site for one hour every eight weeks to record species seen during the visit.

He recorded varied and vibrant bird life on the property and along the river.<sup>5</sup> The 2005 Macgeorge Fellow, Professor Julian Henderson identified a total of 45 species in and around the property.<sup>6</sup>

### 6.2.4 Open House Days

At the discretion of the Committee, 'Ballangeich' may be opened to the public. These Open Days will be advertised and notices will be sent to University staff and other interested groups.

## 6.3 Management of the Bequest

The University entrusted the administration of the Macgeorge Bequest to a Committee of Management under University Trust Record (UTR 7.98), with responsibility to maintain the house and grounds and to provide for its use in accordance with the intentions of Norman and May Macgeorge. This Committee is made up of senior academics, curators, administrators and financial advisors. University Trust Record (UTR 7.98) is located at — [www.unimelb.edu.au/unisec/utr/utr7.html](http://www.unimelb.edu.au/unisec/utr/utr7.html).

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<sup>3</sup> Edquist, pp 34-37.

<sup>4</sup> De Preu, Fiona, 'Macgeorge House: Landcare Environment Action Program', report to the Macgeorge Bequest Committee of Management, Parkville, the University of Melbourne, 26 June 1995.

<sup>5</sup> De Preu, Fiona, 'Macgeorge House: Grounds Report 1995', report to the Macgeorge Bequest Committee of Management, Parkville, the University of Melbourne, 26 June 1995.

<sup>6</sup> Sear, Frank, report to the Macgeorge Bequest Committee of Management on the Macgeorge Fellowship held by Julian Henderson, Parkville, the University of Melbourne, 9 January 2007.

## 7. FURTHER INFORMATION

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For further information please visit —

<https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/governance/macgeorge/macgeorge/>

Please address queries and submit nominations and Fellowship reports to:

Liz Nelson  
Executive Officer University  
Governance The University  
of Melbourne Victoria 3010

Email: [lnelson@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:lnelson@unimelb.edu.au)

For artists and curators, initial inquiries about the Macgeorge Fellowships and Macgeorge Honorary Fellowships may be directed to the Director, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne. However, the awarding of fellowships is not administered by the Ian Potter Museum of Art, nor do fellowships entail an exhibition at the Ian Potter Museum of Art. The Fellowships should not be understood as an artist-in-residence programme.

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