

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Application**

**Question:** How can I send you my supporting documents?

**Answer:** Please send your documents by email.

## **Certification**

**Question:** Do you need my original academic transcripts?

**Answer:** No, we do not need the original version. A copy of the original document will need to be sent to the AASC electronically, it will need to be certified. For information on certification please look at page 5 of the 2017 Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship Guidelines.

## **Eligibility**

**Question:** I have a Bachelor's Degree, is the fellowship open for a Bachelor Degree holder like me?

**Answer:** Applicants must have a PhD to be eligible.

## **Fields of study**

**Question:** I can't see the list of eligible fields of study for the Fellowship. Would the fields of Archaeology/Cultural Heritage Management/Anthropology be included?

**Answer:** There is no restriction on eligible fields of study - this is entirely open. Therefore the fields of study that you have suggested are fine.

## **Finding a sponsoring institution and academic**

**Question:** I would like to ask how to get a nominated Supervisor from an Australian academic institution.

**Answer:** We recommend contacting research offices of universities you would like to partner with or contacting Professors directly. We can provide a list of the research offices of top Australian universities on request, all of whose information is publicly available. In Australia the list of expertise of academics and their contact details are easily accessible.

**Question:** Do I have to make the connection with an Australian academic institution and/or organization?

**Answer:** Yes, you must make contact with an Australian institution or university to find an academic sponsor. Contacting the office of the university you would like to partner with may be a good starting point. This information is all publicly available, as is what academics specialize in.

**Question:** I have not had any response from the universities that I have contacted. Do you have any suggestions?

**Answer:** Perhaps you could follow up with a phone call or contact a different academic.

## **Funding**

**Question:** I am an international student looking for a scholarship. I searched the available bursaries and scholarships on my universities website, but unfortunately did not find any relevant one. I was wondering if you can assist me to find some financial resources.

**Answer:** If you're ineligible for the Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship but are looking for other scholarships have a look at: <https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/global/australian-education/scholarships>. It has useful information and opportunities on Australia wide scholarships for international students.

## **Language**

**Question:** I see in the guidelines that I have to submit either an IELTS or TOEFL score, but unfortunately I don't have any of them. However, I did complete my Bachelor's Degree in English.

**Answer:** IELTS or TOEFL results are not required if you have completed a degree in English abroad at an English speaking university.

**Question:** The information for this scholarship outlines that English language scores are required but does not specify an actual level that is required. Could you clarify this for me? Does the applicant need to meet a specific score?

**Answer:** The language level is what is deemed necessary by the sponsoring university or institution. The fellowship can even be undertaken in the applicants local language if supported by the sponsoring institution.

## **Location**

**Question:** I would like to ask about the place of study/research in Australia. Can it be in any Australian institution or only for specific universities?

**Answer:** The sponsoring organization can be any university or research institution in Australia.

**Question:** I wanted to confirm that only researchers who don't currently reside in Australia are eligible to apply.

**Answer:** Applicants with citizenship from the 10 specified countries are eligible to apply. They will still be eligible if they are currently located in Australia but must not be permanent residents of Australia.

## **Permanent residents of Australia**

**Question:** I am a citizen of Indonesia but currently I am a permanent resident of Australia, can I still apply?

**Answer:** No, unfortunately applicants who are permanent residents of Australia are not eligible to apply.

## **PhD Students**

**Question:** I am a Professor; would my student be eligible to apply for this fellowship while she waits for the outcome of her application to study a second PhD at an Australian university?

**Answer:** Yes she can apply while she waits but eligible applicants of the fellowship cannot be in the process of starting, or currently undertaking studies, or their second PhD in your student's case so if she is successful with both she will need to pick undertaking the fellowship and delay her second PhD.

**Question:** I have a Master's degree and am currently a third year PhD student and expect to graduate and get my PhD degree at the end of this year. Am I eligible for the application?

**Answer:** If your PhD will be conferred by April 2017 then you are eligible to apply. If this is not the case then please feel free to apply after you have obtained your PhD in next year's round.

**Question:** Based on the application close date of 3 April, technically I wouldn't have a PhD at that time, as I am due to finish in August. Accordingly, the outcome wouldn't be confirmed potentially until 30 September. Under these circumstances, do you know if I am still eligible to apply?

**Answer:** You are eligible to apply if your thesis is conferred by April 2017.

**Question:** I was born in Mexico, my sole citizenship is Mexican, but I recently completed my PhD in Australia and I am still living in this country. My visa will come to an end in a couple of months. I am wondering if the fact that I completed my PhD here would be a problem for the eligibility.

**Answer:** No, there is no problem that you completed your PhD in Australia. You are still eligible.

**Question:** I am an Indonesian citizen and hold a PhD degree. I am finishing postdoctoral research and would like to apply for the fellowship. Would I be eligible to apply for the fellowship, taking into consideration that I have already been doing postdoc in Australia?

**Answer:** If your research is finished by June 2017 you will be eligible to apply.

### **Research topic**

**Question:** Do we (applicants) have to come out with new research project or we can continue to expand the current research that we are on?

**Answer:** You may expand on current research but must design a well-defined research program with anticipated outcomes when you apply.

### **Time**

**Question:** I have an applicant who wants to know if this application is for one year or four years? If this application starts July 2016 or July every year within 2015-2019.

**Answer:** No, the length of the fellowship is between 1 and 4 months only. For example winners of the 2017 round are required to start their program between July and December 2017. There are up to 10 winners a year.

**Question:** Do we have to finish the project within four months?

**Answer:** Yes, the funding will end after 4 months, you may design a project that finishes within this timeframe then work on related projects in your home economy though.

**Question:** When it is stated that 'the project must be finished within four months' does it mean the data collection, analysis and report should be ready within four months or does it depend on what we put in the anticipated outcomes? e.g. completed data collection in Australian samples, analysis and draft for journal publication.

**Answer:** On your application form you must design a program that can be completed within four months and is supported by your sponsoring institution. This fellowship is designed to benefit your own research needs so perhaps it can be the data collection element and first analysis of samples. The program which is designed by you with agreement from your nominated supervisor needs to be doable in this timeframe.

## **Visas**

**Question:** My Australian visa will come to an end in April but I am wondering if it would be a good idea to try to extend my stay (legally of course) in case I win this fellowship. If that scenario is possible, do you think I could have a letter saying I am waiting on the outcome of this fellowship? Or would you suggest to better return to my home country in case I get this fellowship, to benefit from the travel allowance and establishment allowance?

**Answer:** We recommend that you return to your home country. There is a generous travel allowance for travel included in the fellowship to fund your travel to Australia.

**Question:** Does the fellowship pay for the visa of the applicant and her family members?

**Answer:** The fellowship provides significant monetary allowances which will cover visa costs.