



2024-25 Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner Scholarship

Information Pack

The Sir Roland Wilson Foundation ('the Foundation') Pat Turner Scholarship ('the scholarship') enhances the capability of the Australian Public Service (APS) by supporting the development of strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders through high-quality research and skills training, building on the legacy of Pat Turner AM.

Offered at The Australian National University (ANU) and Charles Darwin University (CDU), the scholarship supports high performing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander APS employees to complete postgraduate coursework or Higher Degree Research (Master of Philosophy or Doctor of Philosophy) on topics of national and global significance and relevance to the APS.

The Foundation awards full pay scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander APS employees at the APS4 to SES Band 1 level.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must:

- be a substantive APS 4 to SES Band 1 level APS employee
- have at least three years' service in the APS
- have identified within your APS agency as a First Nations Australian
- have been admitted into a postgraduate coursework or Higher Degree Research (HDR) program at ANU or CDU.

Selection criteria

Selection is based on the outcome of the interview in conjunction with the application form, previous academic record, academic supervisor agreement (Higher Degree Research only – Master of Philosophy or Doctor of Philosophy) and APS recommendation and endorsement, and on the basis of:

- the overall merits of the applicant
- a record of high performance within the APS and leadership potential (commensurate with the level and duration of employment)
- a demonstrated commitment to the pursuit of a career in the APS
- academic credentials and a capacity to conduct high quality, sustained study
- identification of an area of study that is of priority public interest, of relevance and enduring interest for the APS.

Two intakes annually

We offer two intakes per year for Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner coursework scholarships – in Semester 1 and Semester 2.

The Foundation offers one intake per year for Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner Higher Degree Research scholarships – in Semester 1.

Semester 2 2024 applications – coursework only

Candidates wishing to begin a postgraduate coursework program at ANU or CDU in **Semester 2 2024** should apply to their chosen university by 31 December 2023.

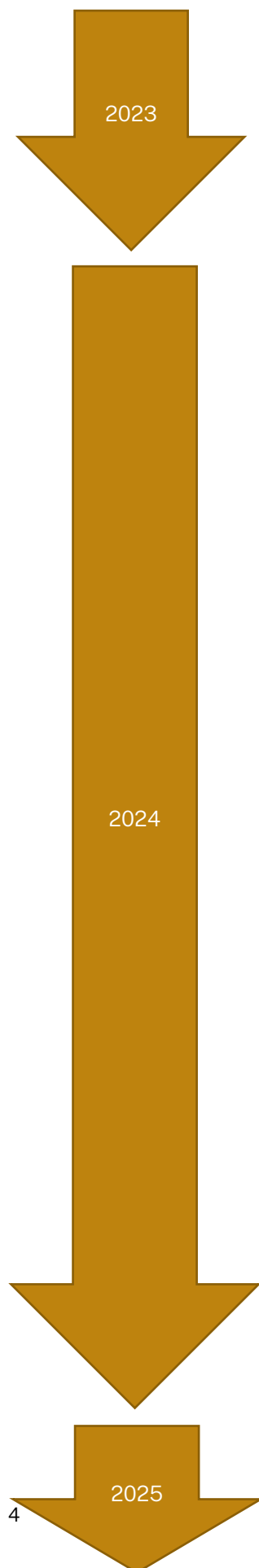
Semester 1 2025 applications – coursework and higher degree research (eg Master by Research or PhD)

Candidates wishing to begin any level of postgraduate study (coursework or research) at ANU or CDU in **Semester 1 2025** should apply to their chosen university by 31 March 2024.

Scholarship application and selection stages

	Semester 2 2024 (Coursework only)	Semester 1 2025 (All applicants - coursework and research)
<p>Stage 1 - apply to ANU and/or CDU</p> <p>Candidates submit a completed application to ANU or CDU for admission into a postgraduate coursework or Higher Degree Research program</p>	<p>Applications due to the university 31 December 2023</p>	<p>Applications due to the university 31 March 2024</p>
<p>Stage 2 – agency application</p> <p>Upon receiving a letter of offer from ANU/CDU, candidates submit a completed Sir Roland Wilson Foundation scholarship application form to their APS agency (contact your agency for exact timeframes). Agencies conduct internal selections.</p>	<p>Applications due January/ February 2024</p> <p>(check exact dates with your agency)</p>	<p>Applications due May/ June 2024</p> <p>(check exact dates with your agency)</p>
<p>Stage 3 – SRW Foundation shortlisting and interviews</p> <p>Agencies send endorsed nominations to the Foundation. The Foundation shortlists candidates for interview.</p>	<p>April 2024</p>	<p>August 2024</p>
<p>Stage 4 – Outcomes</p> <p>Successful candidates offered a scholarship.</p>	<p>May 2024 (for commencement in July 2024)</p>	<p>September 2024 (for commencement in February 2025)</p>

Application process timeline



October - November

- 11 October - online information session and applications open
- 23 November – online information session

December

- Semester 2 2024 intake: coursework candidates for Semester 2 2024 must apply to ANU or CDU by 31 December 2023 and email their university application number to srw.foundation@anu.edu.au.

January - February

- Semester 2 2024 intake: Candidates submit Sir Roland Wilson Foundation scholarship application form to your agency
- Online information session

March

- Semester 2 2024 intake: internal agency selection – coursework candidates
- Semester 1 2025 intake: Coursework, MPhil and PhD candidates for Semester 1 2025 must apply to ANU or CDU by 31 March 2024 and email their university application number to srw.foundation@anu.edu.au

April

- Semester 2 2024 intake: agencies send endorsed applications to the Foundation. Foundation selection panel reviews nominations and conducts interviews with shortlisted candidates.

May-June

- Semester 2 2024 intake: candidates notified of outcomes
- Semester 1 2025 intake: internal agency selection processes.

July

- Semester 2 2024 intake: Commencement of studies and scholarship program Semester 2, 2024
- Semester 1 2025 intake: agencies send endorsed applications to the Foundation by 12 July. Foundation selection panel reviews nominations and shortlists candidates for interview.

August

- Semester 1 2025 intake: Foundation selection panel conducts interviews. Candidates and agencies notified of the outcomes.

February (2025)

- Semester 1 2025 intake: Commencement of studies and scholarship program Semester 1, 2025.

Stage 1: Apply to ANU and/or CDU

Applying for a postgraduate program at ANU

ANU postgraduate coursework programs include Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas and Masters. Some coursework programs may involve a research component or large project. Find out more about the [programs and courses](#) at ANU.

Submit your postgraduate program application through the [ANU website](#). Applications generally take between six to eight weeks to assess.

If you're applying for a PhD or MPhil program, you will need to submit your application to the ANU school or college where you want to study. Applications take at least eight weeks to assess.

ANU has [seven academic colleges](#). Refer to each colleges' website for information about how to apply.

Applying for a postgraduate program at CDU

CDU postgraduate coursework programs include Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas and Masters. Some coursework programs may involve a research component or large project. Read about the [courses](#) offered and how to apply to study at CDU.

[Submit your postgraduate application](#) through the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC) or the University Admissions Centre (UAC), if you're from NSW.

If you're applying for a Master by Research or PhD program at CDU, you will need to submit a HDR application and a referee report. Find out how to apply for a CDU [Higher Degree by Research](#).

Developing a research proposal (PhD and MPhil applicants)

You are strongly encouraged to discuss your proposed research project with your APS supervisor, SES and any other relevant APS areas before applying. As part of your proposal, you may have to obtain permission to access and use APS or agency-specific data. The Foundation encourages you to discuss data access with your agency as early as possible.

The quality of your research proposal will be a factor in determining whether you are offered a place in a PhD or MPhil program. Your research proposal should be viewed as a starting point for your PhD or MPhil project. In your first year of candidature you will develop a refined research proposal through detailed literature reviews, coursework, and supervisory input.

The Foundation is hosting a Higher Degree Research proposal writing workshop with Professor Inger Mewburn 28 November 2023. For more information and to register, visit srwfoundation.anu.edu.au/events.

You can find initial guidance about writing an ANU research proposal on the [ANU website](#). You can find information on CDU PhD applications on the [CDU website](#).

Professor Inger Mewburn's blog, [The Thesis Whisperer](#), is also a useful resource.

Research topics (PhD and MPhil applicants)

Your research topic should be of national significance and strategic importance or immediate relevance to specific agencies, or the APS more broadly.

You should consult your agency for information on their research priorities.

Choosing an ANU academic supervisor (PhD and MPhil applicants)

Once you have decided on your research topic, you will need to identify a potential supervisor using the ANU Researcher Database.

ANU has [seven academic colleges](#). Refer to each colleges' website for the best way to contact potential supervisors.

Choosing a CDU academic supervisor (PhD and MPhil applicants)

All CDU HDR candidates will need a panel of three supervisors, however focus on finding a principal supervisor to guide you through your candidature.

There are supervisors listed under different research themes on the CDU [HDR landing page](#). You may need to investigate whether there are researchers available in your preferred field. The CDU [Researcher Portal](#) can help direct you to other areas researchers are working in. Each staff profile also indicates if the researcher can supervise a higher degree researcher.

Email CDU HDR inquiries to hdrsupport@cdu.edu.au.

Stage 2: Apply to your agency

Internal selection process

Agencies are responsible for selecting candidates who meet the scholarship criteria. Each agency forms a Senior Executive Service (SES) selection panel to shortlist candidates.

Agencies consider the following selection criteria when shortlisting applicants:

- the overall merits of the applicant
- a record of high performance within the APS and leadership potential (commensurate with the level and duration of employment)
- a demonstrated commitment to the pursuit of a career in the APS
- academic credentials and a capacity to conduct high quality, sustained study
- identification of an area of study that is of priority public interest, of relevance and enduring interest for the APS.

Stage 3: Foundation shortlisting and interview

Agencies provide endorsed applications to the Foundation for shortlisting. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview with a panel consisting of Foundation Board members, senior APS leaders and academics.

Stage 4: Outcomes

Successful candidates will be offered a scholarship to commence in July of the current year (coursework only) or February the following year (HDR and coursework). Scholarship recipients will sign a Deed of Agreement with the agency and a Conditions of Award scholarship agreement with the University.

Additional information

Scholarship duration

Scholarships are for one to three years, depending on the length of the program, less any period of enrolment already undertaken for the qualification, or such shorter period as is stated in the letter of offer. Scholars studying a PhD program may request an extension of up to 12 months; however, any extensions also need approval from the scholar's agency. Scholars completing a coursework program cannot request extensions to their program.

Scholars must work with the Foundation and their agencies to ensure all academic and agency leave is aligned. All non-program time is to be reported to your agency as leave, as per expectations outlined in the Deed of Agreement.

For coursework scholars, unless otherwise agreed, inter-semester breaks should be accounted as annual (or other) leave from the agency. End of year breaks should also be accounted as annual (or other) leave or may require a temporary return to agency duty. Discuss these circumstances with your agency coordinator.

Research scholars are permitted 20 days of non-program time (i.e. recreational leave) each year, to be reported to your agency as annual (or other) leave.

Administrative arrangements

Scholars and their agency enter into a Deed of Agreement stipulating the agency's conditions of release for you to participate in the scholarship.

Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner scholarships are full-pay scholarships. Scholars receive financial support from their agency, paid either as salary (at the scholar's substantive grade) or as an equivalent financial payment. Taxation, superannuation and other employment conditions continue to apply, as per the relevant enterprise agreement. The Australian Public Service Commission provides advice to scholars' agencies regarding the drafting of the Deeds of Agreement.

Scholarships are awarded in accordance with the ANU or CDU Conditions of Award.

International Travel Fund

PhD scholars can apply to access the Foundation's International Travel Fund for up to A\$40,000 for overseas travel related to their research, to be used during the scholarship. Scholars must have their overseas component approved by their ANU academic supervisor and the Executive Director of the Foundation before receiving part or all of the funding. The funding can be used for travel expenses, accommodation, and other costs associated with living overseas while continuing their PhD program, in accordance with the [ANU Travel Policy](#).

Professional Development Fund

During the scholarship or the first year post-completion of the Scholarship, all Pat Turner coursework and HDR scholars can apply to access the Foundation's Professional Development Fund of up to A\$5,000 for professional development activities to assist with maintaining cross-institutional links. Scholars must have approval from their APS agency and the Executive Director of the Foundation before receiving all or part of the funding.

Data Access Fund

During the first year of Scholarship and prior to the confirmation of candidature, PhD and MPhil scholars can apply to access the Foundation's Data Access Fund for up to A\$10,000 to partially meet some of the costs which may be associated with accessing data from Australian Government agencies or other approved sources. Scholars must complete a Data Feasibility Assessment and gain approval from their agency and the Executive Director of the Foundation before receiving all or part of the funding.

APS Mentoring program

The Foundation requires agencies to provide scholars with a senior APS mentor from their agency for the duration of their studies. Mentors play a significant role in ensuring scholars' work contributes to the agency and the wider APS. They also help keep scholars connected to their agency during their scholarship and might facilitate access to appropriate development and career advancement opportunities during and after their studies.

Alumni

The Foundation has an active alumni group. The group organises events and networking opportunities on behalf of the alumni cohort.

Flexible Arrangements

If you are interested in the scholarship program, but think you may require flexible arrangements, please contact srw.foundation@anu.edu.au to discuss.

Key Contacts

Sir Roland Wilson Foundation

Senior Program Coordinator - Pat Turner Scholarships: Georgina Nash T 02 6125 4674

E srw.foundation@anu.edu.au

W <https://srwfoundation.anu.edu.au/>

Connect on Social Media

Twitter/X: [@SRW_ANU](https://twitter.com/SRW_ANU)

Facebook: [Sir Roland Wilson Foundation](#)

LinkedIn: [The Sir Roland Wilson Foundation](#)

ANU HDR Admissions

E hdr.admissions@anu.edu.au

W [Admissions Pre-candidature](#)

T 02 6125 7166

ANU Research Training

W [HDR Candidates Research Training](#)

CDU HDR Admissions

E hdrsupport@cdu.edu.au

W [Prospective research students](#)

T 1800 061 963

ANU Domestic Admissions (coursework)

E domestic.admissions@anu.edu.au

T 02 6125 5595

CDU Domestic Admissions (postgraduate coursework)

W student.central@cdu.edu.au

T 1800 061 963

Australian Public Service Commission

T 02 6202 3933

E srwsp@apsc.gov.au

W [APSC Development](#)