

Forrest Research Foundation

Prospect Fellowship Guidelines

The Forrest Research Foundation is offering up to 22 post-doctoral Prospect Fellowships of 18 months duration to eligible candidates who intend to undertake research in designated areas of interest with leading research groups based in any of Western Australia's five universities.

Prospect Fellowships will be offered in two rounds, in July/August 2020 and in February/March 2021. Candidates in the first round must have completed their PhD on or after 1 January 2019; candidates in the second round must have completed their PhD on or after 1 August 2019.

Candidates must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents with an outstanding academic track record.

Fellowships must be focused on one of the following areas of WA research excellence and relevance:

- Indian Ocean (including e.g. marine science and engineering, geopolitics, economics)
- Agriculture, food and nutrition
- Environment and natural resources (including e.g. extractive industries, ecology, conservation)
- Frontier technologies (including e.g. space science, AI, bio-engineering, nano-technology)
- Mental and physical health and welfare (including medicine, bio-sciences)
- Arts and culture. Note: Governors have determined that 20% of fellowships – 4 or 5 – will be allocated to the Arts and Culture area, recognising the devastating impact of COVID-19 on this sector. These fellowships will support multi-disciplinary research, which may include creative and performing artists, that explores the impact of arts and culture on, for example: health/mental health; community resilience; education; economic activity.

Prospect Fellows must be based in research groups/units with an international research reputation, proven experience in translation of research into policy, practice or industry application, and a track record of supporting and promoting career development of early-career researchers. Fellowship proposals should be developed in conjunction with the host research group to ensure integration with current research capability and rapid research progress.

These Fellowships will favour candidates who intend to build on existing research infrastructure, skills and projects located in Western Australia, and who can demonstrate the potential impact of their research on the WA community, society or economy.

The host research group will be required to identify and assign an external mentor, drawn from business/government/NFP as appropriate to support both the career development of the Fellow and research translation.

All Fellows will be part of a Prospect Development Program which will provide training in a range of subjects including: leadership, entrepreneurship, financial and project management, research ethics, governance, media engagement, policy development.

At least one Prospect Fellowship will be awarded to each of the five Western Australian universities.

Fellowship Guidelines

1. Title:

Forrest Research Foundation Prospect Fellowships. Awardees will be known as "Forrest Foundation Prospect Fellows".

2. Governed by:

The constitution of the Forrest Research Foundation of The University of Western Australia and the relevant employment policies of the employing university.

3. Purpose:

To attract and assist outstanding recent early-career researchers to undertake high quality post-doctoral research in a designated research area at one of the following Western Australian universities:

- Curtin University
- Edith Cowan University
- Murdoch University
- Notre Dame University (Fremantle Campus)
- The University of Western Australia

4. Value:

(1) The Forrest Research Foundation Prospect Fellowship package comprises:

- a) Salary at Level A Step 8 for the duration of the 18-month fellowship (based on the University of Western Australia salary scales in 2020 this is Fellow Salary of approximately \$95,000 per annum). This salary element is contributed by the Forrest Research Foundation.
- b) Fellow's superannuation at a rate in accordance with the employing university's enterprise agreement will be fully funded by the employing university. Any other employment support and on-costs will be contributed by the employing university.

(2) If the employing university wishes to employ Prospect Fellows at a higher level or salary, the employer is responsible for funding the shortfall.

5. Method of payment:

Forrest Research Foundation Prospect Fellowship salary will be paid through the employing university's payroll system, in conjunction with the relevant employment policies.

6. Duration of Fellowship:

The duration of the Forrest Research Foundation Fellowship is up to 18 months on a full time basis, but is conditional on meeting satisfactory progress.

Exemptions to full-time may be considered by the Forrest Research Foundation Governors for reasons such as parental leave and is subject to the employment

conditions between the Prospect Fellow and the employing university and relevant leave policies.

7. Eligibility requirements:

(1) There will be two application rounds, in July/August 2020 and in February/March 2021. To be eligible to apply for a Forrest Research Foundation Prospect Fellowship, an applicant must –

a) for the first application round, have successfully completed all the requirements for the award of their PhD or after 1 January 2019; for the second application round have successfully completed all the requirements for the award of their PhD on or after 1 August 2019.

b) be a citizen of Australia or New Zealand, or be a permanent resident of Australia.

c) be proposing to undertake research in one of the following designated areas of Western Australian research excellence and relevance:

- Indian Ocean
- Agriculture, food and nutrition
- Environment and natural resources
- Frontier technologies
- Mental and physical health and welfare
- Arts and Culture

d) be based in a research group/unit with an international research reputation, proven experience in translation of research into policy, practice or industry application, and a track record of supporting and promoting career development of early-career researchers.

2) If offered a Prospect Fellowship, an awardee must –

a) have been offered and accepted an employment contract at a Western Australian university. The Forrest Foundation will liaise with the nominated university to issue the employment contract to successful fellowship applicants;

b) have received their PhD conferral before taking up their appointment;

c) take up the Prospect Fellowship and commence employment at the relevant university within 6 months of being awarded the Fellowship;

d) agree to reporting their progress to the Forrest Research Foundation Warden and the Minderoo Foundation each year.

8. Application procedure:

(1) Applications are called for by the Forrest Research Foundation and must be submitted by the advertised closing date.

(2) Applications must include the following documentation in order to be considered–

a) a completed online application form submitted through the Forrest Foundation website www.forrestresearch.org.au;

b) A Curriculum Vitae (maximum 4 pages);

c) List of publications, awards, prizes, grants

d) Statement from host research group/unit specifying extent of international research reputation, experience of research translation, and track record in supporting career progression of early career researchers.

e) Contact details for four referees (one personal (optional) and three academic);

f) Photograph

g) Evidence of citizenship or permanent residence status.

9. Selection criteria:

Applications will be assessed by the Forrest Research Foundation Selection Committee on the basis of each applicant's –

a) outstanding academic achievements;

b) quality and relevance of research proposal

c) track record of host research group

d) potential to make a positive difference to Western Australia through research translation;

10. Selection process:

The selection of applicants will be undertaken by the Selection Committee of the Forrest Research Foundation having regard to each applicant's academic record, completed application and supporting documentation, and evaluations provided by the host university.

The Selection Committee will interview shortlisted applicants. The Forrest Research Foundation Selection Committee will refer Prospect Fellows to the Forrest Research Foundation Board of Governors for endorsement.

11. Publications:

Any thesis, dissertation or other publication resulting from research undertaken by the recipient while in receipt of the Forrest Research Foundation Prospect Fellowship must acknowledge the support of the Fellowship, Forrest Research Foundation and carry the employing university's by-line.

Any variation from these guidelines will require approval by the Warden of the Forrest Research Foundation.

12. Donor:

Andrew and Nicola Forrest

13. Selection committee:

The Forrest Research Foundation Selection Committee

14. Administered by:

The Forrest Research Foundation and the employing university

15. Year fellowship(s) first offered:

2020

16. Period of funding:

The fellowship fund is held in perpetuity

17. Date established:

2020