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# Humanities Travelling Fellowships

## 2025 Application Guidelines

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The Australian Academy of the Humanities is the national voice for cultural, creative and ethical thinking. We promote the study and application of the humanities because recording, explaining and predicting the human story brings distinctive and diverse ideas to decision-making and contributes to a better future for all.

The Humanities Travelling Fellowships (HTF), awarded annually, are one of the Academy's longest standing awards and were first awarded in 1985.

Incorporated into the Humanities Travelling Fellowships is the David Philips Travelling Fellowship. Offered biennially, this Fellowship is made possible thanks to a generous bequest from Mrs Joan Philips. This Fellowship is named after her late son, Dr David Philips, who was a historian and Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne.

### PURPOSE

The Humanities Travelling Fellowships support early career researchers (ECRs) with costs of up to \$4,000 to undertake research overseas, including accessing archives and other research materials and connecting with international researchers and networks.

The David Philips Travelling Fellowship supports early career researchers (ECRs) with costs of up to \$4,000. Preference is given to proposals that contribute to the advancement of knowledge of racial, religious or ethnic prejudice. Applications from researchers of South African history are particularly welcome; however, researchers with other areas of geographical interest are also encouraged to apply.

The chief objectives of the fellowships are:

- to promote research which advances knowledge in the humanities
- to assist in the career development of promising ECRs; and
- to increase and strengthen alliances between Australian and overseas researchers and institutions

### ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must be Citizens or Permanent Residents of Australia who are residing in Australia at the time of nomination.
2. Applicants must be PhD students or in the early stages of their careers, which will be determined, *inter alia*, by how recently a PhD was conferred. In normal circumstances it should have been conferred no more than five years prior to the closing date for applications.

3. Applicants who have received their PhD more than five years ago but who can demonstrate a significant, commensurate period of career interruption (such as maternity or parental leave, carer's responsibility, illness, unemployment, or non-research employment) may be considered eligible. This includes disruptions caused by COVID-19. A justification for the career interruption must be submitted as part of the proposal.
4. Applicants must be working in the Humanities, defined as those discipline areas for which the Academy is responsible: Archaeology; Asian Studies; Classical Studies; English; European Languages and Cultures; History; Indigenous Studies; Linguistics; Philosophy and the History of Ideas; Religion; Cultural and Communication Studies; and The Arts.
5. Interdisciplinary work is encouraged, provided it includes a substantial proportion of work in the Humanities.
6. Applications will be accepted from independent scholars as well as those working in institutional settings.
7. Applicants must be working on a project that requires travel outside Australia for its completion or significant advancement.
8. The Awards Committee reserves the right to solicit nominations, which will be subject without favour to the same deadlines and competitive processes as unsolicited nominations.

#### PLEASE NOTE

Fellowships are awarded annually (or biennially for the David Philips Travelling Fellowship). If no suitable applications are forthcoming, the Awards Committee reserves the right not to award the Fellowships.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Applications will be assessed on the rigour and significance of the research, its likely impact within a specialist field, and its potential to engage and/or benefit the wider community.
2. Applicants will also need to demonstrate the relevance of the project to their academic career development.

## USE OF FUNDS

1. Each Fellowship is valued at a maximum of \$4,000, and is to be used to support research overseas, including accessing archives and other research materials and/or to connect with research teams or networks.
2. Funds may be spent on:
  - a. Economy travel;
  - b. Accommodation;
  - c. Research expenses
  - d. Living expenses: including expenses for childcare (e.g., hiring a carer, nanny, or paying for additional childcare) to enable the parent to conduct the research, and other caring work including care of a dependent child or family member due to illness or disability. If a child or dependent needs to travel with their parent in order for the research to be undertaken, these expenses can be included in the application.
3. Other expenses deemed necessary by the applicant must be identified in the budget and approved by the Awards Committee. If you are unsure about your eligible expenses, please contact [grants@humanities.org.au](mailto:grants@humanities.org.au) before submitting your application.

4. Fellowships are not available to attend conferences or to enrol in any course of study, although conference attendance incidental to research activity will not be penalised.

#### PLEASE NOTE

Successful candidates will be expected to provide evidence of their expenditure and a concise acquittal report once the research activity is completed.

## CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

1. In the event that the Academy awards a sponsored Fellowship targeting a particular nation or region, the recipient is obliged to spend the majority of time away in the designated destination.
2. Significant variations to the research plan detailed in the application must be approved by the Awards Committee. Where the research project needs to be postponed for reasons beyond the successful applicant's control, the Academy must be advised promptly of the change of circumstances.
3. The Academy requires that applicants will conduct their research according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards.
4. Successful applicants will be expected to acquire travel insurance before undertaking their research trip and to be sure to abide by all quarantine and social distancing measures in place in the country they are intending to visit.
5. The travel period of the project must be of at least two weeks' duration.
6. Funds awarded must be expended by the end of the calendar year following the date of the award.
7. The Academy reserves the right to recoup funds if the Rules of the Award have not been met and/or funds have not been expended.
8. Funds will normally be made available directly to scholars on acceptance of the award. In the event that an institution is the nominated recipient of funds, a Fellowship will only be awarded on the condition that an administration charge will not be levied by the institution.
9. The Academy requires a concise written report on the research activity undertaken and the significance of the Academy's assistance to the overall research project, to be submitted via email within one month of the recipient's return to Australia. Reports should include a brief acquittal budget showing all relevant expenditures (in Australian dollars).
10. Recipients agree that these reports may be published on the Academy website and may appear in whole or in extract or in other Academy publications.
11. Recipients must make suitable acknowledgement of the Academy's assistance in funding the research in any resulting publication, either using the Academy logo or a statement acknowledging the grant.

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The Applicant must provide the Academy with the following material via the online application system:

1. **Applicant details** (including current contact details, and residency status);
2. **Educational history** (including recent qualifications and PhD information);
3. **Previous award** details;
4. **Project details** (including institutions/sites to visit, budget details, and publications/research);
5. **Reference letter (x2)** from two eminent scholars (max. two A4 pages each). Referees should have knowledge of your recent work.

#### **Attachments to include:**

- a. **Research proposal** (max. two A4 pages). Include the aims, significance, outcomes and outputs of the research. Please also include a justification of how the project fulfils the Conditions of Fellowship and Selection Criteria of the Humanities Travelling Fellowship.
- b. **Curriculum Vitae** for the nominee/applicant (max. four A4 pages);
- c. **Certified copy of Doctoral Transcript** (for PhD students) or **PhD testamur** (for early career researchers).

#### PLEASE NOTE

The application form and all supporting documentation should be provided in English (or accompanied by a translation into English made by a NAATI-accredited translator).

The Proposer and/or the Nominee/Applicant may be called upon by the Awards Committee to provide evidence of claims made within submitted documentation.

## PAST RECIPIENTS

Previously successful recipients of the Humanities Travelling Fellowship, David Philips Fellowship, or John Mulvaney Fellowship offered by this Academy are ineligible to be nominated for another round of the Humanities Travelling Fellowship or David Philips Fellowship

## PREVIOUS APPLICANTS

Previously unsuccessful Applicants are eligible to resubmit one previously unsuccessful application in respect of the same project, provided that the relevant documents have been updated and they still meet all eligibility requirements.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Each Applicant gives permission for the details listed in the application to be released to the members of the Awards Committee (both those listed in the application form and supporting documentation) for the sole purpose of the selection process. All information, discussions, and recommendations on Applicants are confidential.

## OBLIGATIONS & DECLARATION

The Applicant is responsible for confirming:

- The Applicant is willing to be an Applicant for the Humanities Travelling Fellowship or David Philips Fellowship.
- The Applicant has not been convicted of a criminal offence under a law of the Commonwealth, or an Australian State or Territory.
- The Applicant has not had serious disciplinary action taken against them in response to a substantiated finding of workplace harassment (including sexual harassment), discrimination and/or bullying.
- The Applicant is aware that a description of the work being acclaimed, and images of the successful recipient will be publicised.
- It is expected that the successful recipient will:
  - Work with the Academy to promote the importance of the humanities

## APPLICATIONS CLOSE

**5pm AEST Friday 28 March 2025**

Only electronic applications and attachments submitted via <https://humanities.smartygrants.com.au/> will be accepted. Incomplete applications and any received after the closing time and date will not be considered.

The Awards Committee's decision is final; no correspondence will be entered into. The Academy Secretariat and its staff are not responsible for any Committee decisions and are unable to discuss selection procedures, issue reports or give advice on the progress of nominations.

The successful Applicant will be informed of the decision by email.

## ADVICE & INFORMATION

Samantha Tutton – Fellowship & Awards Coordinator

02 6189 6982 (9am–3pm AEST/AEDT)

[grants@humanities.org.au](mailto:grants@humanities.org.au)