

Max Day Environmental Science Fellowship Award – Selection criteria for post-doctoral candidates

Selection criteria	Notes on selection criteria
<p>1. Demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach to research that integrates multiple fields across the ecological, biophysical and social sciences, specifying the key disciplines, how they will be integrated, and the novelty of such integration.</p>	<p>Max Day was a strong proponent of ‘thinking outside the box’ and especially valued research that integrates ecological, biophysical and social sciences.</p> <p>A research proposal that clearly demonstrates interdisciplinarity will score higher than a research proposal that is likely to be addressed only within a single discipline or several closely related disciplines. Examples of interdisciplinary research include projects aiming to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diagnose environmental change by drawing upon analytical chemistry, biochemistry, physiology, metabolomics, and GIS; • protect threatened species by drawing upon animal behaviour, pheromonal chemistry, conservation biology and Indigenous knowledge; • improve fire management by drawing upon plant ecology, biodiversity science, fire behaviour and social science. <p>Projects will be assessed according to the number of disciplines, the ‘distance’ between them, their degree of integration and the novelty of such integration.</p>
<p>2. Quality of Fellowship proposal, including clear explanations of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge gap and research aim • multidisciplinary research plan • expected outcomes • potential significance • feasibility of successfully completing the project 	<p>Applications must address the following key aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide a well-justified application explaining: the knowledge gap to be filled; research aim(s); a multi-disciplinary research plan; expected outcomes after completion of the research and the potential significance of the proposed research (see comment in SC 1 re multi-disciplinary research) 2) Justify the feasibility of the proposal and the likelihood of successfully completing the activity in the timeframe and with the available resources
<p>3. Extent to which the applicant has previously made a positive contribution to Australia’s</p>	<p>Preference will be given to applicants who clearly demonstrate that their previous work has made a positive contribution to Australia’s environment or has informed environmental policy, especially in the fields in SC1. Evidence includes relevant work experience (including voluntary work), research, publications and awards.</p>

<p>environment in relation to fields in SC1.</p>	
<p>4. Extent to which the applicant will be effectively mentored and working within an environment conducive to high-quality research outcomes (such as an internationally recognised group whose members are leaders in the field of their proposed research).</p>	<p>The applicant should outline <u>who they will be working with to achieve their research outcomes</u> (this may or may not be within their own research institution). This includes an explanation of how their supervisors and/or work colleagues will value-add to their research outcomes.</p>
<p>5. Quality of the proposed budget. Is the itemised budget well justified and appropriate for the research? To what extent has other funding been obtained for the project?</p> <p>If conferences are proposed, have these been justified as to why they are specifically relevant to this research?</p>	<p>Applicants must provide <u>an itemised budget</u> (max. 1 page) justifying how the award will be spent with a brief justification for each item. The applicant must also demonstrate in their budget they have been recognised by one or more research institutions (e.g. their host institution) by the provision of some level of direct financial contribution (excluding salaries) towards their project, detailing any funding already received (i.e. list the funding body and amount).</p> <p><u>Eligible expenses</u> against the award include costs of fieldwork, equipment, consumables and other research costs; course fees; cost of travel to undertake research or attend relevant conferences/ workshops. Funding requested for any conference (up to a <u>maximum of only two conferences</u>) must be justified against the specified research (e.g. the conference must be specifically relevant for the research topic), and the total for all conferences must not exceed 50% of the total funding requested.</p> <p><u>Ineligible expenses</u> against the award include bench fees, other overhead costs, a top-up for stipends, personal expenses, payments for any salaries (e.g. to employ a research assistant), and any non-research related costs.</p>

<p>6. Demonstrated achievement of positive environmental outcomes in multidisciplinary research to date</p>	<p>Preference will be given to applicants who <u>clearly demonstrate</u> that their previous multidisciplinary research has contributed to or achieved positive environmental outcomes. Evidence includes research publications, grants and/or awards.</p>
<p>7. Demonstrated prior international collaboration or international support for the proposed research</p>	<p>Preference will be given to applicants who <u>clearly demonstrate</u> that their previous research has involved international collaboration and/or there is strong international support for their proposed research.</p>
<p>8. Two referee reports addressing the applicant's knowledge of the proposed research, and potential benefits of these activities</p>	<p>Applications must include two referee's reports commenting on the applicant's previous and planned research considering SC 1, 2 and 4 above, and including assessments of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the abilities and the potential of the applicant, based on their past achievement(s); • the potential benefits of the proposed research to the research field and to the applicant; and • confirming the level of support from at least one of the relevant research institutions (specifically against the budget and SC 4)