

WH BRYAN PHD SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. IMPORTANT DATES

The next application round for the WH Bryan PhD Scholarship will close 5:00 pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time, AEST), Wednesday 1 March 2023.

Shortlisted candidates will be requested for a video/skype interview in March 2023.

The successful applicant will be notified at the end of March 2023.

The funding commencement date for the WH Bryan Scholarship will be April 2023.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the WH Bryan PhD Scholarship are to:

- a. attract promising high-quality researchers to Queensland;
- b. enable Earth Science research and research training in high-quality and supportive environments;
- c. support excellent, Queensland-based, pure and applied research to address globally relevant problems; and
- d. foster strong links between the PhD Scholar and the international research community thereby advancing their research training and reputation.

3. ORGANISATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Organisations to act as the Administering Organisation and hosting the WH Bryan Scholar must be Queensland-based and undertake undergraduate/postgraduate teaching programs and research in the Earth Sciences. The eligible organisations are:

- a. The University of Queensland;
- b. Queensland University of Technology; and
- c. James Cook University.

4. WH BRYAN SCHOLAR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to apply, the candidate named in an application must:

- a. meet the entry requirements for the PhD program at one of the eligible organisations.
- b. not currently hold, or not already been offered, a scholarship from any tertiary institution.
- c. not already be enrolled in a PhD program at any tertiary institution.
- d. if an international candidate, obtain a legal right and hold an appropriate visa to study and reside in Australia for the project activity period, and receive a tuition fee waiver scholarship from the administering organisation.

5. ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

The Panel can determine whether an Application meets the eligibility requirements at any stage during assessment. If the panel considers that an Application is ineligible, it will not be considered further in the assessment process.

6. FUNDING

The amount of \$170,000 total will be awarded as part of the WH Bryan Scholarship.

A one-off payment of up to \$20,000 will initially be made following:

- a. acceptance of the Scholarship by the successful applicant; and
- b. confirmation of enrolment in the PhD program at the eligible organisation by the successful applicant.

This one-off payment is to cover start-up costs associated with commencement of the project.

An award of \$50,000/yr over a period of three years (\$150,000 total) will then be awarded as part of the WH Bryan Scholarship. The first payment of \$50,000 will be provided to the Administering Organisation following confirmation of commencement of the successful candidate at the host institution.

The second and third annual payments of funding will follow notification that the candidate has met university milestones in their PhD candidature (e.g., confirmation at end of year 1), and has provided annual progress reports to the Bryan Foundation.

7. BUDGET ITEMS SUPPORTED

Funding of the WH Bryan Scholarship (\$170,000 total) is to support three main areas of the PhD research project:

- a. Project Start-up Costs (\$20,000; refer Section 7.1)
- b. Commencement PhD Stipend (\$96,000; refer Section 7.2)
- c. Project Research Costs (\$54,000; refer Section 7.3)

7.1. PROJECT START-UP COSTS

Up to \$20,000 is available to cover costs associated with the commencement of the project. Eligible costs that can be covered by this start-up fund include airfares, moving expenses, visa fees and health cover for international students and any dependents.

7.2. PHD STIPEND

A Higher Degree by Research stipend at a rate of \$32,000 per year for 3 years is to be provided to the successful candidate. If required, an additional stipend of up to 6 months can be provided at the end of the 3-year period from any unspent funds allocated to research project support.

7.3. RESEARCH PROJECT SUPPORT

Funding of \$18,000 per year for 3 years is also provided to directly support the research program of the PhD project. This is to support various costs including:

- a. expenditure on Field Research essential to the Project, including technical and logistical support and travel and accommodation costs to support the PhD Candidate and Supervisory Team;
- b. analytical costs, bench fees or similar laboratory access fees, and consumables essential for the PhD Project;
- c. specialised computer equipment and software essential to the Project;
- d. equipment and consumables essential to the Project;
- e. travel costs essential to the Project (e.g., for conference presentations, laboratory visits); and
- f. publication costs (e.g., colour printing charges) related to dissemination of Project Research Outputs.

7.4 BUDGET ITEMS NOT SUPPORTED

Specific budget items not supported by WH Bryan Scholarship funding and should not be requested in the budget include:

- a. fees for international students or the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) and Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) liabilities for students;
- b. salaries and/or on-costs and/or Higher Degree by Research stipends, in whole or in part, for the supervisory team;
- c. salaries and/or on-costs for other personnel, for example postdoctoral research associates, research assistants, technicians and laboratory attendants; and
- d. capital works and general infrastructure costs.

7.5. PROVISION OF BASIC FACILITIES BY THE ADMINISTERING ORGANISATION

The following support is expected from the Administering Organisation:

- a. accommodation for the WH Bryan Scholar (for example, office and laboratory space, suitably equipped and furnished);
- b. basic computer facilities and standard software;
- c. library access including institutional access to relevant scientific journals; and
- d. supervisory support and mentoring of the PhD candidate.

The Scholar and administering organisation must acknowledge the WH Bryan Scholarship funding in all relevant published material, media releases and public statements.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for the WH Bryan Scholarships close 5:00 pm AEST, Wednesday 1 March 2023.

Interested applicants should contact a potential supervisor at one of the three eligible institutions to discuss potential projects and ensure eligibility. More information on potential supervisors can be found at:

Queensland University of Technology:

<https://www.qut.edu.au/about/faculty-of-science/school-of-earth-and-atmospheric-sciences>

The University of Queensland:

<https://sees.uq.edu.au/>

<https://smi.uq.edu.au/brc>

James Cook University:

<https://www.jcu.edu.au/college-of-science-and-engineering/meet-our-academic-teams/earth-and-environmental-science-staff>

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

Applicants should ensure that information provided under the following headings addresses the Selection Criteria. The application consists of five parts:

Part 1. PhD Candidate Information

- A. Curriculum Vitae for the PhD Candidate (2 pages total).
- B. Academic Transcripts (no page limit).
- C. Statement by the candidate on why they are applying, and how does the WH Bryan PhD Scholarship support their future career plans? (1 page total).
- D. Signed Letter of Support (see Template; 1 page total).
- E. If available, Offer of Admission to a PhD Program at one of the eligible organisations (no page limit).

Part 2. Project Description (4 pages total)

A. PROJECT TITLE

- Title should be no longer than 20 words.

B. BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH PROBLEM

- Briefly introduce the topic of the project and establish the research problem to be investigated.
- Include information about current progress in this field of research and its relationship to this proposal.

C. RESEARCH HYPOTHESES/QUESTIONS

- Briefly outline the research hypotheses or questions to be examined in this project.

D. APPROACH

- Outline the conceptual framework, design and methods and explain how these will provide tests of your project hypotheses or answer your research questions.

E. SIGNIFICANCE

- Describe the significance of the research, and how the project addresses a globally significant problem.
- Explain how the anticipated outcomes will advance the understanding of Queensland Earth Sciences and be impactful.
- Describe the extent to which the proposed project will provide international experiences and build research collaborations for the PhD Candidate, including with industry and/or other disciplines.

F. REFERENCES

- Include a list of all references, which can be in 10 point Times New Roman or equivalent font.
- Only publications that are accessible to the national and international research communities should be cited.



Part 3. Supervisory Team (2 pages total)

- Curriculum Vitae of the Supervisory Team (2 pages total)

Part 4. Research Environment (1 page total)

- Briefly describe the support and facilities available, and evidence for a high-quality environment to enable the proposed Project and ensure a timely completion.

Part 5. Budget (1 page total)

Provide an outline of how the PhD Candidate will use the start-up funds (up to \$20,000) and research project support funding of \$18,000 each year (\$54,000 total). A summary budget table should be provided for each year with the heading; Start-up funds, Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3, respectively. This budget summary must include a cost and brief justification for each item requested. Items requested across multiple years should be listed separately for each year.

START-UP FUNDS (\$20,000)

Item Requested	Cost	Justification
	\$	

YEAR 1 (\$18,000)

Item Requested	Cost	Justification
	\$	

YEAR 2 (\$18,000)

Item Requested	Cost	Justification
	\$	

YEAR 3 (\$18,000)

Item Requested	Cost	Justification
	\$	

APPLICATION FORMAT

Applications must be written in plain English and comply strictly with the proposal format and submission requirements.

All pages of the written application must be as follows:

- 1) Black type, or occasional coloured type for highlighting purposes.
- 2) Single column.
- 3) White A4 size paper with at least 1.5 cm margin on each side and at top and bottom.
- 4) Text must be size 12 point Times New Roman or an equivalent size and use single line spacing. Variants such as mathematical typesetting languages may also be used.
- 5) References only can be in 10 point Times New Roman font or equivalent.
- 6) Adhere strictly to page limits designated for each part of the Proposal.
- 7) Colour graphs, colour photographs, detailed graphics and grey scale objects can be included in the application.
- 8) Official academic transcripts and if available, Offer of Admission documents are exempt from these formatting guidelines.
- 8) Each application must be submitted as a single document in PDF format.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications must be submitted by the Principal Supervisor from the administering institution.

Completed applications are to be emailed to: sbryan@whbryanscholarship.org.au

Applications received directly from the PhD applicant or after the due date will not be accepted.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on four criteria:

- 1) Quality of Applicant.
- 2) Quality of Project including significance of the proposed research project.
- 3) Viability of Project – this includes the quality of research team, the likelihood of success based on the research environment and budget request.
- 4) Alignment with Objectives of WH Bryan Scholarship.