

Sir Roland Wilson PhD scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions

Sir Roland Wilson Foundation

Find out more about the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation and our scholarships on our [website](#) or by [contacting us](#) on: srw.foundation@anu.edu.au

1. Who is eligible for the Sir Roland Wilson scholarship?

The Sir Roland Wilson PhD scholarship is available to high performing Public Service (APS) employees who have been at the substantive EL1 or EL2 level for a minimum of three years' service. Service does not have to be continuous, or with a single agency. Successful applicants study a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at Australian National University (ANU).

Read more about the application process on our [website](#).

2. What does the scholarship include?

While on the scholarship, scholars are paid their full salary by their agency, including superannuation. They are invited to networking and professional development opportunities throughout their scholarship. As per the [ANU Conditions of Award](#), scholars can access up to \$40,000 to undertake [international travel](#) related to their research, and a \$5,000 [professional development fund](#) available during the last 12 months of their scholarship, and the first 12 months after returning to their agency.

Scholars enter into a Deed of Agreement with their agency, which details the entitlements scholars receive while completing their study.

For more information, including a draft Deed of Agreement, download the [applicant information pack](#) from our website.

3. Can I complete a PhD at a University other than ANU?

No, to be eligible for this scholarship you must be enrolled in a PhD program at ANU. However, you may be able to have members of your academic supervision panel from another university; you will need to discuss this with your panel chair/primary supervisor.

4. How do I apply for a PhD program at ANU and how long does it take to complete an application?

When you apply for a PhD program at ANU, you will apply to the [college or school](#) offering research in the area you want to study. ANU has a number of colleges and research schools, so the PhD application process can vary depending on the college or school where you apply.

Begin your application by looking at the general process of applying for a PhD program, available on the [ANU website](#).

Once you have done this, contact the colleges that offer research in your area of interest, as well as any academic supervisors you want to work with.

5. How do I know which college and/or school to apply to?

You should apply to the [college or school](#) that most closely aligns with your proposed research topic.

Be aware your research topic may intersect multiple research schools or colleges, so you may want to contact multiple areas in the University who could have an interest in your topic. For example, your research topic could address a legal question in relation to public policy. This may fit under both the ANU College of Law and the Crawford School of Public Policy (ANU College of Asia and the Pacific).

6. How do I find a supervisor?

You can find researcher profiles on the websites of each research school or college. Alternatively, you can visit the [ANU researcher database](#).

7. Does my supervisor have to be from ANU?

Most PhD students are guided by a supervisory panel of two or more supervisors. Your primary supervisor should be from ANU, but often you can approach secondary or other supervisors from different universities.

You will need to check with the college or school where you plan to study your PhD to check any supervisor requirements they have.

8. What are the key dates in the application process?

You need to submit your formal PhD application to ANU the year **before** you wish to commence your study. Refer to the key dates on our [website](#) for the deadline details.

This timeline means you can receive a letter of offer, if successful, before the selection processes take place in your agency.

If your agency endorses your application, you'll get an invitation for the SRW Foundation selection panel in August. If you're awarded a scholarship, you'll start your studies early the following year.

9. Where can I get help to apply or enrol?

For help with your ANU application, you can contact the college or school you're considering applying to, or speak with your potential academic supervisor. You can also contact the Foundation team for general advice on your application.

You can read guides for enrolling on [the ANU website](#). You can also get assistance to enrol by calling the Student Central Team on 02 6125 5111 or by emailing student@anu.edu.au

10. How many scholarships are available each year?

The number of scholarships awarded varies each year. There are usually at least three scholarships awarded per year.

11. I don't meet the three years' service requirement, but I will at the start of the scholarship. Can I still apply?

Yes. You need to meet the three years' service requirement at the start of your scholarship program, not when you apply.

12. I am an APS 6 but acting as an EL1; am I still eligible to apply for the Sir Roland Wilson Scholarship?

Applicants to the Sir Roland Wilson PhD program must be a substantive EL1 or EL2. We recommend you contact your learning and development team and discuss your options with them.

13. I am a member of the Australian Defence Force; can I apply for this program?

No. Our scholarships are available to Australian Public Service employees, therefore Department of Defence employees are eligible, but Australian Defence Force members are not.

14. Do I use the Sir Roland Wilson application form when I apply for the PhD with ANU?

The Sir Roland Wilson application form is used for your agency's internal process and for consideration by the Foundation selection panel.

You will also need to apply through the ANU process for your PhD.

You can apply for a PhD at ANU through the [application portal](#). Once you've submitted your application to ANU, complete the [SRW application form](#). Send the completed form to your learning and development team and [email](#) your application number to the Foundation.

15. Can I reapply to the scholarship if I was unsuccessful in a previous year?

Yes. Some successful scholars apply more than once for this program. If your application isn't successful, you can request feedback after the selection process and refine your application for the following year.

16. I have already started a PhD program at ANU, can I still apply for the scholarship?

Yes. If you have already completed part of your program you can still apply for a scholarship. If successful, the scholarship would apply for the remainder of your studies.

17. How do I know if my topic is of national significance and strategic importance to the Australian Public Service?

The [applicant information pack](#) lists the Australian Public Service research priorities. You can also discuss your ideas with your supervisor/senior executive to find out if your proposed topic is of interest to your agency. Your potential academic supervisor can also help our refine your topic for your application.

18. How important is the choice of supervisor(s) for a PhD?

You must have identified a primary supervisor, who has agreed to oversee your PhD before applying for the scholarship.

Supervisors are an important part of guiding you through both your research and writing your PhD. Supervisors will also provide you feedback on your research proposal, which will help your overall application.

Even if you complete a large coursework component first before your PhD, you must identify your primary supervisor as part of your application.

19. What do I prioritise—securing support at my agency or defining the PhD research question and approaching a supervisor?

We recommend starting with the research question and identifying a supervisor. However, you should let your agency and your learning and development team know you intend to apply to help coordinate timelines of the application process.

20. Do you continue to be an APS employee while on scholarship?

Yes. While on scholarship you will remain an APS employee, bound by the APS Code of Conduct. The Deed of Agreement scholars enter into with their agency details the conditions of scholarship.

Scholars are paid their normal salary by their agency. Taxation, superannuation and other employment conditions continue to apply (as per the Deed of Agreement). The Australian Public Service Commission provides advice regarding the Deeds of Agreement to scholars' agencies.

21. Is the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation part of ANU or the APS?

The SRW Foundation is a [statutory body](#) of The Australian National University. A Board consisting of ANU, Charles Darwin University and APS representatives is responsible for the governance, management, strategic direction and performance of the Foundation.

You can read more about our board on our [website](#).

22. Who funds the Foundation and the scholarships?

The Foundation was established in 1998 by a donation from the Wilson family. The scholarships and the Foundation are funded through the interest earned on the donation from the Wilson Family and the contribution of the Foundation's partners, ANU and the APS

23. Who was Sir Roland Wilson?

Sir Roland Wilson was a renowned academic, economist and public servant. Born in Tasmania in 1904, Wilson was a Rhodes scholar and completed a PhD at both Oxford University and the University of Chicago. After a short academic career, he joined the Australian Public Service in 1932. He served as Commonwealth Statistician, then and as the Secretary of the Department of Labour and National Service where he contributed to the economic approach to WWII. In 1951, he was appointed Secretary of the Treasury—Wilson remains our longest serving Treasury Secretary with 16 years service. Wilson was awarded a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in 1941, a Knight Bachelor in 1955, and Knight Commander of the British Empire (KBE) in 1965.