



Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA)

Scholarships Program Guidelines

2027 PhD Scholarships

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Introduction

These guidelines contain information relating to:

- a) the process of selecting the 2027 PhD scholarship recipients for Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA) Scholarships Program (Scholarships Program)
- b) the conditions of the award for the Scholarships Program.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review these guidelines before applying. The Scholarships Program will administer the application process fairly and in accordance with these published guidelines. MRIWA may revise these guidelines from time to time, with any updates published on the [MRIWA website](#).

This document sets out the:

- a) MRIWA Education and Workforce program (the Program) and scholarship opportunities
- b) eligibility requirements and selection criteria
- c) process of, and timeline for, application consideration
- d) expectations of scholars engaging in the program.

Scholarship Round

The Scholarships Program round for commencement in 2027 will align to the following estimated timelines:

- Open: 1 September 2026 (9:00am AWST)
- Close: 2 November 2026 (11:59pm AWST)
- Offers from: January 2027.



MRIWA Education and Workforce Program

MRIWA may award scholarships to postgraduate research students undertaking minerals research that will advance Western Australia. The scholarship award provides:

- A scholarship stipend.
- An additional payment for research and travel allowance.
- Engagement with MRIWA staff.
- Access to events and networking opportunities.
- Professional development and ongoing support throughout the scholars' studies.

Scholarships Program aims

The aims of the Scholarships Program are:

- To support novel research addressing current gaps or innovation in the minerals industry that will have direct impact for Western Australia.
- Support students to access and foster industry-academia collaborations.
- Contribute to the development of the minerals research workforce in Western Australia.

MRIWA principles and values

The Scholarships Program is underpinned by MRIWA core values, which include:

- *Connected*: we proactively build effective relationships to enable cross-disciplinary collaboration.
- *Engaged*: we work closely with our stakeholders and are invested in achieving successful outcomes.
- *Respectful*: we are thoughtful and considerate in our interactions and committed to exceeding expectations.
- *Progressive*: we are advocates for the development and adoption of innovative solutions.
- *Agile*: our collective strength is in learning and being responsive to the need for change.

MRIWA is a statutory body established by the Western Australian Government under the [Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia Act 2013 \(WA\)](#).

All prospective Scholarship recipients should familiarise themselves with the current Research Priority Plan (RPP) prior to commencing an application and should consult the [MRIWA website](#) for the latest information on the RPP and MRIWA focus areas.



MRIWA focus areas

The MRIWA focus areas outline the strategic priorities for MRIWA projects. Each Scholarship application should demonstrate how it aligns with the MRIWA focus areas. The focus areas are as follows:

- Alternative Use of Tailing and Waste
- Critical Minerals.
- Exploration Amplification
- Green Steel
- Net Zero Emissions Mining
- Precision and Low Impact Mining

An overview of the Focus Areas can be found on the [MRIWA website](#).

Scholarship types

The 2027 MRIWA PhD Scholarship Round will offer:

One MRIWA Odwyn Jones PhD Scholarship: targeting research in the Precision and Low Impact Mining focus area to advance safer, more efficient mining through precision technologies and reduced environmental impacts.

Two MRIWA PhD Scholarships: one in each of the areas outlined below targeting research in the:

- Alternative Use of Tailings and Waste focus area to advance circular economy solutions for the critical minerals industry to improve resource efficiency and reduce waste.
- Net Zero Emission Mining and Green Steel focus areas to accelerate mining and mineral processing decarbonisation through clean energy, innovation and low-emissions technologies.

Two MRIWA PhD Scholarships for Women: one in each of the areas outlined below supporting women-led research targeting research in the:

- Any of MRIWA's focus areas.
- Net Zero Emission Mining and Green Steel focus areas to accelerate mining and mineral processing decarbonisation through clean energy, innovation and low-emissions technologies.



Funding amount

MRIWA PhD Scholarships are funded either as:

- A full award; or
- A top up amount provided in addition to other scholarship(s) awarded to the student, such as the Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship.

MRIWA will confirm with successful applicants and their nominated institution whether they currently hold another scholarship to determine eligibility for either a full scholarship or a top-up award.

Research and Travel Allowance

Scholarship research and travel allowance is provided with the scholarship stipend and is to be made available by the host university for valid student travel and events, such as conferences, site visits. The amount for 2027 will be modified based on the September 2026 CPI change rate.

MRIWA does not provide funding support for relocation, tuition fees, visa application fees, or Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC).

PhD Scholarship for Women

MRIWA recognises the importance of increasing the participation of women in minerals research and innovation. The PhD Scholarships for Women are targeted initiatives intended to address under-representation in mining-related research fields, support diversity of thought and experience, and strengthen the future workforce of Western Australia's minerals sector.

These scholarships form part of a broader scholarship portfolio that includes opportunities open to all eligible applicants.



MRIWA Scholarships

The following table provides guidance on each of the scholarships MRIWA is offering in 2027.

	MRIWA Odwyn Jones PhD Scholarship	MRIWA PhD Scholarship	MRIWA PhD Scholarship for Women
Study rate	Full time Part time	Full time Part time	Full time Part time
2027 Scholarship stipend rate – full scholarship	\$45,381	\$45,381	\$45,381
2027 Scholarship research and travel allowance	\$6,483	\$6,483	\$6,483
Open to applicants	All	All	Women
Study pre-requisites	Bachelor's degree Master's or other postgraduate degree	Bachelor's degree Master's or other postgraduate degree	Bachelor's degree Master's or other postgraduate degree
MRIWA Focus Area	Precision & Low Impact Mining	Alternative Use of Tailings and Waste (with critical minerals extraction focus) Net Zero Emission Mining Green Steel (Emissions Reduction focus)	One for any MRIWA focus area One in Net Zero Emission Mining or Green Steel (Emissions Reduction focus)
Applicant requirements	Domestic International	Domestic International	Domestic International
Scholarship offerings per round	1	2	2



How to apply

Applications for funding must be made on the appropriate MRIWA PhD Scholarship Application Form. The form is accessible via the [MRIWA website](#).

Closing date for the MRIWA Scholarship Program is Monday 2 November 2026.

Late and incomplete applications will not be accepted for assessment in the 2027 Round.

MRIWA may request additional information or evidence to verify eligibility.

Incomplete applications

An incomplete application includes applications submitted that:

- Are not signed by the applicant, or endorsement letter(s) not signed by the supervisor(s).
- Does not provide the required documentation as requested in the application form.
- Has not completed all mandatory fields in the application.

False and misleading claims

Applications that contain false or misleading details, including not meeting the host university's English language requirements will be considered ineligible. All required attachments must be provided at the time the application is submitted.

Participating university

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure they have, or will be able to meet, the requirements of the university at which they have applied to study. MRIWA does not have responsibility for ensuring the student has or will have:

- The financial means to support the payment of tuition or other fees.
- A Visa (where required) to study in Australia.
- Medical or other insurances required for studying in Australia.

All required attachments must be provided at the time the application is submitted.



Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for an MRIWA Scholarship, applicants must:

- ☐ Submit a complete application by the published closing date and time, including all mandatory fields, required signatures and supporting documentation.
- ☐ Submit all application materials in English. Where original documents are in another language, accredited English translations must be provided.
- ☐ Meet the English language proficiency requirements and provide evidence of proficiency (for example, IELTS or an equivalent qualification), where required.
- ☐ Submit an original research proposal that is the applicant's own work and is not substantially similar to any other proposal submitted under the MRIWA Scholarship Program. MRIWA reserves the right to assess proposal originality and determine eligibility.
- ☐ Undertake the proposed PhD program at a Western Australian university, with all scholarship-funded research to be completed in Western Australia.
- ☐ Provide evidence of enrolment in, or application to, a relevant postgraduate research degree at a Western Australian university.
- ☐ Provide scanned or electronic copies of academic transcripts.
- ☐ Obtain signed endorsement of the research proposal from all proposed supervisors.



Assessment criteria

All Applications meeting the Eligibility Criteria will be assessed for overall value against the assessment criteria.

Alignment to MRIWA strategic objectives

All applications must align and clearly demonstrate how the proposed research activity will deliver the intended outcome for the relevant Theme and Program as detailed in the RPP. Where the proposed research activity will contribute to more than one Program and/or Theme, additional Program and Themes may be nominated, provided this is substantiated in the Application itself.

Academic excellence

Applicants must demonstrate their level of academic achievement and relevant experience and will be based on the assessment of the following:

Formal qualifications

Applicants for the PhD Scholarships are required to have minimum prior qualification of a bachelor's degree with Honours, a master's degree by research, or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject. Copies of academic transcripts or certification for any qualifications cited must be included with the application.

Research publications

The applicant can improve the quality of their application by including details of any research publications to which the applicant has contributed. If they are not a named author of the publication, include a brief description of the contribution.

Other credentials

Research credentials, qualifications or achievements relevant to the application, and a summary of relevant professional experience (if any) including experience with direct relevance to the proposed research. Applicants are encouraged to include details of relevant professional memberships and experience.



Advancing Western Australia

Applications must clearly demonstrate the significance of the identified knowledge or technology need and the impact and benefit the proposed research will deliver to Western Australia.

The extent to which the proposed research will deliver benefit to Western Australia will be assessed in terms of, but not limited to, the:

- Contribution the research will make to the intended outcomes for the relevant RPP Program, Theme(s) and the MRIWA Focus Areas.
- Magnitude of the challenge or issue.
- Value gained by successfully resolving the challenge or issue.
- Mainstream or peripheral applicability to industry and academia.
- If possible, how the research can be applied or implemented in Western Australia.

Research Proposal

Applications will be assessed on the technical and scientific strength of the Research Proposal, the clarity of the proposed research activity, and the likelihood the research will achieve the anticipated outcomes.

Applications must describe the proposed activities in sufficient detail to demonstrate the research design is high quality, feasible, and capable of successfully delivering the Research Project.

The strength and clarity of the proposed project purpose, description and design will be assessed in terms of, but not limited to, the following:

- Rationale for the Project and the need for further research in the area.
- Evidence the proposed activity is novel or innovative.
- Appropriateness and robustness of the technical design or methodology, including identification of the proposed activities and timeline.
- Inclusion of objectively verifiable milestones that reflect achievement of significant stages in the research.

Personal statement

Applicants are required to provide a Personal Statement outlining their career and personal aspirations and describing how participation in the MRIWA Education and Workforce Program's training and networking activities will support their development.

The statement should also demonstrate the applicant's suitability for inclusion in the Program.



University primary supervisor/co-supervisor(s)

Applicants must provide evidence of university support for both the Research Proposal and the applicant's capacity to successfully undertake the research and achieve the anticipated outcomes. This evidence must include:

- Consent from the proposed supervisor(s) to be included in the application.
- A signed endorsement of the Research Proposal from each nominated supervisor.
- The name of the Primary Supervisor and a supporting endorsement letter.
- The names of any additional academic co-supervisors and their supporting endorsement letters.

Alignment to MRIWA Focus Area

Applicants are required to answer the final question in the application form, explaining how their proposed PhD research will contribute to the focus area's priorities and generate impact and innovation in the mining sector.

This will include:

- Strategic relevance to the focus area.
- Potential industry value.
- Likelihood of adoption.
- Strategic importance to WA mining.
- Innovation from an industry perspective.

Selection criteria

Scholarships will be awarded to applicants who demonstrate strong overall merit against the assessment criteria and the strongest alignment with the objectives of the relevant scholarship.

Where an applicant is eligible for both an MRIWA Scholarship and MRIWA Scholarship for Women, the panel will allocate the applicant to the award that best supports achievement of the portfolio objectives.

An applicant may receive only one scholarship award.



Scholar participation

The [MRIWA Education and Workforce Program](#) supports the development of exceptional research talent to help meet the future workforce needs of the Western Australian minerals sector and related industries.

It is expected students receiving MRIWA Scholarships will participate in the MRIWA Education and Workforce Program through tailored training and professional development activities. Being part of the Program cohort provides opportunities to enhance studentship experience through the MRIWA College and with their peers, events which are held in collaboration with industry, and promotion of their research through MRIWA's networks.

MRIWA Scholarship recipients are also expected to be active members of the MRIWA community, including sharing their research through presentations, presenting on their research to stakeholders and attending MRIWA hosted events.

Notification of outcomes

Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

Successful applicants will be advised of the amount and nature of the scholarship funding, any conditions attached to the award, and the next steps required to accept the offer.

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Confirm their acceptance of the scholarship offer.
- Return a signed Letter of Offer by the specified date.
- Provide evidence of admission, or eligibility for admission, to the proposed Western Australian university.



Scholarship Agreement

Once the Letter of Offer has been accepted and returned, and evidence of admission has been provided, MRIWA will issue a Scholarship Agreement to the successful applicant.

The Scholarship Agreement will be subject to review, negotiation (where required), and execution by MRIWA after signing by the scholarship recipient and the host university. It will establish the terms of the scholarship, including funding arrangements, reporting requirements and the responsibilities of each party.

MRIWA will only release scholarship funding once the Scholarship Agreement has been fully signed by all parties and executed by MRIWA.

The Scholarship Agreement will include details of the:

- MRIWA payment schedule.
- Recipient's project plan, study load (FTE) and milestone schedule.
- Funding milestones and associated payment arrangements.

Scholarship payments will generally be made every six months and will be contingent on the satisfactory achievement of agreed milestones throughout the scholarship term.

Payment schedule

All payments are made in Australian dollars, and all scholarship payments will be GST exclusive.

Payment 1 will be processed on commencement of the Agreement once confirmation is received from the Host University the Scholarship Recipient has commenced studies on campus.



Publicity and promotion

Non-confidential project information from the research undertaken may be made available on the MRIWA website and published as part of the MRIWA annual report to provide a statement on the success of the MRIWA Scholarship program.

MRIWA reserves the right to distribute non-confidential in-progress and completed project information the Minister's Office, media outlets, the MRIWA newsletter, and via its social media channels (Facebook, X and LinkedIn).

Contact

For enquiries and for application submissions contact the MRIWA Education and Workforce Program at scholarships@mriwa.wa.gov.au

