

RESEARCH GRANT GUIDELINES





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INTRODUCTION

Nature Foundation is an apolitical not-for-profit that invests in conserving, restoring and protecting Australian landscapes, flora and fauna to ensure their survival.

Nature Foundation undertakes an annual grants program, funding research that contributes to the conservation of Australia's biodiversity and habitats and supporting university students and researchers in their work and careers. All research funded through the grants program aligns with, and contributes to, our vision and mission.

Nature Foundation has been offering research grants since 2000 and has awarded 459 grants in the field of biological sciences to universities and other research institutions, to a value of \$1.97 million dollars. These grants have funded a diverse range of research projects focussed on the protection and restoration of Australia's native wildlife and habitats.

These guidelines detail the process required for applying for the two categories of grants offered through Nature Foundation:

1. Nature Foundation student research grants
2. Mike Bull early career researcher grant

The grant round opens in March and will remain open for about four weeks. Applicants must submit the relevant application form online before the deadline. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

NATURE FOUNDATION STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

Nature Foundation invites applications from Honours, Masters or PhD students for the following student research grants:

LEVEL	GRANT NAME	No. OFFERED PER YEAR	GRANT AMOUNT	GRANT PERIOD
Honours	Grand Start	1	\$2,000	1 year
	Nature Foundation Scientific Expedition Foundation RL & GK Willing Grant	1	\$2,000	1 year
	Australian Sealion research (offered every 2 nd year)	1	\$2,000	1 year
Masters/PhD	Grand Start	1	\$3,000	1 year
	Lynette Aplin 'Knowledge in Science' Research grant	1	\$5,000	1 year
	Roy & Marjory Edwards Scholarship	1	Up to \$12,000 p.a.	Up to 3 years

To be eligible for consideration for any of these grants, proposed projects must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be enrolled at an Australian University.
- The proposed research must align with Nature Foundation's scientific strategy and support/inform conservation or restoration activities that benefit Australian ecosystems and wildlife.
- Applications must include a description of all methods to be used in the proposed research.
- Applications must have relevant insurance, ethics and permits approvals in place at the time of application.
- Applications must include a budget detailing annual expenditure, with quotes for any proposed equipment purchases totalling \$5,000 or more.
- Applications will not be accepted from students or organisations that have outstanding obligations/acquittal reports for projects previously funded by Nature Foundation.



GRANT-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

In addition to the above, applicants for the following grants must also articulate the ways their proposed project will meet grant-specific criteria.

Scientific Expedition Group Honours grant:

- Proposed research must advance the understanding of trends in the abundance and distribution of native populations of South Australian fauna and flora, or
- Advance understanding of the way soil, water, geology, or climate factors affect the abundance and distribution of native populations of South Australian fauna and flora

Australian Sea Lion Research Honours grant:

- Proposed research must address at least one of the following priority areas of research:
 1. Breeding biology
 2. Trends in abundance
 3. Pup mortality
 4. Ecological impact of disease and toxicity
 5. Feeding ecology and foraging behaviour

Lynette Aplin 'Knowledge in Science' Research Grant:

- Proposed research must take place on one of Nature Foundation's 10 nature reserves

Roy & Marjory Edwards grant:

- Proposed research must address at least one of the following priority areas:
 1. It must aim to make a significant contribution to the conservation of South Australia's biodiversity, or
 2. It must contribute to the resolution of an environmental problem or the conservation of South Australia's wildlife



ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

Nature Foundation Student Research Grants can be used to fund:

- Transport/travel for field work
- Accommodation
- Food/meal allowance
- Consumables (e.g. field/laboratory)
- Equipment & materials for surveys, monitoring & fieldwork
- Scientific analysis including laboratory analysis (e.g. tissue/genetic analysis)
- Contractors/professional services (e.g. for laboratory analysis, coxswain)
- Software subscriptions (i.e. to analyse data, or subscription to satellite service for fauna tracking)

What will not be funded:

- Administration fees to the applicant's host organisation (payee)
- Wages/salary, rent, purchase or lease of land, lease of vehicles, insurance, telephone, internet
- Retrospective funding for any activity (i.e. fieldwork or labwork that has already been done)
- Fundraising activities, prizes, competitions or donations

THE MIKE BULL AWARD

The Mike Bull Award was created to support the emerging career of a nature scientist and continue Professor Mike Bull's legacy of research in animal behaviour, ecology and conservation research.

To be eligible for this grant, proposed projects must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be early career nature scientists (i.e. awarded PhD or early post-doctoral research fellows) working in Australia.
- International applicants are also eligible to apply if their research is beneficial to nature science in Australia.
- Hosting research institutions must be Australian.
- The research focus must demonstrate a benefit to nature science or conservation in Australia. The selection committee will favour proposed research that is focused on field work, or will use robust field data, in areas that align with those followed through successful career of Professor Mike Bull, that may include:
 1. Contributing to long-term field research programs
 2. Conservation biology
 3. Parasitology
 4. Population ecology
 5. Herpetology
 6. Behavioural ecology
- In addition to the application form, applicants must also submit a current CV and statement from a referee.
- Applications proposing research must have relevant insurance, ethics and permits approvals in place at the time of application.
- Applications will not be accepted from applicants or organisations that have outstanding obligations/acquittal reports for projects previously funded by Nature Foundation.
- Applications must be received by Nature Foundation before the specified closing date. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

The Mike Bull Award can be used to:

- Support a research program, including purchase of equipment for field expenses.
- Attend and present at a conference or important seminar (including registration fees, flights).
- Visit another lab or potential future collaborator in Australia.



THE GRANTS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The assessment panel will consider applications based on the following criteria and rank them against other applications. Each criterion is scored out of five points, all with an equal weighting, with a maximum possible score of 25 points per applicant.

1. Does the application meet the eligibility criteria?
2. Does the application have a clear statement of aims/objectives?
3. Can the aims/objectives be achieved?
4. Is the budget cost-effective, and the project timeline realistic?
5. Does the project/expenditure have clear and tangible outcomes?

Applicants will receive news of the outcome of the assessment process approximately 2 months after the closing date.