



AFIPS Visiting Fellowships Program

2025 Guidelines

The Australia-France Indo-Pacific Studies Program (AFIPS Program) will be delivered by the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (the Academy), with support from the Australian Government (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) under the Australia-France Roadmap.

In line with the overall objectives of the AFIPS Program, the Academy will facilitate visiting Fellowships for Early Career Researchers (ECR) for up to 3 months (90 days) with one or more research organisations located in Australia, with funding available to support social science research, networking, and collaboration opportunities.

Applications for funding in 2025 will open 24 January 2025 and will close 16 March 2025 11:59pm local Canberra time. Application outcomes will be provided by early April 2025 for provision of funding and coordination of Fellowships to commence before July 2025.

Program Objectives:

The AFIPS Visiting Fellowship Program is intended to facilitate deeper links between Indo-Pacific, French, and Australian scholars, students and policy makers, fostering collaboration and exchange for social scientists with shared interests.

Visiting Fellows will have the option of spending up to 3 months based at one host institution and to travel for conferences and research activities in the Indo-Pacific region, or to arrange one primary host institution (where the most amount of time would be spent), and spend shorter stays with other host institutions within Australia. Flexibility is offered when visiting Fellows are designing their itinerary, to maximise the potential for exchange and collaboration offered by this opportunity.

Fellowships will offer opportunities for enhancing research and translation capacities among social scientists (see Appendix B for information regarding social science fields of research) working on issues of mutual interest in the Indo-Pacific region, **including but not limited to:**

- Foreign policy, defence, or strategic issues
- Climate change
- Migration
- Trade, diplomacy, and international relations
- Demography
- Gender
- Equality
- Cultural and economic development
- Indigenous knowledge

Funding:

Financial arrangements for the program are designed to *subsidise* living expenses and research activity costs of visiting Fellows, rather than constitute their typical income. These will ultimately be negotiated on an individual basis according to the length of visit and proposed research activities, but as a rule will constitute the following paid either to the individual visiting Fellow or their home institution:

- International travel (economy class) up to AU\$2,400 per Visiting Fellow
- Daily stipend to cover food, accommodation, and other living expenses of up to AU\$150 per day for 90 days per visiting Fellow
- Conference/Training allowance - for example, workshop and conference attendance, specialist research training, field research and project support costs up to AU\$3,000 per visiting Fellow.

Total cost per visiting Fellow covered by the project: max. AUD \$18,900.

It is expected that visiting fellowships will provide a capacity building opportunity for early career researchers, and therefore funding considerations recognise that salaries, wages, additional overheads and indirect costs incurred by visiting Fellows are in-kind contributions to the project by the applicant. Applicants are encouraged to secure additional support to assist in covering the additional costs of the trip (for instance, gaining subsidised support from the proposed host institution).

Eligibility & Conditions:

- Eligible applicants must be early-career social science researchers affiliated (by nationality or place of work) with Indo-Pacific nations, mainland France or French overseas territories, who have completed their PhD within the last 5 years (see Appendix A for information regarding Career Interruptions).
- Institutional affiliation to a university or equivalent research or cultural organisation (including think tanks) is required, with a continuing appointment at their home institution for the period of the visiting Fellowship.
- Visiting Fellows are expected to be based full-time in Australia for the duration of the Fellowship, with possible exceptions for field work, conferences, and workshops in the Indo-Pacific region.

Fellowship Outputs:

- Visiting Fellows will provide a post-fellowship report of up to three pages to the Academy within two months following the visit, including details and outcomes of research and training activities completed during the visit.
- It is also expected that Fellows deliver a seminar or public event on their research during their visit, which may be undertaken as part of an existing seminar series within the relevant host institution/s.

Fellowship International Travel Considerations:

Relevant and up to date information and requirements for the types of visas in Australia can be found on the Australian Department of Home Affairs [Visa list](#), and Visiting Fellows are strongly encouraged to make visa support/sponsorship arrangements with their intended host institution/s.

The Academy may be able to act as a supporter for visiting Fellows wishing to apply for a Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408) – Other Social and Cultural Activity (Invited Participant), subject to certain conditions.

Application Process:

Applications should be submitted to the Academy's International Team via the application form and host endorsement form links available on the AFIPS Program [website](#).

Proposals should be discussed with the host institution/s prior to submission. When completing applications, visiting Fellows are encouraged to include as much detail as possible about conferences and research activities for the intended stay. Fellows are expected to have endorsement/s from host institution/s for the duration of their stay.

In addition to the completed application form, the application should include:

- Signed copy/ copies of the host institution endorsement form/s, confirming the host arrangement – i.e. signed by the Head of School / College / Research Institution and indicating timeframe of hosting arrangements. Note: The Academy will provide some assistance in facilitating the finalised agreements with the host institution/s.
- A current curriculum vitae (CV) for the proposed Visiting Fellow (up to 3 pages) [with a list of recent research activities and/or publications]
- A letter of support from the visiting Fellow's home institution

The Academy will provide successful applicants with some general country-specific information to assist with their stay in Australia (including health and insurance), however it is a visiting Fellow's responsibility to ensure they meet visa requirements, make relative arrangements with their prospective host institution/s and submit all required documentation on time to the appropriate institutions.

Assessment Criteria:

- Outline of the planned research to be undertaken during the Fellowship and how it connects to the AFIPS Program objectives
- Impact of the planned research activity outputs to arise from the Fellowship, considering the innovation and scholarly significance of the Fellowship activities
- Feasibility of the planned Fellowship activities within the grant funding available

- Track record of visiting Fellow, considering preparedness to fulfil the proposed research activities and AFIPS Program objectives.

Each of the above criteria will be assessed with equal weight with reference to the information included in the application documents.

The assessment committee will also consider factors of diversity (women researchers, researchers from low-middle income countries, disability and other factors of disadvantage).

Conditions:

By submitting your application, you will be asked to acknowledge and agree to the following conditions:

- Information on the application form is collected to make recommendations to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia on the allocation of financial assistance under their respective budgets. The information collected may be passed to assessors for the purposes of obtaining a peer-review assessment of the application. It may also be passed to other funding bodies and other public organisations (inc. Universities and research bodies) judged appropriate by the funding organisations. In other instances, information on this form can be disclosed without your consent where authorised or required by law.
- It is the Fellow's responsibility to ensure they have the correct visa and travel insurance required for their stay.
- Fellowships must be commenced within the period nominated by the Fellow, and endorsed by the host institution/s unless otherwise approved by the Academy.
- Fellows are expected to be based full-time in Australia for the duration of the Fellowship.
- Fellows are expected to comply with applicable domestic and international laws and ethics requirements, including obtaining any permits or permissions required for them to lawfully and ethically conduct their research activities.
- While the Academy gives careful consideration to applications, it is not able to enter into discussion or correspondence regarding the reasons why an application is unsuccessful.
- Successful applicants will comply with all requirements and responsibilities set out in the grant guidelines and funding agreement.
- Successful applicants, or their home institution, will invoice the Academy according to the funding agreement payment schedule, within two weeks of executing the funding agreement.
- Successful applicants are required to submit a report of the research activities funded by the program and an acquittal of funds within **two months** following the completion of the funded activities.
- Successful applicants will acknowledge the AFIPS Visiting Fellowship Program funding in all the publications and other research-related activities undertaken under the scheme.

Contact:

International Programs Officer

Anna Devenport/ International Team: international@socialsciences.org.au

Appendix

Social Science Fields of Research

For a list of social science fields of research (FoR), please refer to the information available on the Academy's website: <https://socialsciences.org.au/social-science-fields-of-research/>

Career Interruptions for early-career researchers:

We recognise career interruptions can have a significant impact on the period between the conferral of a researcher's PhD and the submission of an application. We therefore allow extension of the eligibility periods for specified career interruptions.

The following significant and non-overlapping career interruptions will be eligible:

Reason for career interruption	Time which can be claimed (minimum period of one month)
International relocation	Time commensurate with the interruption, not exceeding three months per international location.
Child-care as a primary carer (includes periods of parental leave as well as part-time work while caring for one or more children)	Up to two years per dependent child.
Other caring responsibilities (including care of a dependent child due to illness or disability)	Time commensurate with the interruption.
Medical condition or disability	Time commensurate with the interruption.
Non-research employment (if not concurrent with research employment) or unemployment	Time commensurate with the interruption.