



Industry Research Fellowships

Program guidelines

27 February 2024



Queensland
Government



The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (the department) will provide and pay for qualified interpreting services for customers who are hearing impaired or have difficulties communicating in English. Please [contact the department](#) if you require interpreting services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The department respectfully acknowledge and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands, winds and waters where we live, learn and work.

We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions and the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the nation.

We will walk together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations in our journey to enrich lives and strengthen community connection through the power of sport and recreation.

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1. Fund Overview

The Queensland Government's *Advance Queensland: Innovation for a Future Economy 2022-2032 Roadmap* sets out the direction, initiatives and key priority outcomes for the next phase in Queensland's journey toward becoming a leading and sustainable world-class innovation economy.

The Roadmap priority objectives to achieve this goal includes supporting researchers to partner with industry to complete research and translate research outcomes into products and services.

This is done through supporting industry research fellowships focussed on key investment areas.

The Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowships program:

- provides opportunities for researchers to pursue and continue their research careers
- assists in retaining the state's best and brightest research minds in Queensland
- attracts talented researchers from interstate and overseas
- supports increased linkage and closer collaboration with industry organisations to foster the translation of research into practice
- delivers tangible benefits and practical outcomes for Queensland by supporting applied research and development.

2. Available Funding

The following fellowship grants are available:

- early-career fellowships – \$160,000 over two years, or \$240,000 over three years (excluding GST)
- mid-career fellowships – \$240,000 over two years, or \$360,000 over three years (excluding GST).

Applicants must apply for the full amount of funding. Applications for part-funding will be deemed ineligible.

Fellowships must commence after 1 January 2025 and no later than 30 June 2025 or the fellowship offer will be withdrawn.

The fellowship is not transferable in cases where the approved Fellow cannot complete the fellowship.

3. Eligibility

3.1 The Applicant Organisation

- The Applicant Organisation must be a Queensland-based agency that conducts research as part of its core activities, including some universities, government agencies, not-for-profit organisations, and companies.
- The Applicant Organisation must be registered for GST and have an Australian Business Number.

Agencies that provide medical services, including hospitals, will not be regarded as research agencies, but can partner with research agencies on fellowships.

3.2 The Proposed Fellow

- The Fellow must, at the time of application, be an Australian citizen, or have Australian residency covering the duration of the proposed fellowship.
- The proposed Fellow must have a PhD research qualification with:

- up to 5 years post-PhD research experience for early-career fellowships
- 5 to 10 years post-PhD research experience for mid-career fellowships
- The Fellow must be employed and paid by the Applicant Organisation in a **minimum 50 per cent FTE** capacity for the duration of the fellowship.
- The fellowship must be undertaken in Queensland, and the Fellow must work and reside in Queensland for the duration of the fellowship.
- The Fellow must spend a **minimum 50 per cent FTE** on the fellowship. Consequently, a candidate who is employed by the Applicant Organisation in a 50 per cent FTE capacity must spend all of that time on the proposed fellowship.

Key points to note:

- Applications for proposed Fellows who do not have their PhDs conferred or accepted at time of submission will be deemed ineligible.
- The post PhD duration is calculated from the conferral date of the PhD to the closing date for applications.
- Research gaps can be claimed when determining post-doctoral research experience. For example, time away from research for parenting or caring leave, illness of more than 30 consecutive workdays, or time in non-research roles will be considered as gaps in research. Applicants cannot claim standard recreation leave, sick leave or long service leave as a research gap.
- Nominated Fellows who have had positions where non-research duties were **concurrent** with research roles can claim up to one year in total for all such non-research components as a research gap. For example, a researcher who had a position that was 70% research and 30% academic, can claim the non-research (academic) component as a research gap.
- Specific non-research positions, i.e., those that are **not concurrent** with research employment, can be claimed in entirety. For example, if the nominated Fellow worked in a full-time administrative role for two years, those two years can be claimed as a research gap.
- Details of research gaps must be outlined in the eligibility section of the application.
- The fellowship funding is the same (full amount) for both full-time (100% FTE) and part-time (50-99% FTE) Fellows. Part-time Fellows may decide to use the funding to engage more technical and research support to enable the project to be completed in the scheduled fellowship timeframe (two or three years).
- Previous recipients of Queensland Government fellowships are not eligible to apply for another fellowship at the same level. For example, a researcher who previously received an early-career fellowship is not eligible for a second early-career fellowship.

[The only exception to this is if the initial fellowship secured was a 2020 short-term COVID Industry Research Fellowship.]

- Current recipients of a Queensland Government research fellowship are not eligible to apply for a 2024 Industry Research Fellowship unless they can complete their existing fellowship by 31 October 2024. Researchers are not permitted to hold concurrent Queensland Government fellowships.
- Candidates who have other research grants will only be considered for an Industry Research Fellowship if they spend at least 50 per cent FTE on the Industry Research Fellowship, and all eligibility conditions are met. In addition, the candidate must not have binding arrangements with other parties, including other funding providers, that prohibit the successful completion, delivery and promotion of the proposed Industry Research Fellowship.
- There can be no more than one nomination of a given researcher for a fellowship in a funding round.

3.3 Eligible projects

The fellowship proposal must address at least one of the following investment areas:

- Using the following innovative technology to advance industry:
 - automated systems
 - robotics and artificial intelligence
 - nanotechnology
 - synthetic biology technologies including mRNA
 - quantum technologies
- Innovation in cybertechnology and defence industries
- Innovating the tourism industry
- Innovation in methods to drive sporting success (Sports Tech)
- Using innovative methods to improve agriculture and food including novel proteins and low emissions production systems
- Using innovative methods to achieve a sustainable future in a decarbonising economy by:
 - developing environmentally responsible mining practices including innovative methods to accelerate new economy/critical minerals industry
 - managing Queensland's waste and pollution and developing the circular economy
 - mitigating and preventing climate change
 - developing sustainable energy solutions including technology supporting green hydrogen
 - developing energy storage solutions
 - developing sustainable water solutions
- Building resilience against
 - future potential pandemic crises,
 - natural disasters e.g., droughts, floods, cyclones and bushfires
- Innovation in space industries.

Advance Queensland fellowships must be completed over the approved duration (two or three continuous years), irrespective of the Fellow's FTE commitment to the fellowship (which must be 50 per cent FTE or higher).

Fellows with approved projects of two years duration will not receive additional Advance Queensland funding for extensions.

3.4 Cash Contributions

- The fellowship project must have combined cash co-funding from the Applicant Organisation and/or Partner Organisation(s) that **equals or exceeds** the value of the Industry Research Fellowship applied for.
- For the purposes of this program co-funded "cash" is defined as:
 - cash directly contributed to the fellowship by the Applicant Organisation and/or the Partner Organisation(s)
 - "salaries-as-cash". This includes the standard salary remuneration and standard salary on-costs of the Fellow and other dedicated fellowship research or technical staff. This only applies to the portion of the salary allocated to the fellowship that is paid by the Applicant or Partner Organisation.

Salaries-as-cash can be claimed for the FTE time spent on the fellowship project for **eligible Applicant and Partner Organisation staff**. The non-fellowship time of these staff cannot be claimed as a cash contribution, and the time of ineligible staff cannot be claimed (e.g., administrative staff, supervisors, mentors, PhD scholars or other fellows).
- Queensland Government **non-grant** funding from all sources (new cash and salaries-as-cash) may be used as co-funded cash but cannot exceed **half** of the Queensland Government Advance Queensland funding applied for.
- Other Queensland Government **grant** funding secured, including Queensland Government scholarships, fellowships and project grants, cannot be used as co-funded cash.

- In-kind contributions will not be considered as cash but may assist in demonstrating Applicant and/or Partner Organisation commitment to the fellowship.

3.5 Industry Partners

Industry Partners

The fellowship project **must** involve at least one Queensland-based industry/end-user organisation. The industry/end-user Partner does not have to be headquartered in Queensland but must have a legitimate physical presence in Queensland where the nominated Fellow can be physically hosted (if possible).

Industry partners should be actively involved in the fellowship project, but in particular, the final 12 months of the fellowship period should involve close collaboration and engagement to ensure the translation of research outcomes into practical application for the project partner/s and industry.

Industry partners can be based outside of Queensland but in these cases, there must be a clear case of benefits flowing to Queensland.

For the purpose of this program, the CSIRO and AIMS are considered research organisations and therefore cannot be industry partners.

Business/Company Applicants

For proposals where a business or company that conducts research is the Applicant Organisation, the fellowship project **must** involve at least one Queensland-based research agency as a Partner (e.g., a Queensland university).

Other Partners

The fellowship may involve collaboration with more than one Partner organisation (industry or non-industry) where benefits of their involvement can be demonstrated. These additional Partners can be based in Queensland, interstate, or overseas.

3.6 Project costs

The fellowship funding may be used for the following costs:

Salary costs

Salary costs, including standard on-costs (leave loading, superannuation contributions, worker's compensation contributions, and payroll tax) for key research staff, including:

- the Fellow.
- other dedicated fellowship research/technical staff, including post-doctoral research staff.

The salary claimed must be commensurate with the FTE percentage committed to the fellowship. For example, if an individual spends 40% of their time on the fellowship, then 40% of their salary can be claimed.

Other costs

Project costs directly related to the fellowship, including:

- consumables required specifically for the fellowship project.
- small equipment (up to \$10,000 per item) required specifically for the fellowship project.
- travel to conduct research, including field trials, for the Fellow and dedicated fellowship research/technical staff. Economy airfares and reasonable accommodation costs only will be considered.

- publication costs of up to \$3,000 over the term of the fellowship (but not after the fellowship is completed).
- Contract research for services that cannot be performed by the Applicant Organisation but are integral to the fellowship project.
- conference travel for the Fellow where the Fellow is presenting fellowship findings as part of the conference program.

Only eligible expenditure incurred on or after the commencement of the fellowship can be claimed.

Ineligible expenditure and cash contributions

Items not eligible for funding, or to be regarded as co-funded cash, include:

- institutional salary on-costs above standard salary on-costs
- institutional overheads and operational costs, including general facility and accommodation related costs
- costs associated with non-fellowship projects/programs of the Applicant or Partner Organisation(s)
- conference travel for technical/scientific support staff
- salary costs of non-fellowship activities for the Fellow or other dedicated fellowship staff
- salary costs of the Fellow's supervisor or mentor
- scholarships, including PhD scholarships, or other fellowships
- any costs associated with PhD scholars who are part of the fellowship project
- grants or prizes
- costs associated with administrative support staff
- contract research for services that can be performed by the Applicant Organisation
- any non-fellowship related activity.

Advance Queensland or Applicant Organisation fellowship funding cannot be used to pay Partner Organisations for the salaries of their staff who work on the fellowship project.

4. Application process

4.1 Application

Applications for the 2024 Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowships close **1:00 pm AEST, on Monday 22 April 2024**. The application consists of:

- a completed on-line application form
- a scanned (PDF) copy of the proposed Fellow's PhD, or evidence that the PhD thesis has been accepted
- evidence of Australian residency for the duration of the proposed fellowship (for candidates who do not have Australian citizenship)
- scanned (PDF) letters of support from the Applicant Organisation and Partner Organisation(s)
- a signed Financial Incentive Agreement Terms and Conditions declaration page. The template is available on the Advance Queensland website and must be printed, signed by the nominated Fellow and an authorised representative from the Applicant Organisation, scanned in PDF, and uploaded with the application form.

All scanned documents should be submitted as part of the on-line application process.

Applications cannot be revised after submission, but the department **must** be advised of any changes that are likely to affect funding eligibility.

Late applications will not be accepted.

4.2 Assessment

- Applications will be assessed in a competitive, merit-based process against the program's assessment criteria by panels comprised of members with scientific, research, and/or industry background.
- Applicants may be contacted during the assessment process to clarify information provided in the application and/or to request additional information to enable the appropriate consideration of the application.
- The assessment process may consider the need to balance the Queensland Government's research investment to support a diversity of capability across scientific disciplines, geographic regions, and research groups.
- There is no implicit guarantee of approval at any stage in the process.
- Feedback regarding unsuccessful applications will be provided to the Applicant Organisation – not to individual researchers from a given Applicant Organisation.

4.3 Decision

Applicants will be notified in writing/by email of the decision.

The Queensland Government's decision in relation to an application is final and there is no process for appeal. DESI has established processes for dealing with complaints - if an applicant has any concern in relation to the application or assessment process, a formal complaint may be submitted to DESI through the website at <https://www.des.qld.gov.au/>.

5. Assessment criteria

All applications will be assessed against the following objectives and assessment criteria.

Criterion 1: Project Focus, Relevance and Merit

To address this criterion:

- outline the industry issue the research will address, including why it is important to industry, the project partners and Queenslanders.
- clearly outline the proposed fellowship research, demonstrating that it has scientific merit, and is well designed and achievable.
- demonstrate why the proposed research is novel, and an understanding of **key** related research. There is no need for a detailed literature review.
- outline how the fellowship is aligned to at least one of the investment areas.

Criterion 2: Meaningful Collaboration

To address this criterion:

- outline the role of each partner in the project, and why each partner is the right match for the proposed project.

Meaningful collaboration with Partner Organisations can be demonstrated by:

- spending some of the fellowship physically and/or virtually co-located with one or more Queensland-based industry/end-user Partner Organisation (**compulsory**).
- outlining the complementary skills and expertise that will be provided to progress and translate the research into practical outcomes within the project timeframe.

- new cash and salaries-as-cash contributions from the Partner Organisation(s).
- access to specialist expertise in the Partner Organisation, and specialist equipment and supplies owned by the Partner Organisation(s).
- access to a mentor in a Partner Organisation.
- providing convincing letters of support.

Letters of support from the Applicant and Partner Organisations should clearly outline:

- their commitment to, and reasons for supporting, the fellowship project.
- the likely benefits to be gained by participating in the fellowship.
- the cash co-funding and salaries-as-cash contributions to the fellowship.
- details of any proposed physical or virtual co-location by the nominated Fellow.

Important: Please ensure that all scanned attachments, including letters of support, PhD certificates and signed declaration pages, are NOT password protected.

Letters of support will NOT be accepted after the closing date for applications.

Criterion 3: Project Plan, Translation and Outcomes

To address this criterion:

- provide plain English, stand-alone activities that set out a clear research plan in the initial stages of the project, and activities that focus on translation of research outcomes in the later stage of the project.
- provide clear, quantified, outcomes/benefits delivered within the term of the project. For example: a new product, service, process or procedure; a social benefit; an environmental benefit; benefits to regional Queensland.
- ensure the outcomes and benefits are realistic.
- discuss how the likely outcomes including IP development will be managed/benefit each Partner.

Criterion 4: Proposed Fellow's Track Record

To address this criterion clearly outline the proposed Fellow's:

- research experience and how it aligns to the proposed fellowship research.
- experience in managing/leading research projects and budgets, and in delivering research on time and in line with agreed activities.
- capacity to engage, collaborate, and complete agreed research with industry/end-user Partners
- experience at translating research into practical outcomes.

6. Key dates

Activity	Date
Applications open	5 February 2024
Applications close	1.00pm (AEST) on 22 April 2024

7. Funding agreement

Successful applicants will receive a written offer of financial assistance in the form of a grant. If accepted, recipients will be required to enter into a legally binding contract with the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) (acting on behalf of the State of Queensland).

The Applicant Organisation will enter into a legally binding Financial Incentive Agreement (the Agreement) with the Queensland Government. The Applicant Organisation automatically signs the Agreement by submitting a signed declaration page with the application form, but the Agreement is not finalised until the authorised departmental representative signs a separate Agreement execution page.

This occurs after the successful applicants have been approved.

Applicant Organisations and nominated researchers must read and accept the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement before applying for funding.

The Agreement consists of the Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowship Terms and Conditions; the Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowship guidelines; and the application, including supporting information.

The Applicant Organisation and the nominated Fellow must not enter any legally binding arrangements with other parties which prevent them from meeting their obligations under the Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowship Agreement.

Applicants must ensure that they read, understand, and accept the Agreement Terms and Conditions, available on the Advance Queensland website. These Terms and Conditions are not negotiable.

The Department does not require copies of collaborative agreements. However, the Applicant Organisation may independently decide to enter into agreements with Partner Organisations to clarify and outline the details of the collaborative arrangements.

Recipient Responsibilities (for successful applicants)

If an application for an Industry Research Fellowship is successful, the Applicant Organisation will become the Recipient Organisation.

The fellowship award must be kept confidential until it is announced by the Queensland Government. A departmental officer will advise your agency when the fellowships have been announced by the Queensland Government.

Promotion

Fellows should actively promote their research; provide broad fellowship information if required; and attend media/promotion events, if requested by the department.

The Fellow and Recipient Organisation must acknowledge the Queensland Government's funding in all relevant published material, media releases and public statements.

Reporting

Recipients are required to submit reports on the progress of their funded fellowship projects, as outlined in Schedule 2 of the Agreement.

Fellows must report on the completion of their agreed project activities. Payment of scheduled milestone payments will be dependent on the progress/completion of project activities in the preceding period. Project activities must be all completed (100%) for the final milestone payment to be made.

All reports must be written in plain English as they will most likely be reviewed by people who are not scientists.

Please ensure that the final report is submitted on time as Industry Research Fellowship agreements expire three months after the final report due date.

Financial Acquittal Statements

A financial acquittal statement must be submitted with each fellowship report, unless advised otherwise by the department. The financial acquittal statement must clearly outline the receipt and expenditure of the Advance Queensland Funding, the Recipient co-funding and all Partner co-funding.

The reports and financial acquittal statements must be assessed as satisfactory before the associated fellowship payment is released.

In situations where total project expenditure at project completion does not at least equal the total value of the fellowship and the matched funding contribution, the Queensland Government will not be required to make the full fellowship payment. For example, at the conclusion of a \$360,000 fellowship the total eligible expenditure incurred is \$600,000. In this case the fellowship contribution will be \$300,000 with the other \$300,000 being the matching contribution as required by the Applicant Organisation and/or Partners. The remaining \$60,000 of the fellowship funding will be retained by the department.

Interim reports and financial acquittal statements may be requested if a fellowship ends prior to the scheduled reporting or completion date.

Payment of Grant Funds

The fellowship funding is paid to the Applicant Organisation (the Fellow's employer) to administer the grant funding.

Payment structures for three-year fellowships are:

- Payment 1: \$80,000 (early-career) or \$120,000 (mid-career) upon fellowship commencement, following the execution of the Financial Incentive Agreement.
- Payment 2: \$80,000 (early-career) or \$120,000 (mid-career) upon the submission of a satisfactory first progress report and associated financial acquittal statement one year after the commencement date.
- Payment 3: \$60,000 (early-career) or \$100,000 (mid-career) upon the submission of a satisfactory second progress report and associated financial acquittal statement two years after the commencement date.
- Payment 4: \$20,000 (early-career and mid-career) upon the submission of a satisfactory final report and associated financial acquittal statement three years after the commencement date.

For approved two-year fellowships the second payment above is excluded.

The Advance Queensland fellowships funding is paid in advance. The funding may be partially or completely recovered by the Queensland Government if the Recipient is subsequently found to not be entitled to the funding or has not used the funding in accordance with the fellowship Agreement or the program guidelines.

Upon completion of the fellowship (early or full-term) the total fellowship expenditure must be in accordance with that outlined in the fellowship application, or a subsequent department approved variation.

NOTE: Unspent fellowship funds can NOT be carried forward at project completion. Upon completion of the fellowship and all contracted activities, Recipients must submit a final financial acquittal statement and any unspent funds (or Advance Queensland funds not matched by the Recipient and/or Partner co-funding) must be returned to the Department.

Changes to the fellowship

It is important that the Recipient notifies the department of any changes to the fellowship, including changes to the Fellow's contact details.

The department **must** be notified if there are any changes to the fellowship within **20 business days** of the change. All requests to change fellowship details are subject to approval by the department.

Some changes will require the submission of a **project variation request**, including:

- *Changes to the agreed commencement date or reporting dates.* Please note that no additional Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowship funding is available if the fellowship reporting dates are extended. It is the responsibility of the Recipient Organisation to support the fellowship if it is extended beyond the agreed fellowship term.
- *Changes to the fellowship milestones.* Sometimes the fellowship milestones must be changed based on new information obtained during the early stages of the research. The intent of the fellowship must not change, as the original activities and expected outcomes were important in securing the approval of the original funding application.
- *Changes to the Fellow's time on the fellowship.* Fellows must spend at least 50% FTE on the fellowship. The department must be advised if the Fellow's FTE commitment to the fellowship changes from that advised in the fellowship application.
- *Changes to the Recipient and/or Partner Organisation cash, and salaries-as-cash, co-funding or details.* This includes the withdrawal or addition of Partner Organisations.
- *Changes to fellowship expenditure from that proposed in the fellowship application.* The department must be advised of changes to the project expenditure proposed in the fellowship application as this may affect funding entitlement and impact financial acquittal statements.
- *The Fellow securing an additional research grant while undertaking the fellowship.* The Recipient must notify the department if the Fellow secures an additional research grant while undertaking the Industry Research Fellowship, as this may impact on the Recipient's entitlement to the Industry Research Fellowship. Under these circumstances, the ongoing entitlement to the Industry Research Fellowship funding will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, subject to determining how an amended Industry Research Fellowship and an additional research grant can deliver an agreed overall research outcome for Queensland.
- *Other changes that may affect fellowship eligibility or funding entitlement.* These include – the Fellow ceasing employment with the Recipient Organisation; the Fellow moving residence to outside of Queensland; the Fellow leaving Queensland for extended periods, or the Fellow changing the proportion of their time committed to the fellowship.

Occasionally Fellows change their employer. If this happens the department must be consulted regarding a Deed of Novation. These situations are assessed on a case-by-case basis as it may not always be possible for a researcher to change agency and retain their fellowship.

8. Privacy

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (the department) is collecting personal information from you such as your name, address, contact details of yourself and your business (including employees and partners), resume, employment, payslips, asset and financial information and other information relevant to your application or provided by you.

This information is collected for the purpose of assessing and evaluating your application for funded projects, milestone reports, and otherwise the department's function of supporting businesses and industry through innovation programs and grants.

Personal Information may also be disclosed where required for purposes associated with undertaking assessment of the application, including due diligence enquiries.

The email address you provide will be used to communicate with you about your application or program participation (if successful). For example, you may be contacted via email about participating in a survey, interview or focus group.

Dependent upon the email service provider you have chosen, this may result in your personal information being transferred overseas.

The personal information provided may be provided to other relevant Queensland government departments and Ministers, to publicly announce or publish as identified in the guidelines and promote those projects that have been funded. This may include the recipient's name and the amount of funding awarded, project details, agreed outcomes, and progress.

De-identified aggregated data may also be used for the purpose of managing and evaluating the program and inform government.

Your personal information will also be used to provide the services outlined in the guidelines and for the purposes of research, evaluation, promotion and monitoring of such services, and to improve and design services and programs.

Your personal information will not be otherwise used or disclosed unless authorised or required by law and will be managed in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

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

The Queensland government privacy policy can be found at: www.qld.gov.au/legal/privacy

10. Further information

Web: advance.qld.gov.au

Email: sciencefunding@dtis.qld.gov.au

Facebook: Advance Queensland

Twitter: @AdvanceQld

Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

If you require any further information or clarification of these guidelines, please contact DESI via email sciencefunding@dtis.qld.gov.au.