

Women's Academic Fund Guidelines

About the program

The Queensland Government's *Advance Queensland* initiative focuses on growing the economy and creating jobs. This includes investing in science and innovation in order to attract and retain the best and brightest research minds, and encouraging researchers to keep working in their chosen profession.

The Advance Queensland Women's Academic Fund supports women in maintaining their research careers, and supports Queensland organisations in promoting the achievements of Queensland's female researchers.

Benefits

The program will:

- encourage university based female researchers to return to their research careers following maternity leave
- support female researchers to enhance their professional reputations through attendance at national or international conferences as an invited presenter, or when participating on research committees
- promote lectures or presentations that highlight the contributions of Queensland's female scientists.

Available funding

The Advance Queensland Women's Academic Fund is open to applicants all year round and applicants can apply under the following categories:

- **Maternity Funding:** Up to **\$25,000** (excluding GST) for eligible organisations to employ another researcher, or a research/laboratory assistant, to assist the primary researcher by:
 - maintaining research progress while the primary researcher is on maternity leave, or
 - by assisting the primary researcher when she resumes her research following maternity leave.
- **Carer Funding:** Up to **\$1,000** for eligible female researchers to cover any relevant out-of-pocket child care or respite care expenses, in excess of their usual carer arrangements, while presenting at a national/international conference, or sitting on a professional research committee. Reasonable travel costs will be considered on a case by case basis (for example, the need for a child to travel with the mother or an airfare for a grandparent from interstate). Maximum two applications per calendar year per researcher.
- **Women's Lecture Funding:** Up to **\$2,000** (excluding GST) for an eligible organisation to arrange lectures or presentations, held within Queensland, highlighting the work of leading Queensland based female researchers. Maximum two applications per calendar year per organisation.

A total pool of \$1 million is available over three years. Applications will continue to be accepted until the funding pool is exhausted.



Eligibility criteria

Maternity Funding:

Applications must be for female researchers who:

- are employed by a Queensland university or publicly funded research institute or organisation based in Queensland that is registered for GST and has an Australian Business Number
- have maternity leave (commencing on or after 16 August 2015) approved by the employing organisation
- are Australian citizens, or have Australian residency (permanent or temporary)
- have a PhD research qualification
- intend to resume research duties following maternity leave.

Carer Funding:

Applications must be from female researchers who:

- have dependent children (up to the age of 12) in their care or have other family care responsibilities
- are employed by a Queensland university or publicly funded research institute or organisation based in Queensland that is registered for GST and has an Australian Business Number
- are Australian citizens, or have Australian residency (permanent or temporary)
- have a PhD research qualification
- have been invited to present their research at a relevant conference or to participate on a professional research committee.

Women's Lecture Funding:

Organisations applying:

- can be either public or private sector organisations
- must be Queensland based organisations that are registered for GST and have an Australian Business Number

- must be holding an event/presentation specifically promoting the work of Queensland based female researchers. A specific research topic conference involving some Queensland female researchers as presenters is not an eligible event for the purpose of this program.

Funding conditions

Maternity Funding:

- The funding will be paid to a Queensland employing organisation to contribute to the salary of a new researcher, or a research/laboratory assistant, maintaining research progress while the primary researcher is on maternity leave or once she has returned from maternity leave.
- The employing organisation must provide details of the researcher's approved maternity leave, including the duration of the approved maternity leave, and confirmation that the researcher intends to resume research duties following the maternity leave.
- Upon returning from maternity leave the researcher must provide a brief report on how the funding was used, and how it benefited their research career.
- The funding entitlement will be calculated on a pro-rata rate of \$500 per week (excluding GST) of approved maternity leave for a full-time researcher, up to a maximum of \$25,000 (excluding GST). Funding will be paid in advance to the applying organisation with a report and funding acquittal required once the researcher has returned to work from maternity leave.

Carer Funding:

- Funding can only be claimed for care arrangements that are in excess of any standard child care/respite arrangements that the researcher has in place.
- Funding is only applicable for the period of additional care time required for the

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researcher to complete the eligible activity (e.g. duration of the conference or professional research committee plus immediate travel to and from).

- Applicants must provide evidence of invitation to present at a conference or participate on a professional research committee.
- If claiming airfare/travel costs for dependents or a relative, a case must be provided addressing the reasonableness of the proposed arrangement in comparison to other possible care arrangements, in particular other care arrangements being provided within the household during your absence.
- Funding will be paid to the researcher upon submission of a report at the conclusion of the activity and on actual out-of-pocket costs incurred as evidenced by appropriate supporting documentation (eg receipts).

Women's Lectures Funding:

- The funding will be paid to the applicant organisation.
- Eligible expenses include room/venue hire costs if external to the organisation, promotional material associated with the presentation, and the travel costs of presenters.
- Funded organisations are to provide a short report back to the department on the event, and its outcomes.
- Funding will be paid in advance to the applying organisation with a report and funding acquittal required at the conclusion of the activity.

Application evaluation

Applications will be assessed to ensure that they meet the eligibility conditions for funding.

Applicants may be contacted during the assessment process to clarify information provided in the application and/or to request additional information to enable appropriate consideration.

A funding decision will be advised as soon as possible after all application information has been provided.

Privacy

The Queensland Government collects and collates information from the application form to evaluate applications for the program. Only authorised departmental officers and approved grant assessors have access to this information.

Applicants should note that broad details of successful proposals, agreed outcomes, progress and the level of funding awarded may be published by the Queensland Government. Some information may be used to promote funded projects.

Your personal information will not be disclosed to any other third party without your consent, unless required by law or for the purposes of *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

For audit purposes, the Queensland Government is required to retain the applications and other supplied support material.

The provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009* apply to documents in the possession of the Queensland Government.

How to apply

Applications can be submitted online at any time.

Further information

Web: qld.gov.au/advanceqld

Email: advancequeensland@dsiti.qld.gov.au

Facebook: [Advance Queensland](https://www.facebook.com/AdvanceQueensland)

Twitter: [@AdvanceQld](https://twitter.com/AdvanceQld)