



AUSTRALIAN FLORA FOUNDATION

A charity fostering scientific research into the biology and cultivation of the Australian flora

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS FOR RESEARCH GRANTS - 2026

The Australian Flora Foundation (AFF) provides funding for research projects to individual researchers and research teams, to support original scientific studies on the biology, ecology, conservation, and cultivation of Australian plants. Established in 1981 with the aim of fostering scientific research on the biology and cultivation of Australian plants, it aims to support research that will create improved understanding and greater awareness of the value of the Australian flora, leading to pathways for their conservation and utilisation.

Scope of grants

The Foundation's research priorities are:

- 1) conservation of Australian plant diversity, particularly those facing threats from climate change
- 2) the cultivation of Australian plants, to ensure their survival and reduce the threat to native ecosystems
- 3) rare and endangered plants.

While other topics will also be considered, research on taxonomy and phytochemistry is of lesser interest unless it forms part of a larger project. Research on orchids and marine plants, and flora surveys are not within the scope of the Foundation's funding aims.

Applications on rare and endangered plants should indicate how the proposed research relates to an established management plan, if available, for the species.

Projects which will be part of an ARC Linkage Project, or requests for co-investment into a Linkage application, will also be considered, but AFF funding will be dependent on ARC support for the Project.

Projects must be scientifically sound and aim to provide outcomes within the period of the grant.

Types of grants

Grants will be awarded in 2026 for research projects to commence in early 2027, with funds available from December 2026. The Foundation administers three grants programs:

Malcolm Reed Grants: to support substantial projects for 2 to 3 years, with budgets in the range of \$20,000 to \$60,000, spread over the time period of the project. The budget must not exceed \$30,000 in any one year.

Small Grants: to support smaller and exploratory projects for one to two years, with budgets in the range of \$5,000 to \$20,000, spread over the time period of the project.

Ian and Janet McConachie Macadamia Conservation Grant: to support one project annually for up to three years, with a budget of up to \$20,000 per annum, focused on the ecology and conservation of macadamias. This grant scheme is funded by Wild Macadamia Conservation (<https://wildmacadamia.org.au/>) with the AFF managing the selection process.

Applications may be lodged under one scheme only.

Applicants

Grant applications can be submitted by single investigators or research teams.

Applicants must be suitably qualified and experienced to lead a project; higher degree research students need to name a qualified project supervisor as co-investigator.

Applicants must perform the proposed research in Australia.

The Lead (or single) Investigator must be available for the entire duration of the proposed project.

A student (Honours/Masters/PhD) can be Lead Investigator, but must name a co-investigator who will assume responsibility for the completion of the project and the submission of the required reports if the student leaves prior to finalising these activities.

All applicants must have fulfilled their reporting obligations in relation to previous grants awarded by the Foundation.

The Lead (first-named) Applicant must be a member of the Foundation.

The institution or company to which the applicant is attached, a contact phone number and email and postal address must be included. The nominated contact person is normally a staff member of the research organisation's research office. The administration contact cannot be an investigator.

Application Process

The application process comprises two stages. Preliminary applications need to be submitted on the relevant AFF form (available on the Foundation's webpage) by March 17, 2026. Shortlisted applicants will be invited by late April to submit a full application by June 30, 2026.

Each application will be evaluated on its alignment with the priorities and objectives of the Australian Flora Foundation, the scientific merit of the project, the likely success within the stipulated timeframe, and the availability of funds. Successful applicants will be notified in September 2026 and funds will be available from December 2026.

Project Budgets

The Foundation provides funding only for essential costs of the proposed research. Institutional overhead costs cannot be included in the budget, nor does the Foundation fund conference travel and publication costs.

All amounts must include GST.

If the proposed research is part of a larger research project (such as an ARC Linkage project) or a student's project part-funded from another source, applicants need to state how the funding requested from the Foundation will create additional capacity and outcomes.

If a salary component is requested, applicants need to demonstrate that this salary component creates essential and additional capacity, rather than covering pre-existing salary commitments.

Submission of Application

Applications should be submitted electronically as a PDF file to the AFF's Grants Officer, Em. Prof. Hans Griesser, at grants@aff.org.au.

Enquiries should be submitted to the same email address.

The Australian Flora Foundation gratefully acknowledges all those individuals and organisations who make these grants possible by contributing to the AFF Research Fund.