



**AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION**

Economic Equity Scholarship | Terms and Conditions

1. About the Scholarship

ACF wants the Fellowship opportunity to be accessible and attractive to applicants of all economic backgrounds. However, we recognise that there may be significant financial barriers which may exist preventing individuals from volunteering two days per week in the environment movement.

In light of this, for the Summer 2021 Fellowship Cohort, ACF are awarding four scholarships (valued at \$2,000 each) for the duration of the Fellowship.

2. Applying for the Scholarship

Scholarships will be awarded on application to any candidate who can demonstrate that they would be unable to participate in the Fellowship without financial support. This should be included in their [cover letter](#) of their application for the ACF Fellowship.

In candidates, we value lived experience in migration and/or seeking asylum amongst yourself or your family, speaking languages other than English in the home, applicants who are themselves or whose parents are casually or precariously employed, candidates who have experiences with Centrelink, and candidates from diverse and intersectional lived experiences.

Candidates coming from a low income community are not only desirable, but the financial barriers preventing individuals from volunteering for roles like this is a challenge this scholarship seeks to address.

3. Key Selection Criteria

The **questions and Key Selection Criteria** for this component of the scholarship application process are:

Criteria	Weighting	Question
Demonstrable need for the scholarship in order to participate	25%	Please tell us why you applied for the scholarship. Will you be unable to participate in the Fellowship without the granting of this scholarship? If you can still participate, will you face significant hardship?

<p>Relevant personal circumstances that may have impacted your ability to engage in volunteering in the environment movement in the past, including (but not limited to): carer responsibilities, sole parent responsibilities, age, personal medical conditions, disability, culturally and linguistically diverse background, racial status or ethnicity, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, lived experience in migration and/or seeking asylum, refugee status, relocation from a regional or remote area, gender identity, sexuality, socioeconomic status (including people who are themselves or whose parents are casually or precariously employed, or who have experiences with Centrelink) or similar.</p>	40%	Please tell us about any relevant personal circumstances that may have impacted your ability to engage in volunteering in the environment movement in the past.
<p>Ability to positively contribute to their community upon completion of the Fellowship.</p>	35%	How you might use your participation in the ACF Fellowship to positively benefit environmental action within your community.

4. Review Panel

The Scholarship Review Panel will consist of:

- The National Network Organiser
- A representative from the Diversity, Inclusion & Equity Team
- A representative from People and Culture

They will meet once in December, 2020 following the interview process to review the successful applications that also applied for a scholarship. The panel will award four scholarships based on the criteria above, and outline in writing why each successful recipient is deserving.

5. Scholarship Notification

Applicants will be notified whether they have been successful in being awarded a scholarship at the same time as being notified about their acceptance into the ACF Fellowship program. This will give those that were accepted into the program, but not awarded a scholarship, the opportunity to decline the offer of a place in the program if they cannot proceed without a scholarship. For those unsuccessful in obtaining a scholarship but who are still offered a place in the Fellowship we will also notify you in writing as to why you weren't successful in obtaining a scholarship.

6. Scholarship Anonymity

Only the scholarship review panel, the ACF Fellowship program coordinators and accounts staff will be aware of the recipients of the scholarship unless Fellows disclose this information themselves.

7. Funds administration

Funds will be administered to each recipient in six amounts of \$333.33. This amount will be paid each month of your Fellowship into the recipient's nominated bank account.

8. Use of funds

The recipient can use the funds on whatever expenses will help them participate in the program. Please note that this should not include reasonable expenses that ACF already cover in the program (laptops, travel for training etc).

9. Discontinuation of the funds

ACF reserves the right to discontinue the funds at any time, particularly in situations where the Fellow has discontinued their Fellowship commitments.

10. Recouping of funds

ACF reserves the right to seek the reimbursement of already paid scholarship funds in situations where the Fellow has discontinued their Fellowship commitments. We will of course take into consideration the personal circumstances of the Fellow and their reasons for discontinuing.

11. Reporting

Recipients will not be required to report to ACF on the expenditure of the funds, however we would appreciate scholarship recipients completing a short anonymous survey at the end of their Fellowship to ACF understand the value of scholarships in helping individuals participate in programs like the Fellowship. When it comes to reporting this scholarship to the Australian Tax Office, the recipient will need to consider their own tax situation.