



Natural  
**Hazards  
Research**  
Australia

# Natural Hazards Early Career Researcher Development and Industry Fellowships

Application details and application form

March 2024



Australian Government

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## Introduction

Natural Hazards Research Australia's Early Career Researcher Development and Industry Fellowships are now available, to support the career development of late-stage PhD students, early career researchers and researchers employed in industry. Recipients will have the opportunity to further build their research credentials, and to pursue new research-based collaborations.

We particularly encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, culturally and linguistically diverse people, people with disability, LGBTIQ+ people, and people with family and caring responsibilities.

The Centre's research, translation and implementation activities rely on having access to a highly skilled workforce with diverse perspectives.

The Centre's research and education programs will focus on supporting sustainable research teams that can demonstrate their commitment to career development and succession planning. This includes supporting pathways and opportunities for career development.

Through these fellowships, the Centre will support the development of late-stage PhD students and early career researchers as they establish their research careers.

This program acknowledges the challenges that early career researchers face in developing their research credentials and for establishing sustainable collaborations. The opportunities created through these fellowships will benefit the development and sustainability of strong and diverse research teams and collaborations in research areas that are important for natural hazard risk reduction and disaster resilience.

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## Fellowship details

The fellowships recognise the value that can be achieved by supporting early career researchers to expand their research networks, create strong local and international collaborations, and to have the opportunity to compare the opportunities and challenges for natural hazards research in different geographic, societal, cultural and climatic settings.

**Early Career Researcher Development Fellowships** are available to full-time PhD students who have successfully completed the equivalent of two years of full-time study, and PhD-qualified researchers employed in research positions in Australian research institutions or universities, for up to five years after their PhD graduation (five years excludes periods of parental leave, other family caring duties or ill health).

**Early Career Researcher Industry Fellowships** are available to PhD-qualified researchers employed in industry (where their employer is a Participant of the Centre), for up to five years after their PhD graduation (five years excludes periods of parental leave, other family caring duties or ill health).

Fellowships are available for:

- up to \$15,000 for Early Career Researcher Development Fellowships
- up to \$7,500 for Early Career Researcher Industry Fellowships.

## Other support available to scholarship holders

Fellowship holders will benefit from a range of additional opportunities, including networking opportunities, mentoring, promotion of research, and connection into the Centre's knowledge network.

Fellowship holders will be able to apply for additional funding support to attend a relevant annual conference, and to participate in events and activities run by the Centre.

## Key dates

**This round of Fellowship submissions will open 2 April and close 5pm AEST, 30 April 2024.**

**From 2024:** For the application round in late 2024, applications will open 2 September and close 31 October 2024. Successful applicants will be notified in early December.

Fellowships must be undertaken within 12 months of being awarded.

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## Eligibility criteria

Fellowships are intended to support career development. They are not intended to support the completion of PhD studies or the completion of existing projects funded by the Centre or other funding agencies.

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply for Natural Hazards Early Career Researcher Development or Industry Fellowship:

1. Applicants must be either an Australian citizen, permanent resident of Australia or an international student enrolled in an Australian university (with legally certified evidence provided on request), who can demonstrate an active participation in a research-related role in the 18 months prior to submitting the application. Applications will be considered from individuals who have taken parental leave or similar career breaks in the 18 months prior to submitting their application.
2. Applicants must be:
  - a. For Early Career Researcher Development Fellowships, either:
    - i. currently employed as a researcher (at an Australian research institute or university) in a field closely linked to the Centre's [published research themes and research priorities](#), and have graduated from a research higher degree no more than five years prior to application maximum five years since PhD graduation (excluding periods of parental leave, other family caring duties or ill health).
    - ii. currently enrolled as a PhD student at an Australian university, undertaking research relevant to the Centre's published research themes and research priorities, and have satisfactorily completed at least two full-time years (or equivalent) towards their PhD.
  - b. For Early Career Researcher Industry Fellowships: currently employed in industry, where the employer is a Participant of the Centre, and the applicant's current role is actively involved in research or research translation in a field closely linked to the Centre's published research themes and research priorities.
3. There is no age limit, but applicants must be at an early stage in their research career (maximum five years since PhD graduation, excluding periods of parental leave, other family caring duties or ill health).
4. Applicants must submit a completed application form (see more information below), proposing a fellowship study that is no longer than four months.

The Centre encourages applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, culturally and linguistically diverse people, people with disability, LGBTIQ+ people, and people with family and caring responsibilities.

## Priority study areas for fellowships

Applications for fellowships must directly contribute to the Centre's core research themes:

- communities and workforces of the future
  - sustainable, safe and healthy natural landscapes
  - resilient built environment
  - resilient communities
  - situational awareness
  - operational response and innovation
  - evidence-informed policy, strategy and foresight
  - learning from disasters
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Applications must also directly contribute to an anticipated career development outcome that will support the Centre's activities, which can include:

- building national and international research and/or industry linkages
- translating international research findings into an Australian context
- research-based work placements with relevant government or industry organisations
- sector-relevant approaches to improving the translation of research outcomes into practice
- new and more effective approaches to education and training for the sector/industry.

## How to apply

- Applicants must have discussed their proposed fellowship with their employer, or for students, with their supervisor.
- Complete this application form and send it and all supporting information as a single PDF file via email to [research@naturalhazards.com.au](mailto:research@naturalhazards.com.au).
- If you have any questions or need support completing your application, please email [research@naturalhazards.com.au](mailto:research@naturalhazards.com.au).

## Fellowship obligations

If you are offered a fellowship, confirmation of details of the fellowship studies (including budget) must be provided within three months of receiving notification of the approval. A template will be provided for this purpose. You will also be asked to sign a Fellowship Agreement.

In addition to completion of their fellowship study, the Centre expects fellowship holders to:

- return to Australia (if they travel overseas) immediately after completing their study, unless otherwise approved by the Centre
- provide a detailed written project report within three months of completing their fellowship, which may be made available to the public
- fulfil any additional obligations made separately with their academic institution, employer or co-funding provider.

Fellowship holders will also be invited to participate in relevant activities and events organised by the Centre, including public events and conferences, to promote the fellowships and share the fellowship experience and outcomes.

Where the Centre requests fellowship holders to participate in events or activities, the travel and registration costs associated with that participation will be arranged and paid for by the Centre.

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# Application form

## Personal contact details

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First name

Surname

Mobile

Email

## Address

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Street

Suburb

State

Postcode

Country of citizenship

**I have attached a copy of my CV, listing publications and other research experience**

**Do you identify as belonging to any of the following groups (select all that apply):**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

culturally and linguistically diverse people

people with family and caring responsibilities

people with disability

LGBTIQ+ people

women

## Academic history

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What degrees have you already completed?

### Degree 1

University

Degree

Year completed

### Degree 2

University

Degree

Year completed

**I have attached the following additional information to this application:**

details of any other degrees.

a copy of academic transcript(s).

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## Fellowship information

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### Which fellowship are you applying for?

#### **Early Career Researcher Development Fellowship**

(available to full-time PhD students who have successfully completed the equivalent of two years full-time study in an Australian university, and PhD qualified researchers employed in research positions in Australian research institutes or universities, for up to five years after their PhD graduation, excluding periods of parental leave, other family caring duties or ill health)

#### **Early Career Researcher Industry Fellowship**

(available to PhD qualified researchers employed in industry, where their employer is a Participant of the Centre, for up to five years after their PhD graduation, excluding periods of parental leave, other family caring duties or ill health)

**Intended start date**

**Expected duration of fellowship**

**Expected finish date**

**I have attached written endorsement of my fellowship by my Australian university, research organisation or industry employer**

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## Fellowship details

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### Proposed fellowship project

(summary; maximum 300 words)

**Please attach a brief description of the proposed fellowship (PDF; maximum two pages), including the following sections:**

- Background
  - Purpose of the fellowship (what you will be doing)
  - Expected benefits to your career
  - Expected benefits to Natural Hazards Research Australia
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**Which of the Centre’s research themes  
best aligns with your fellowship**

**Which research priority(s) within the research theme is (are) best aligned to your proposed fellowship?**

**Describe how your fellowship will support your career development**

(maximum 300 words)

**Describe how the outcomes of the fellowship could be used to support the Centre’s objectives of reducing  
disaster risk and strengthening disaster resilience**

(maximum 300 words)



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## Collaborator / host details

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### Proposed collaborators or hosts for the fellowship

#### Collaborator / host 1

Organisation name

Collaborator / host name

Collaborator / host phone number

Collaborator / host email

#### Collaborator / host 2

Organisation name

Collaborator / host name

Collaborator / host phone number

Collaborator / host email

#### Collaborator / host 3

Organisation name

Collaborator / host name

Collaborator / host phone number

Collaborator / host email

Please attach written confirmation from each proposed collaborator / host organisation confirming that they support the proposed fellowship.

## Independent referee statements

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I have asked two independent referees to each provide a statement of support for your application

Independent referee statements must be sent directly from the referee by email to

[research@naturalhazards.com.au](mailto:research@naturalhazards.com.au)

The statement must include information about:

- the relationship between the applicant and the referee
- the value of the proposed fellowship to enhancing the quality of research, research translation or implementation of the outcomes of natural hazards research
- how they believe the fellowship will enhance the applicant's career.

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## Checklist

Please check that you have completed or included the following items before submitting your form.

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*I am a PhD student studying at an Australian university and have successfully completed the equivalent of two years full-time study as part of this degree*

*OR*

*I am employed as a researcher by an Australian university/research institute, have a PhD, and it has been less than five years since I graduated from my PhD (excluding periods of parental leave, other family caring duties or ill health)*

*OR*

*I am employed in a research-related role in an end-user participant of the Centre, have a PhD, and it has been less than five years since I graduated from my PhD (excluding periods of parental leave, other family caring duties or ill health)*

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*I have attached confirmation from each of the collaborator / host organisations that they support the fellowship application*

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*I have outlined the outcomes from this fellowship and how those outcomes will contribute to the objectives of the Centre*

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*I have requested referee statements from two independent referees*

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*I acknowledge that I will need to participate in relevant events organised by the Centre*

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*I have attached a two-page fellowship description*

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*I have attached a copy of my academic transcript(s)*

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*I have attached additional information on my degrees, if required*

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*I have attached a CV*

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*I agree to provide a photo for the Centre's website*

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Please send your completed application (preferably as a single PDF file) to [research@naturalhazards.com.au](mailto:research@naturalhazards.com.au).

If you have any questions or need any support completing your application, please email [research@naturalhazards.com.au](mailto:research@naturalhazards.com.au).