

Factsheet: Australian Science Policy Fellowship Program



The program gives Australian scientists the opportunity to work in a Commonwealth Government Department for one year. It seeks to grow the diversity of expertise in the Australian Public Service workforce by providing a pathway for early- and mid-career scientists to become skilled policy practitioners.

What will the program offer participants?

The program offers a range of benefits to participants:

- Fellows will receive on-the-job training in, and exposure to, policy development. You are not being appointed as a subject matter specialist, but rather you will be given the opportunity to develop generalist policy skills, contributing to the activities of existing teams in a participating department.
- You will have access to a range of professional development provided by your host department, and possibly external training opportunities in public policy.
- The program includes an alumni network managed by the Office of the Chief Scientist. An equivalent program in the United States of America which has been in place since 1973 boasts an impressive alumni network with over 3000 members, and provides an avenue for growing the program and enhancing the employment prospects of past participants.
- As a pathway program into the Australian Public Service, participation in the program will mean you will be well placed to compete for other policy and program roles. You are encouraged to pursue these opportunities over the course of the program.

Program details

Fellowships will be offered for a fixed period of one year commencing in July and concluding in June.

Up to 20 fellowships will be offered in each year of the pilot program, based on a competitive selection process.

Successful applicants will be employed by host departments as non-ongoing policy officers at the APS6 level for 12 months. Conditions of employment and remuneration will be in accordance with the relevant host department's enterprise agreement.

Who can apply

To be eligible for the Science Policy Fellowship Pilot Program you must:

- be an Australian citizen aged 18 years or over
- hold a PhD in one of the following disciplines:
 - medical and health sciences
 - biological, physical or earth sciences
 - behavioural sciences
 - computational sciences and mathematics
 - engineering disciplines (applicants with a Masters in engineering and three years of professional engineering experience also qualify)
- be no more than 15 years post PhD completion (adjusted for career breaks) and
- be prepared to relocate to Canberra if you currently live interstate.

Degrees from overseas universities must be recognised by an Overseas Qualification Unit. More information on overseas qualifications recognition is available at <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/services-and-resources/pages/qualifications-recognition.aspx>

What is the selection process?

Candidates will be selected through a two-stage interview process. In the first instance, a selection panel will shortlist candidates for the first round of interviews. Candidates that are successful in first-round interviews will be invited to attend a second interview with the selection panel.

What will I need to do if successful?

Successful candidates will be required to pass a minimum baseline security clearance (as part of the recruitment process) and provide evidence of PhD completion and Australian Citizenship.

You will be expected to commit to the full year program in your participating host department, commencing in July and concluding the following June.

Working as a member of a team, you will undertake policy tasks within your participating department, and will be expected to undertake both formal and on-the-job training opportunities and other professional development activities.

How do I apply?

To apply you must:

- complete the online application form
- address all eligibility and merit criteria
- submit your application by the advertised closing date.

You should read the Program Summary and Frequently Asked Questions before you apply.

Where can I find more information?

There is further information available in the Program Summary. If you still have questions, please contact OCS-projects@chiefscientist.gov.au