

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

Selection criteria	Notes on selection criteria
<p>1. Demonstrate a multi-disciplinary approach to their research in one or more of the biological sciences relating to one or more of the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservation of Australia’s flora and fauna • ecologically sustainable resource use • ecosystem services* (<i>especially provisioning services, regulating services, or habitat/supporting services</i>). 	<p><i>Max Day was involved in all these fields over his career; more so in the first two but he also recognised the importance of ecosystem services, multi-disciplinary research and the inter-relationships between these fields.</i></p> <p>This criterion is intended to ensure preference is given to applications in one or more of these <u>biologically focused fields</u> (rather than applications focussed primarily in the physical sciences e.g. astronomy, physics, chemistry).</p> <p>Max was a strong advocate of multi-disciplinary research, so preference will be given to proposals that draw upon <u>multiple disciplines of science</u>; examples of multi-disciplinary research proposals might be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a project aiming to diagnose environmental change that draws upon analytical chemistry, biochemistry, physiology, metabolomics, environmental analysis and/or elemental bio-imaging • a project that aims to better protect threatened species that draws upon animal behaviour, pheromones, conservation biology and/or Indigenous knowledge; or • a project aiming to improving fire management that draws upon plant physiology, wood chemistry, fire behaviour and public awareness. <p>*Applicants should consider what comprises ‘ecosystem services’ when developing their applications; for example: see http://www.teebweb.org/resources/ecosystem-services/.</p>
<p>2. Quality of Fellowship proposal, including clear explanations of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge gap and research aim(s) • multi-disciplinary 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 environment in relation to fields in SC1.</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 SC 1. Evidence includes relevant work experience (including voluntary work), research, publications and awards.</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 passion for their research though previous research, employment (including voluntary work) or publications on the topic</p>	<p>Preference will be given to applicants who clearly demonstrate that they have a passion for their chosen area and therefore intend to build upon their previous work. A higher score will be given if the applicant's previous research, voluntary employment or publications are related to their research proposal.</p>
<p>7. Demonstration of how the Fellowship would make a significance difference to their research ambitions and their career</p>	<p>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 6 for their chosen area and outline how they see the award helping them to achieve their career ambitions.</p>
<p>8. A letter of reference from their PhD supervisor assessing their planned research work and considering SC1 & 2.</p>	<p>Applications must include a letter of reference from their PhD supervisor commenting on their previous and planned research, 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 for the research proposal (specifically against the budget and SC 4).