

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, BIOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT
FENNER SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY
LESSLIE RESEARCH GRANT IN LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY
CONDITIONS of AWARD

1. INTRODUCTION

A grant program has been established on behalf of the Lesslie family, recognizing the contributions of Dr Rob Lesslie (an alumnus of the Australian National University (ANU)) to landscape conservation and ecology.

The objective of the grant program is to provide financial support for ANU staff and affiliated researchers undertaking high-quality applied research and development aimed at promoting better protected, more resilient and productive Australian landscapes and ecosystems.

The research focus for the grant program is applied research in the natural sciences with the potential to promote Australian landscapes and ecosystems that are better protected and resilient against the background of a changing climate, population, and other threatening processes. This will include applied research work in the fields of:

- *Natural resources management sciences*
- *Land evaluation*
- *Land use science*
- *Ecological conservation*

Particular areas of interest include applied research and development advancing 'whole of landscape' land evaluation and conservation, integrated natural resources management, and measures to maintain the environmental integrity and productivity of our natural landscapes and ecosystems.

The grant program is intended to support research that ultimately has tangible public benefits for conservation science, policy and improved decision-making. It is also intended to foster better links between the applied research and practitioner communities.

The Fenner School of Environment and Society (FSES) at the Australian National University (ANU) is responsible for the coordination and management of the grant program. The program is being guided by a Steering Committee with expertise in relevant research areas.

2. VALUE

It is anticipated that two annual grants will be offered of up to \$25,000 each. The value of the grants awarded will be considered in conjunction with the applications for the Lesslie Scholarship in Landscape Conservation and Ecology and within the total amount available annually from the Lesslie Endowment fund.

Grants will be available for operational purposes including the purchase of essential equipment, data, software, and consumable materials. The grants will also be available to assist with fieldwork, travel and research expenses, workshops/seminars costs and publication expenses. The Awardee is responsible for ensuring that expenditure on the project is appropriate and in accordance with the aims and research plan as stated in the application.

Grants will not provide funds for salary support or honoraria, administration, managerial, infrastructure and other university of institutional on-costs.

3. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants will include postdoctoral, tenured and non-tenured ANU researchers.

To encourage accessibility and collaboration, applications that include involvement with the wider community of practitioners in the field of landscape conservation in Australia will be welcomed. This could include application in partnership with other universities and research institutions, the government, NGO sector, community groups and land managers.

Applicants should be qualified and experienced, with recognised standing in an appropriate field.

Previously successful applicants for Grants may apply for subsequent Grants, either for new projects or the extension of successful existing projects. Please note, if applying for a subsequent Grant all reporting requirements from the previous Grant will need to be met before the application will be considered.

Applicants will be Australian citizens or permanent residents.

4. APPLICATION

The grant application should be 4-5 pages and include:

- Investigator summary including researcher track record and curriculum vitae
- Project summary
- Project details
 - o Significance and innovation
 - o Background
 - o Aims and deliverables
 - o Approach and methodology, including timeframes
 - o Budget and budget justification
 - o Relevance to the research focus of the grant program

The assessment criteria includes:

- Researcher track record, relative to opportunity
- Relevance to the conservation of Australian landscapes and ecosystems (as per the research focus)
- Relevance to a problem or management need
- Originality and rigour of the research
- Demonstrated (or anticipated) impact.

The focus of supported research should be Australian, with work based at the ANU. This does not preclude aspects of work taking place at other institutions, in remote locations or overseas.

The results of work supported by the Grant will be openly published and promoted through appropriate avenues including conferences, workshops and public lectures.

5. SELECTION

Applications will be evaluated by a Selection Committee comprising three academic members of staff with expertise in relevant research fields. The Selection Committee may invite researchers to discuss their proposals further after submission.

The Selection Committee will make a recommendation to the Director, Fenner School of Environment and Society.

In the event that the Selection Committee considers no application is deemed of sufficient merit, funding may be reinvested in the grant program and/or held over. The ANU, as represented by the Fenner School of Environment and Society, reserves the right not to award funding in any given year as determined by the Director, Fenner School of Environment and Society. The University reserves the right to revise the grant award conditions from time to time.

6. CONCURRENT HOLDING OF OTHER GRANTS/AWARDS

Previously successful applicants for Grants may apply for subsequent Grants, either for new projects or the extension of successful existing projects.

7. DURATION

The Grant will be recognised as a single instalment paid into an ANU designated account and will be expended and accounted for under the financial management system of the School and University. The funds will be expended within two years of award.

8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Awardees must meet the following report requirements to the Director, Fenner School of Environment & Society:

- Annual progress reports
- Brief end of grant project report (2 pages) indicating
 - how the funds were spent
 - the project outcomes including any resulting publications or reports
 - any further benefits that have arisen from the project
 - a snapshot summary which could be used for media purposes.

9. PUBLICITY

It is anticipated that grant recipients may be requested to participate in publicity of the Grant from time to time. This may include but not limited to interview, photograph and written material to be used for publicizing the Grant.

10. CONTACT

Enquiries regarding this grant should be made in writing through the Fenner School of Environment & Society:

Email: lesslie.endowment.applications@anu.edu.au

11. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

The awardee is subject to *The Australian National University Act 1991* as amended, and to the Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Resolutions of the University.

12. DISCLAIMER

The award does not carry any commitment by the University for future-employment.