



# Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences

## 2021 FELLOWSHIPS APPLICATION FORM

The Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences maintains an **Education and Research Fund** which supports the award of a Research Fellowship on a biannual basis for researchers living and working in Australia. In order to broaden support for research and in recognition of the many ways in which COVID-19 has been disruptive, the Academy Council has decided to award two Research Fellowships for 2021.

Applications are now invited for the **2021 AAFS Research Fellowships**, for projects and/or activities that will contribute to broader aims of the Academy, which are:

- to encourage research on the forensic sciences, improve the practice, and advance the knowledge of the forensic sciences; and
- to support projects and activities that will widen, improve and develop the education and knowledge of those actively involved in the practice and of the forensic sciences, of the legal profession, and inform public debate and understanding of the forensic sciences.

Two Fellowships will be offered in 2021, both valued at \$15 000.

The due date for applications is **31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021**.

The Academy takes a non-prescriptive approach to what are relevant projects or activities, however applicants must clearly demonstrate how their proposal will further the aims and objectives of the Academy.

Relevant activities that the funding may be used for include:

- direct support for a specific research project resulting in peer-reviewed publication(s);
- support for the production of an industry or professionally focused research output, or an evidence-based educational or training resource associated with the research;
- contributing to support for travel and other costs associated with a defined research project, which may include travel to present the research at a recognised professional or academic conference.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This could include child-care costs associated with field-work, travel or conference participation.

The Academy encourages applications from early to mid-career researchers, researchers from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and researchers who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Preference may be given to proposals that are not eligible for funding by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC).

Applicants do not need to be members of the Academy.

The Fellowship will not be awarded to support ordinary personal or living costs associated with the period of the research project, or to support education or training only, or attendance at a conference or symposium which does not include presentation of the research. Applications that relate solely to the support or funding of education or training for the applicant will not be eligible for Fellowship Funding.

**Conditions of the Award:**

- The successful applicant must undertake the project or activities for which support is sought: between 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022.<sup>2</sup>
- The successful applicant would ordinarily be expected to submit a manuscript relating to the research/project supported by the Fellowship for publication in the *Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences*, no later than six months after the conclusion of the Fellowship;<sup>3</sup>
- Fellowship payments to successful applicants will ordinarily be made available within two months of the closing date of each round, and may be released in up to three instalments;
- A final instalment of \$3000 may be withheld until a manuscript has been submitted to the AJFS;
- Where a project requires ethics approval, funds will not ordinarily be released until that approval is confirmed and the Fellowship may be withdrawn if ethics approval is not secured within six months of the award of the Fellowship.

All applications must address each of the headings and criteria in the application form overleaf.

Applications must be submitted to: [secretary-general@forensicacademy.com.au](mailto:secretary-general@forensicacademy.com.au).

All applications will be assessed by a Research and Education Fund Subcommittee of the Academy Council. Details about the members of the Council can be found on the Academy website: <https://forensicacademy.com.au>.

Enquiries about eligibility, or any other matters relating to the Fellowship can be sent to [secretary-general@forensicacademy.com.au](mailto:secretary-general@forensicacademy.com.au).

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<sup>2</sup> It is not necessary for any publication or equivalent output to be published by these end dates.

<sup>3</sup> Submissions will be subject to the usual peer review process for the Journal.

**1 TITLE OF PROPOSAL (max 30 words)**TITLE: **2 DETAILS OF APPLICANT**FIRST NAME:  SURNAME: CURRENT POSITION: NAME OF ORGANISATION/INSTITUTION ADDRESS:  STATE:  POSTCODE: EMAIL: PHONE:  MOBILE: 

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)	
1. Gender: Female/Male/Non-Binary/Prefer Not to Indicate	1.
2. Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?	2.
3. Country of Birth/Cultural Background and Ethnicity:	3.
4. Main Language spoken at home:	4.

**3 SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSAL (max 100 words)**

Provide a concise description of the proposal.

**4 APPLICANT EXPERIENCE, BACKGROUND, RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY (max 2 pages – include also a separate CV)**

The fellowship is awarded to an individual. In this section the applicant should demonstrate how their background and experience is relevant to the proposal and how this will ensure the outcomes of the proposal are met. Applicants may include other colleagues or researchers in a proposal and should, where appropriate, explain their contribution to the project. Applicants should also include a separate CV and, where relevant, highlight any recent publications relevant to the proposal. In this section applicants should include a short paragraph providing information on career stage (e.g. early-career researcher), career history (e.g. full time researcher, combined research/teaching, combined research/practitioner) as well as any career interruptions relevant to evaluation of the applicant's outputs (e.g. parental leave, family or cultural responsibilities, significant administrative and/or managerial responsibilities).

## 5 PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION (max 2 pages)

Your proposal **must** address:

- the aims and objectives of the research;
- how these aims and objectives meet and further the objects of the Academy;
- background and literature review;
- a clear methodology and project description, including proposed timeline;
- a summary of the project budget linked to that timeline (see further below);
- a summary of specific benefits, outcomes and/or outputs of the research project

## 6 ETHICS APPROVAL

Please provide information about any ethics approvals required for this project, including anticipated timeline. Where a project requires ethics approval, funds will not ordinarily be released until that approval is confirmed and the Fellowship may be withdrawn if ethics approval is not secured within six months of the award of the Fellowship.

## 7 JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE (max 1 page)

Provide a detailed budget and explain how you will use the award of up to \$15 000 to support your proposal. The award may be used to complement existing research activities or grants, but you must make clear specifically how this award will be used if this is the case. Where appropriate, applicants should explain why they are not seeking support from the ARC, NH&MRC or other competitive funding body. Please review the detailed funding conditions outlined above and ensure that your application can meet those conditions.

## 8 COMMUNICATION OF OUTCOMES (max 1 page)

Explain how you will communicate the outcomes expected from your proposal. A condition of the fellowship is that this plan should include the submission of a manuscript for consideration for publication in the *Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences*.

## 9 DECLARATION OF APPLICANT

I understand that this application will be reviewed by the Council of the AAFS and that the views of additional external referees may be taken into account.

I certify that the information included in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and acknowledge the conditions of the award:

Name:	Signature:	Date: