



## 2025 Sir Roland Wilson Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

### Sir Roland Wilson Foundation

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

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

The Sir Roland Wilson Scholarship (the scholarship) is available to high performing, substantive EL1 or EL2 Australian Public Service (APS) employees who have 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 The Australian National University (ANU).

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

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must:

- be a substantive Executive Level 1 or 2 employee;
- have at least three years' service; and
- have been admitted to a PhD program at ANU, commencing in Semester 1, 2025.

#### 2. What does the scholarship include?

The Sir Roland Wilson scholarship is a three-year full-pay scholarship.

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.

Scholars will be afforded the opportunity to participate in a range of leadership development and networking activities and events provided by the Foundation. In addition, scholars can apply for access to the following:

- **Professional Development Fund:** During the final year of scholarship (i.e. the third year of the PhD, or fourth year if an extension has been approved), or the first year post-completion of the award, scholars can apply to access the Foundation's Professional Development Fund for 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, 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 APS agency and the Executive Director of the Foundation before receiving all or part of the funding.
- **International Travel Fund:** Recipients 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 award. The scholar 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](#).

Scholars enter into a Deed of Agreement with their agency, which details the agency's conditions of release for you to participate in the scholarship.

For more information, download the Sir Roland Wilson Scholarship Applicant Information Pack from our website.

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

No, to be eligible for the 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. Be sure to allow enough time to prepare your research application so that it is complete by 31 March 2024.

## 5. How do I know which school or college 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?

Scholars are usually 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. Can I take up a scholarship if I am not based in Canberra?

Scholars based outside Canberra are required to comply with the external status policies of ANU.

The onus is on the scholar to ensure they understand course requirements prior to application, and comply with the relevant policies relating to external study.

For all scholars, including those undertaking higher degree research, external status may still entail minimum attendance requirements in Canberra. Compliance with these policies will require consideration of access to research facilities and resources, risk assessment, regular contact with the supervisory panel; and agreement of the Chair of the Supervisory Panel and College.

Beyond Foundation-supported travel to Foundation signature events, external scholars are required to fund their own travel to Canberra to fulfil the requirements of their program.

Further information on external study is available here for [ANU higher degree research students](#).

## 9. What are the key stages 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.

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### **Stage 1 – ANU PhD application – October 2023-March 2024**

Candidates submit a completed application to ANU for admission into a PhD program by 31 March 2024.

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### **Stage 2 – Agency application – April-July 2024**

Upon receiving a letter of offer from ANU, candidates submit a completed Sir Roland Wilson Foundation 2024-25 Scholarship Application Form to their APS Agency (contact your agency for exact timeframes). Agencies conduct internal selections.

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### **Stage 3 – Foundation shortlisting and interviews – August 2024**

Agencies send endorsed nominations to the Foundation by 12 July 2024. The Foundation shortlists candidates for interview.

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### **Stage 4 – Outcomes – September 2024**

Successful candidates will be offered a scholarship to commence in February 2025.

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## 10. 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](mailto:student@anu.edu.au).

## 11. How many scholarships are available each year?

The number of scholarships awarded each year varies depending on available funding.

## 12. 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 the scholarship, not when you apply.

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

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

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

This issue is currently under consideration. Please contact the Department of Defence Learning and Development team for an update.

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

No, the Sir Roland Wilson scholarship 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. ANU requires completed applications to be submitted by 31 March 2024, including academic transcripts (along with grading scale), graduation certificates/testamur (if available), letter of completion (if available) and translated copies of these documents (if applicable); your research proposal; email confirmation of secured supervisor/s and your full CV. ANU also requires three referee reports including referee statements (at least two must be academic references).

You can apply for a PhD at ANU through the [application portal](#). Once you've submitted your application to ANU, complete the [Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Scholarship Application Form](#). Send the completed form to your Learning and Development team and [email](#) your application number to the Foundation.

## 16. 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 is not successful, you can request feedback after the selection process and refine your application for the following year.

## 17. 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 the scholarship. If successful, the scholarship would apply for the remainder of your studies.

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

You should 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 you refine your topic for your application.

## 19. 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 are required to complete a large coursework component first before your PhD, you must identify your primary supervisor as part of your application.

## 20. 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.

## 21. 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. 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 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.

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

The Sir Roland Wilson 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 strategic direction and performance of the Foundation.

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

### 23. 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.

### 24. 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. 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.