Publication Subsidy Scheme

2026 Application Guidelines

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 Publication Subsidy Scheme (PSS), awarded annually, is one of the Academy's longest standing awards and was first awarded in 1970.

PURPOSE

The Publication Subsidy Scheme supports Early Career Researchers (ECRs) with costs of up to $3,000 associated with the publication of scholarly works that advance knowledge in the humanities.

Incorporated into the Publication Subsidy Scheme is the Sir Frederick and Peter White Fund. Offered biennially, this fund offers $500 for the publication of work that is of an archaeological nature. This fund can be applied for in addition to the max $3000 available through the Publication Subsidy Scheme or as a stand-alone subsidy. The Sir Frederick and Peter White Fund is available in 2026.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must be Citizens or Permanent Residents of Australia.
2. Applicants must be 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 nominations.
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. The publication to be subsidised should focus on a topic 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. Monographs are preferred to edited collections. However, edited collections that demonstrate a clear scholarly achievement or relevance will be considered.
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

The award is awarded annually. If no suitable nominations are forthcoming, the Awards Committee reserves the right not to award subsidy.

INELIGIBLE PUBLICATIONS

1. Second and later editions
2. *Festschriften* — collections of writings published in honour of a scholar
3. Works of a purely commercial nature. The Academy only supports works of a scholarly nature.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The proposed publications will be assessed on their academic rigour, their likely impact within a specialist academic community, and their potential to advance knowledge of the humanities within the wider community.

USE OF FUNDS

1. Examples of items subsided under the scheme include illustrations, maps, copyright and image copyright fees, editorial work, preparation of indices, and printing of colour images.
2. Open access (where publishers are local) and other innovative and emerging means of disseminating research outputs will also be supported under the scheme.
3. Items **not** subsided under the scheme include research assistance, translation, travel and accommodation, shipping, and any other expenses deemed ineligible by the Awards Committee.

CONDITIONS OF THE SUBSIDY

1. Recipients must make suitable acknowledgement of the Academy's assistance in any resulting publication, either through the use of the Academy logo and/or a statement acknowledging the grant.
2. Recipients are required to provide a complimentary copy of the publication to the Academy upon publication.
3. Funds will be made available only upon:
    a. Receipt of a proof copy of the acknowledgements page of the publication, showing acknowledgement of the Academy's assistance; and
    b. Receipt of an invoice and a concise acquittal report detailing how the subsidy was used.
4. Funds will be paid in Australian dollars. If payment in another currency is requested, all costs associated with currency conversion and international transmission will be deducted from the award.
5. Recipients have up to two years from the date of the award to claim the subsidy. Those who do not make use of the subsidy before the two years have lapsed will be invited to reapply for a subsidy in respect of the same publication.

6. Where applicants have applied for a subsidy elsewhere, it is a requirement that the Academy is advised as soon as the outcome is known. Where the applicant is granted a subsidy from other sources, the applicant must demonstrate that the Academy subsidy is still required. The use of all subsidies must be detailed in the applicant's acquittal report as specified in point 3 above.
7. The Academy reserves the right to recoup funds if the Rules of the Award have not been met or the funds have not been expended within the required timeframe.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

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

1. **Applicant information** (including current contact details, eligibility, previous awards, and qualifications).
2. **Publication Details** (including publisher and expected date of publication).
3. **Budget Details** (including the amount requested and details on how the subsidy will be used).
4. **Publication Synopsis** (addressing the Selection Criteria - max. three A4 pages).
5. **Assessment of Publication** (must be by a recognised scholar in the field – max. two A4 pages).
6. **Publisher Letter** (max. two A4 pages) including:
    a. a statement in support of the work to be published
    b. an indication of which items would be wholly or partially funded by a subsidy from the Academy
    c. a provisional date for the completion of the publication.
7. A copy of the **Signed Contract** between the applicant and the publisher.
8. **Copy of PhD Testamur**
9. **Curriculum Vitae** (max. four A4 pages).

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 Applicant may be called upon by the Awards Committee to provide evidence of claims made within submitted documentation.

PAST RECIPIENTS

Recipients may receive funding under the Publication Subsidy Scheme not more than twice in their careers.

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS

The Academy will accept one resubmission from a previously unsuccessful applicant in respect of the same publication, 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:

- They are willing to be an Applicant for the Publication Subsidy Scheme.
- 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

11.59pm AEDT Sunday 29 March 2026

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)

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