



2020 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship

The Parliamentary Library offers two summer research scholarships for postgraduate students each year. Scholars work alongside specialist researchers in the Parliamentary Library in Canberra for a period of six weeks to produce a report on a topic of relevance to the Library's research program.

Research topics

In 2020, the Library is seeking applications from students who have an interest in and knowledge of the following topics or a related area:

Politics and public administration

- Constitutional reform in the current environment of declining trust in institutions and the impact of social media and 'fake-news' –does this environment present additional challenges to possible constitutional reform over and above the 'standard' challenges that have always existed?
- Does public engagement with Parliament (participation in committee inquiries, petitions) reflect the reported decline in engagement with/trust in institutions/democracy?
- How has Parliament shaped key public debates? Issues could include (but are not limited to):
 - Immigration
 - Indigenous Australians
 - The environment
 - Defence
 - National identity and sovereignty
 - Constitutional reform

Science technology environment and resources

- The growing issue of antimicrobial resistance, and the effectiveness of attempts to deal with it globally and in Australia.
- Developments in battery technology and its implications.
- The future of cars – alternative fuels, batteries, driverless etc.
- Problems with the process of science and scientific publishing.

Foreign affairs, defence and security

- Competition for Antarctic territory.
- Australia in space.
- India as a major power.
- China's global engagement.
- Law enforcement capacity - building in our region.
- Big data and data analytics – scope and extent within the Australian public and private spheres.

Social policy

- A chronology of Australian government labour market programs.
- What counts as quality? An examination of quality measures in one of more Australian education sectors (early childhood, schools, higher education, vocational education).
- An examination of different models for an Indigenous voice to parliament (as proposed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart).
- Health literacy, consumer-centred care or consumer choice in one or more Australian Government health or disability programs.

Law

- A chronology and critical analysis of Australian foreign investment laws in real property and corporate securities since Federation.
- History and current status of treaty arrangements in the Timor Sea.
- A summary and analysis of the High Court cases over 2017-18 relating to section 44 of the Constitution.

Statistics and mapping

- Analysis of long-term trends in home ownership using census data.

Economics

- Which of fiscal or monetary policy is more effective in improving living standards in an environment of low economic growth and low interest rates?
- Is income a suitable taxing base? What are some alternative approaches?
- What are the implications for telecommunications/broadband policy in Australia of 5G?
- What are the implications for balanced news coverage in Australia of the rising prominence of digital platforms and the changing structure of traditional media?
- Is there a role for Commonwealth governments to use national urban policy to tackle intergenerational equity/inequality?

When do the scholarships occur?

The Summer Research Scholarship is undertaken during the summer academic recess. Scholars are based in the Parliamentary Library in Canberra from Monday 6 January until Friday 14 February 2020. Scholars submit their research report on or before Friday 24 April 2020. The scholarship cannot be undertaken at an alternative time.

Elements of the scholarship

To successfully fulfil the requirements of the scholarship, recipients must:

- be based in the Parliamentary Library for a period of six weeks
- present a short work-in-progress seminar
- produce a research report on one topic (5,000-8,000 words).

Summer Research Scholars also participate in a number of activities during the scholarship period, including:

- an induction program where scholars learn about the role of the Parliamentary Library, its place in the parliamentary environment, and the purpose and style of its research publications
- research section meetings as appropriate and other Library activities
- functions with summer research scholars from the National Library of Australia and the Australian War Memorial
- a guided tour of Parliament House.

For the period of the scholarship in Canberra, scholars will be provided a fully-equipped work-station (phone, internet, email) and access to a printer. Scholars may discuss any requirements for specialised software.

Upon successful completion of the scholarship, an honorarium of \$1,800 will be awarded to scholars.

Do I need to be studying in an area related to the research topic?

Applicants do not need to be studying in an area directly related to the research topics nominated. However, applicants do need to demonstrate their knowledge in the area, relevant research skills, and prepare a research proposal detailing how they will approach the topic.

Can I select my own topic?

Applicants can propose their own topic but it should have some connection to the topics listed.

Why should I apply?

The Parliamentary Library is a unique research environment and the Summer Research Scholarship allows scholars to understand and work within this important national institution. The scholarship also gives recipients the opportunity to:

- build research expertise
- contribute to scholarship on the Parliament and its work
- receive training and access the Library's specialist collections and databases
- interact with subject-matter experts and
- be guided by a mentor who will provide advice during the scholarship.

Who can apply?

The Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship is open to postgraduate students studying at an Australian tertiary institution who have successfully completed at least one year (FTE) of postgraduate study. Applicants must be Australian citizens and be enrolled at the time of the scholarship.

Selection criteria

Applicants do not need to directly address the selection criteria in their applications, but they should demonstrate the following:

- a quality research proposal on one of the identified topics or a related topic
- strong research skills
- excellent written communication skills
- an ability to work within set guidelines and to deadlines and
- a capacity to work effectively within a professional research environment.

Selection process

Applications for the 2020 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship will close at midnight on Wednesday **16 October 2019**. Applicants will be assessed by the selection panel and those short-listed will be scheduled for a telephone interview. Successful applicants will be notified by mid November 2019.

Other issues to note

Assistance

The Parliamentary Library is unable to provide any assistance (financial or otherwise) with travel or accommodation in relation to the scholarship.

Relationship between the scholar and the Library

The relationship between the Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholars and the Department of Parliamentary Services will not be one of employer and employee, and no employee benefits will arise for the Summer Research Scholars. Scholars will be covered for all work health and safety issues for the duration of their placement and as such are required to abide by all Department of Parliamentary Services work health and safety policies and procedures.

Scholars will not have direct dealings with the Parliamentary Library's clients, undertake work directly related to client inquiries, or be involved in any activity that would breach the confidentiality provisions of the *Parliamentary Services Act 1999*.

Scholars will, for the period of the scholarship, be assigned a mentor with whom can discuss their research. The mentor will be a specialist researcher in the Parliamentary Library and will oversee the scholar's work and progress.

Ownership of work

The Parliamentary Library will retain the ability to use, reproduce, adapt, modify, distribute or communicate any work produced by scholars. In some instances, research papers may be accepted for publication. If accepted for publication, the paper will be published online as part of the Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholar series, and copyright in the scholar's paper will be owned by the Commonwealth. Scholars may of course request permission to republish the paper for their own purposes.

Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholars are required to acknowledge the support of the Parliamentary Library in any publication or other material resulting from the research they undertake during the scholarship. They may be required to deposit with the Library a copy of their thesis, other publication or subsequent research outcome arising from the scholarship.

Pre-commencement requirements

Prior to commencing the scholarship, recipients must:

- obtain a police records check so a security pass can be issued for access to the non-public areas of Parliament House
- sign a parliamentary computing network agreement form
- agree to meet and maintain the standards of behaviour, conduct and confidentiality in accordance with the Parliamentary Service Values and Parliamentary Service Code of Conduct under the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*.

Further information

If you would like to discuss the 2020 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship further, please contact:

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or

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2020 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship

Preparing your application

Applications for the 2020 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarships must include the following documents.

Application form

Applicants must complete all sections of the 2020 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship application form.

Academic transcript

Certified copies of academic transcripts for all undergraduate and postgraduate study are to be attached to the application form. Documents can be certified by individuals identified in Schedule 2 of the Statutory Declarations Regulations 1993 (Commonwealth) available at www.legislation.gov.au. The certifying statement should be as follows:

'This is a true copy of the original documents sighted by me.'

Name of certifier and date

Signature

Contact telephone number

Certifier's qualification

Curriculum vitae

Applicants can format their *curriculum vitae* in any manner they wish, but it should include details of any qualifications, previous employment, other research awards previously held, and a list of published or unpublished work.

Research proposal

Each application must be accompanied by a research proposal up to 1,000 words (not including footnotes or references), which outlines how the applicant proposes to approach one of the identified research topics or a related topic. This proposal should include:

- a draft outline of the scope of the work
- discussion of methodology
- identification of areas of relevant literature
- any suggestions on novel ways in which the topic might be approached or treated
- a statement on how working in the Parliamentary Library will contribute to the content/quality of the research.

The purpose of this proposal is to assist the selection panel to understand your ideas and approach to research. For successful applicants, the final scope and shape of the research project will be discussed and agreed upon at the commencement of the scholarship.

Referee reports

Applications must include referee reports from two academic or professional referees. Each referee report must be attached to a referee report form, which must be signed by the referee and the applicant.

Submitting your application

Applications for the 2020 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship will close at midnight on Wednesday **16 October 2019**. Applications are to be submitted by email to: parliamentary.librarian@aph.gov.au. All applications will be acknowledged within one working day of receipt. No late applications will be considered.



2020 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship Application Form

Personal details

Name:	<input type="text"/>	Preferred title:	<input type="text"/>
Mailing address:	<input type="text"/>		
Phone number:	(daytime) <input type="text"/>	(mobile) <input type="text"/>	
Email address:	<input type="text"/>		
Citizenship:	Australian Citizen	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Details of current study

Degree for which you are currently studying:	<input type="text"/>		
Field of study/major:	<input type="text"/>		
Name of institution:	<input type="text"/>		
Date of commencement:	<input type="text"/>	Expected completion:	<input type="text"/>
Topic/title of thesis:	<input type="text"/>		

Previous tertiary qualifications

Start	Completion	Institution	Name of degree
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Summer research scholarship area of study

Identify which research topic you propose to study:

Referee 1

Name and title:

Position:

Institution/organisation:

Relationship to applicant:

Phone:

Email:

Referee 2

Name and title:

Position:

Institution/organisation:

Relationship to applicant:

Phone:

Email:

Attachments

Certified copies of academic transcript:

Curriculum vitae:

Research proposal:

Referee reports:

Submit the application form and all attachments to
parliamentary.librarian@aph.gov.au
by midnight 16 October 2019.



2020 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship Referee Report

Applicant's details

Name:

Referee's details

Name and title:

Position:

Institution/organisation:

Relationship to applicant:

Phone:

Email:

Referee's statement

Please attach a statement to support the above-named applicant for the 2020 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship. In particular, you may wish to provide comment in the following areas:

- quality of the research proposal
- demonstrated research skills
- standard of written and oral communication
- ability to work within set guidelines and to deadlines
- capacity to work effectively within a professional research environment.

Additional comments may be used to emphasise any strengths and weaknesses. In some cases the selection panel may contact you for further discussion and clarification of your comments. Please note that the applicant will have access to the comments made.

Signatures

Referee

Applicant

Date:

Date: