

Natural Hazards Postgraduate Research Scholarships

Application details and application form

Introduction

Natural Hazards Research Australia's Postgraduate Research Scholarships support eligible students undertaking full-time study in a research area that aligns with the Centre's research themes.

Natural Hazards Research Australia (the Centre) is Australia's research and implementation centre for natural hazards resilience and disaster risk reduction.

The Centre is focused on undertaking research that will promote natural hazard resilience and reduce disaster risk, to support the needs of a variety of critical stakeholders – including emergency service agencies and communities – in mitigating impacts of, responding to and recovering from disasters caused by natural hazards

The Centre's research, translation and implementation activities rely on having access to a highly skilled workforce with diverse perspectives.

The Centre's research and education programs will focus on supporting sustainable research teams that can demonstrate their commitment to career development and succession planning. This includes supporting pathways and opportunities for career development.

Through the Natural Hazards Postgraduate Research Scholarships, the Centre will provide opportunities for high quality students to become part of the natural hazards research community in Australia.

Scholarship details

Funding for PhD scholarships is limited to three and a half years from the date of commencement. For applicants that have already commenced their studies at the time of their application, the available funding will be calculated pro-rata, based on the period of study that has yet to be completed.

Preference will be given to students enrolling in full-time PhD studies, but applications from students studying Masters by Research degrees or intending to study part time will also be considered.

The following scholarships are available:

- **Full scholarships:** up to \$34,000 per year for up to three and a half years for PhD students and up to two years for Masters students (excluding periods of approved leave).
- **Top-up PhD scholarships:** up to \$17,000 per year for three and a half years to either:
 - holders of Research Training Program (RTP) or similar university research scholarships
 - holders of partial scholarships funded by an industry organisation.

Scholarship funds are intended to fund the student stipend.

Scholarship holders will be required to sign a Scholarship Conditions and Intellectual Property Agreement as a condition of receiving scholarship funds. This includes a condition that the Centre will own any intellectual property developed by the scholarship holder.

Other support available to scholarship holders

Scholarship holders will be able to:

- apply for additional funding support to attend a relevant conference, and to participate in events and activities run by the Centre (note: awarded on a competitive basis).
- participate in professional development activities offered by the Centre, which may include writing skills, media and public speaking training, poster design, and other skills.
- apply for short-term placements in Centre partner organisations (note: awarded on a competitive basis).
- apply for a Natural Hazards Early Career Researcher Development or Industry Fellowship through the Centre, in the final stages of their study (note: awarded on a competitive basis).

Key dates

Applications will open for two rounds each year, from 1 May to 31 May and from 1 November to 30 November.

Scholarships must be commenced with 12 months of being awarded.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply for a Natural Hazards Postgraduate Research Scholarship:

1. Applicants must be an Australian citizen, permanent resident of Australia or an international student that either:
 - are enrolled in a research higher degree at an Australian university
 - have been offered a research higher degree position at an Australian university, with a commencement date no later than 12 months after the date on which the application is submitted.
2. Applicants who are international students must be enrolled in their course of study before applying for a scholarship. These applicants must also provide evidence of their ability to use their own separate funding to cover any university tuition fees, as our scholarships are not provided to cover these expenses.
3. Applicants must have (or expect to receive) an Honours degree of at least class 2A or equivalent.
4. Applicants must be studying full time, however where there is a compelling reason, part-time student applications will be considered on a pro-rata scholarship basis.
5. Applicants must have developed a project proposal (no longer than two pages) that focuses on a research area aligned with the Centre's published [capability and key research focus areas](#).
6. Applicants are expected to undertake their research with the support of a research team and provide evidence that the proposed project is aligned with that of the supervisor and research team.

The Centre particularly encourages applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, culturally and linguistically diverse people, people with disability, LGBTIQ+ people, and people with family and caring responsibilities.

Priority study areas for Scholarships

Applications for scholarships must align with the Centre's key research focus areas and the key capability areas, as listed in the [Biennial Research Plan 2025-27](#):

Key focus areas:

- Understanding and mitigating risk
- Land-use planning and urban design
- Resilient recovery
- Environmental solutions
- Next generation capacity
- Social equity

Key capability areas:

- First Nations knowledges
- Data management and science
- Future workforce
- Community-led place based resilience
- Interoperability

Applications must also directly contribute to an anticipated career development outcome that will support the Centre's activities, which can include:

- building national and international research and/or industry linkages
- translating international research findings into an Australian context
- research-based work placements with relevant government or industry organisations
- sector-relevant approaches to improving the translation of research outcomes into practice
- new and more effective approaches to education and training for the sector/industry.

Prioritisation criteria: Applications will be prioritised for inclusion in the Centre's scholarship program based on the extent the application addresses the following criteria and their weight:

Alignment with Centre priorities (25%): The proposed research project must clearly align with the Centre's published research themes and priorities. Applicants must submit a project proposal (maximum two pages) outlining this alignment.

Research quality, feasibility, and clarity (25%): The proposal must present a well-defined research question, clear objectives, appropriate methodology, and demonstrate that the project is achievable within the proposed timeframe.

Academic merit and research track record (25%): Applicants must have completed, or expect to complete, an Honours degree with at least a Class 2A (or equivalent), and demonstrate relevant research experience, outputs, or capability relative to opportunity.

Supervisor and research environment support (25%): Applicants must provide evidence of support from a proposed supervisor and research team, demonstrating strong alignment between the project, supervisory expertise, and the broader research program.

How to apply

1. Applicants must have discussed their proposed project with a university supervisor and must have an offer of a place in the proposed course of study. Applicants must have a letter of offer from, or be enrolled at, their chosen university. International students must be **enrolled** at their chosen university.
2. Complete this application form and send it and all supporting information as a single PDF file via email to research@naturalhazards.com.au
3. If you have any questions or need support completing your application, please email research@naturalhazards.com.au

Scholarship obligations

If you are offered a scholarship, you will be required to:

- commence your studies, as approved, within 12 months from the date that you submitted your application.
- Please reach out to research@naturalhazards.com.au for a copy of the Agreement template.
- agree to the terms of the Natural Hazards Research Australia Scholarship and Intellectual Property Agreement. This agreement covers student intellectual property, participation in Centre activities and research, and expectations of both the Centre and the student.

Scholarship holders are also expected to keep in touch with the Centre, and to:

- attend selected postgraduate student events run by the Centre
- provide annual reports on their progress
- inform the Centre of any changes to their contact details
- inform the Centre if there is any change to the research project, or their candidature (for example, taking leave of absence)
- provide a digital copy of their final thesis to the Centre
- include an Acknowledgement of the Centre scholarship in publications and presentations.

Scholarship holders may also be invited to participate in relevant activities and events organised by the Centre, including public events and conferences, to promote the scholarships and to share the scholarship experience and outcomes.

Where the Centre requests scholarship holders to participate in events or activities, the travel and registration costs associated with that participation will be arranged and paid by the Centre.

Application form

Personal contact details

First name Surname
Mobile Email

Address

Street
Suburb State Postcode
Country of citizenship

I have attached a copy of my CV, listing publications and other research experience

Could you provide a brief (around 150 words) bio for your postgraduate scholarship application, highlighting your background, experience, research interests, and career goals?

Academic history

What degrees have you already completed?

Degree 1

University
Degree Year completed

Degree 2

University
Degree Year completed

I have attached the following additional information to this application:

details of any other degrees. a copy of academic transcript(s).

Scholarship Information

What is your intended scholarship?

PhD Full Scholarship

PhD Top-Up Scholarship

(for top-up applications, please attach details of your current scholarship or other forms of support)

Masters by Research Scholarship

(while PhD scholarship applications will be prioritised, Masters by Research applications will be considered)

What university are you enrolled (or have been offered a place) in for your research higher degree studies?

Are you a domestic or international student in Australia?

Domestic student

International student

(International students must attach evidence confirming they are enrolled for this course at an Australian or university)

What is your time commitment to your research?

Full time

Applications for full-time study are preferred.

Part time

Applications for part-time study will be considered.

If applying as a part-time student, please attach details outlining the reasons for part-time study.

Intended or actual start date*

Expected finish date

* provide the actual start date if you have already commenced your studies

Research details

Proposed research topic

Please attach a brief project plan (maximum 2 pages), including the following sections:

- Background
- Research problem(s) and methodology
- Expected outcomes
- Project timeline

Which of the Centre's primary research themes best aligns with your research topic?

Which of the Centre's key research capability areas best aligns with your research topic?

Which key research focus area(s) within the key capability area is (are) best aligned to your proposed research topic?

Describe how your research will contribute new knowledge to the research priorities that you have listed above
(maximum 300 words)

Describe how the outcomes of the research could be used to support the Centre's objectives of reducing disaster risk and strengthening disaster resilience

(maximum 300 words)

Supervisor details

Academic supervisor(s)

Supervisor 1

University name

Supervisor name

Supervisor phone number

Supervisor email

Supervisor 2

University name

Supervisor name

Supervisor phone number

Supervisor email

Supervisor 3

University name

Supervisor name

Supervisor phone number

Supervisor email

Research supervisor's statement of support

I have asked my supervisor to provide an independent statement of support for my application

Supervisor statements must be sent directly from the supervisor to research@naturalhazards.com.au

The statement must include information about:

- the proposed project
- your selection as a research student
- the level of support that you will have access to through the supervisor's research team
- how your proposed project aligns with other research being undertaken by the supervisor's research team.

Checklist

Please check the following items before submitting your form.

I am an Australian Citizen or Permanent resident

OR

I am an international student that is already enrolled to study this course at an Australian university

I am aware that I will need to read and agree to the Natural Hazards Research Australia Scholarship Agreements and understand and accept the conditions in the document

I have been accepted as a full-time student at the nominated university

OR

I have applied for a place at the nominated university

If you have applied for part-time study, the reasons that you are not able to study full-time are attached

I have outlined where this project links to the Centre's research program

I have outlined the outcomes from this research and how those outcomes will contribute to the objectives of the Centre

A statement of support has been requested from my proposed supervisor(s)

I have attached a 2-page project description

I have attached a copy of my academic transcript(s)

I have attached additional information on my degrees, if required

I have attached a CV

I agree to provide a photo for the Centre's website

Please send your completed application (preferably as a single PDF file) to research@naturalhazards.com.au.

If you have any questions or need any support completing your application, please email research@naturalhazards.com.au.
