



2024 LFA Fellowship Application Guidelines

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Applications due: COB February 5, 2024

www.landscapefoundation.org.au

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The aim of the LFA Fellowship is to assist the recipients to undertake a personal research project over the course of a year. The research topics will align with the purpose of the Foundation and produce new insights and knowledge leading to actions that benefit the urban landscapes and natural environments of Australia's cities and towns. In 2024, two Fellowships, valued at \$10,000 each, will be awarded.

1. About the Landscape Foundation of Australia (LFA)

LFA is a not-for-profit organization committed to the protection, restoration, design and sustainable management of landscapes and natural environments in Australian cities and towns. The Foundation provides funding and support for scholarships, research and fellowships, and community-based projects that advance its purpose.

Additional information about LFA can be found on our website:

www.landscapefoundation.org.au

2. About the Fellowship

The LFA Fellowship provides an early- to mid-career professional in the private or public sector the opportunity to undertake a personal research project or special study to develop higher-level knowledge and expertise on an agreed topic. The Fellowship funds travel along with other associated costs involved with carrying out the project or study.

LFA invites applicants who are keen to explore new and leading practice, innovation and leadership opportunities within the broad fields of:

- landscape planning, design and management
- urban and regional strategic environmental planning
- environmental engineering
- natural asset management
- urban environmental sciences, including ecology, soil science, ecosystems restoration
- biodiversity restoration and sustainable management
- social sciences, such as planning and engagement with community to improve health and wellbeing, resilience and relationships to nature.

Applications that put forward innovative proposals in a field other than those listed

above and considered relevant to LFA's purpose will also be considered.

Outputs of the Fellowship will demonstrate applicability and propose actions, thus making a significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge on protecting, restoring and managing the landscapes and natural environments of Australian cities and towns.

3. Topics for consideration

The following list suggests potential topics of current interest and relevance to LFA's purpose. These are presented as examples for consideration by applicants who may select from this list or propose other innovative ideas that sit outside these areas.

- Model programs to assist communities to plan, advocate for and implement projects that enhance ecological health and biodiversity
- Creative funding arrangements for implementing restoration projects, such as terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in urban landscapes
- Funding models to carry out restoration projects in urban and peri-urban landscapes and ensuring their sustainable management
- Multi-disciplinary approaches to addressing biodiversity loss and climate change mitigation in urban landscapes
- Innovative programs that engage children and young people in ecological restoration and management and the importance of biodiversity
- Identifying and valuing ecosystem services provided by designed and constructed urban landscapes
- Identifying, valuing and accounting for natural assets by local and state governments in relation to urban landscapes and areas of natural environment
- Enhancing community health benefits related to natural environments in urban areas
- Role of natural environment and vegetation in mitigating urban heat and contributing to climate change adaptation.

4. Eligibility

- Australian residents who are early- to mid-career practitioners; that is, with at least three (3) years' full-time work experience following completion of a tertiary degree relevant to LFA's purpose, and up to 35 years of age. In calculating the period of work experience, internships or other employment that took place while studying for the professional degree should not be included.
- Relevant tertiary qualifications and practical experience include but are not limited to: landscape architecture, urban ecology, environmental planning, social planning, civil and environmental engineering, geography, environmental economics, government policy.
- The Fellowship will only be awarded to an individual; however, the individual may use their funding to engage others to provide support.

5. Selection process

- LFA Board will appoint a Fellowship Selection Panel to review the applications and interview short-listed applicants. Interviews will be conducted in person or an online meeting.
- The Selection Panel will make a final recommendation to the LFA Board which will announce the successful applicant(s).
- All applicants will be advised of the outcome, but no correspondence will be entered into.

6. How to apply for this Fellowship

To apply for the LFA Fellowship you will need to:

- Complete the General Application Form (PDF of this form is in a separate file)
- Provide a Project Title, Abstract and Proposal—as outlined in the following section
- Provide your current curriculum vitae or resume (max 2 x A4 pages)
- Provide 1 x Referee's letter of support, and
- Provide 1 x Employer's letter of support

What is a Referee's Letter of Support?

One Referee's letter of support is required to accompany your application. This letter indicates the relevance of your proposed project and your capacity to carry out and complete the work. The letter can be provided by a professional colleague, mentor, or academic who is familiar with your interests and capabilities to carry out and complete the proposed project. The Referee's letter should be on letterhead, signed and dated.

What is an Employer's Letter of Support?

An Employer's letter of support verifies that you have discussed your Fellowship Application with them and they will support you in meeting the obligations of this Fellowship. The Employer's letter should be on letterhead, signed and dated. *Note: If you are currently unemployed or self-employed, please provide one additional Referee's letter.*

The above documents should be consolidated into a single PDF file and emailed to info@landscapefoundation.org.au. In the Subject line include "Attn: LFA Fellowship Panel". Only fully completed applications received by COB Monday, February 5, 2024 will be considered.

7. Writing your Project Proposal

To help the Selection Panel fairly evaluate your application, ensure that your responses are succinct, clear and to the point, and avoid industry jargon. It's a good idea to have a colleague review your application for coherence and readability.

Please address all of the following points when developing your project proposal:

1. **Provide a title and brief abstract for your project. (*up to 200 words*)**
2. **Clearly and succinctly outline your research project proposal including: aims and objectives; questions you will explore; how, where, and with whom you aim to undertake it. (*800-1000 words*)**

Please include evidence that confirms the significance of and need for the research of your proposed project. You may also include a preliminary list of references or other background material collected to substantiate your proposal. You are not required to provide a detailed project itinerary, but we would like to know the experts and/or leaders, specialist collections or institutions, government agencies, relevant not-for-profits, specific locations and/or projects, etc. you plan to visit or consult with during your project.

3. **In what ways do you anticipate that your investigations and findings might lead to applicable and actionable outcomes relevant to LFA's purpose? (*up to 500 words*)**
4. **How might the Fellowship assist you to achieve personal and/or professional career goals, now and into the future? (*up to 300 words*)**

8. Conditions of LFA Fellowship Award

(‘Board’ refers to the LFA Board of Directors)

1. The Board may seek clarification or additional information to the Fellowship application.
2. Generally, the Fellowship will commence within one (1) month of award and be completed within 15 months of commencement, unless otherwise agreed. The Board and the Fellow will discuss and agree on milestones, outputs and timeframe to be met over the period of the Fellowship
3. The Fellow will be required to submit a Final Report and/or approved alternative output agreed by the Board. These might include: publication, video, seminar, webinar, public talks, education program or other outcome that promotes the findings of the Fellowship project.
4. The format of the Final Report or other modes of presentation of project outcomes will be agreed with the Board prior to the commencement of the Fellowship.
5. The Fellowship funds will be paid in instalments within a pre-determined timetable approved by the Board. The final 10 percent (\$1,000) of the total funds will be paid upon the Board's acceptance of the Final Report or acceptance or other agreed outcomes of the Fellowship.
6. The decision of the Board on the award of the Fellowship is final and all applicants will be advised. The Board reserves the right to withhold the award of the Fellowship.
7. The award of the Fellowship may be cancelled if the Fellow does not comply with these conditions of award.
8. The Fellow will not be an agent of the Board and will not act on behalf of the Board and should not represent themselves as such.
9. The Fellow must show evidence that indemnifies the Board before commencing the Fellowship.
10. The Fellow agrees to accept responsibility for any travel decisions—domestic or overseas—and to stay aware of any travel warnings and make informed decisions about their travel destinations.

11. The Fellow is advised to activate a Smartraveller account and register their travel plans with the [Smartraveller](#) advisory website.
12. The applicant agrees that the Board reserves the right to select from any application material to be used to advertise, support or in other ways publicise the Fellowship for no financial benefit to either party.
13. Any intellectual property associated with any project materials created by the Fellow is retained by them.
14. The Fellow must appropriately acknowledge all sources and/or obtain consents from authors of all materials included in the Final Report of project outcomes.
15. The Fellow will grant to the Board, without cost, a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty free and transferable license to use, reproduce, and communicate to the public the outcomes of the Fellowship.
16. The Fellow will acknowledge the LFA Fellowship in any publications, relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, or other material relating to their Fellowship.

9. Additional enquiries

You are welcome to contact us prior to or during the preparation of your Fellowship Application.

Email: info@landscapefoundation.org.au

Website: www.landscapefoundation.org.au