

## **Max Day Environmental Science Fellowship Award – Selection criteria for PhD candidates**

Applicants should clearly address **ALL** selection criteria in their application.

Selection criteria	Notes on selection criteria	Weighting
<p><b>1. Demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach to research that integrates multiple fields across the <b>ecological, biophysical and social sciences</b>, specifying the key disciplines, how they will be integrated, and the novelty of such integration.</b></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"> <li>• diagnose environmental change by drawing upon analytical chemistry, biochemistry, physiology, metabolomics, and GIS;</li> <li>• protect threatened species by drawing upon animal behaviour, pheromonal chemistry, conservation biology and Indigenous knowledge;</li> <li>• improve fire management by drawing upon plant ecology, biodiversity science, fire behaviour and social science.</li> </ul> <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>	20%
<p><b>2. Quality of Fellowship proposal, including clear explanations of the:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knowledge gap and research aim(s)</li> <li>• interdisciplinary research plan</li> <li>• expected outcomes</li> <li>• potential significance</li> <li>• feasibility of successfully completing the project</li> </ul>	<p>Applications must address the following key aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provide a well-justified application explaining: the knowledge gap to be filled; research aim(s); an interdisciplinary research plan; expected outcomes after completion of the research and the potential significance of the proposed research (see comment in SC 1 re: interdisciplinary research)</li> <li>2) Justify the feasibility of the proposal and the likelihood of successfully completing the activity in the timeframe and with the available resources.</li> </ol>	25%

<p><b>3. Demonstrated achievement of positive environmental outcomes</b> in their specific field or in a related research field, particularly if that has contributed to Australia’s environment.</p>	<p>Preference will be given to applicants who clearly demonstrate that they have a long-standing passion or enthusiasm for their specific research area or a related area of research interest, particularly if that research has contributed to positive environmental outcomes in Australia.</p> <p>Evidence may include previous work (paid or voluntary), previous research, publications, grants and/or awards, relevant work experience such as internships, long-standing or diverse voluntary efforts in an environmental field, or other recognition that the applicant's work has made a positive environmental contribution.</p> <p>Applicants should also outline how the evidence provided relates to their intended interdisciplinary research program.</p>	<p>20%</p>
<p><b>4. Extent to which the applicant will be effectively mentored and working within an environment conducive to high-quality research</b> 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>10%</p>
<p><b>5. Quality of the proposed budget.</b> 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>10%</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.	
<b>6.</b> Demonstration of <b>how the Fellowship would make a significance difference</b> to their research ambitions and their career, in the context of other funding available to the candidate.	The intention of this criterion is to reward applicants who demonstrate how they propose to fulfil and extend their research ambitions through the provision of this Fellowship. The assessment should consider how they propose to build upon the passion they have shown in SC 3 for their chosen area and outline how they see the award helping them to achieve their career ambitions.	10%
<b>7.</b> A letter of <b>reference from their PhD supervisor</b> assessing their planned research work and considering SC1 & 2.	Applications must include a letter of reference from their PhD supervisor commenting on their previous and planned research, including assessments of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the abilities and the potential of the applicant, based on their past achievement(s);</li> <li>• the potential benefits of the proposed research to the research field and to the applicant; and</li> <li>• confirming the level of support for the research proposal (specifically against the budget and SC 4).</li> </ul>	5%