

## Griffith University Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

A list of Frequently Asked Questions is listed below. Should your question not be listed, please email it to [internalgrants@griffith.edu.au](mailto:internalgrants@griffith.edu.au) for further assistance.

(click on relevant heading below)

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### Visa requirements

**Q: Am I eligible to apply for this year's 2021 GUPF scheme? I do not hold an Australian Passport nor do I have existing working visa to work in Australia but can arrange for a visa in due course.**

**A:** This scheme normally *is* open to international applicants, however for 2021, given the on-going global COVID-19 situation and the unknown future of border restrictions, the University made the difficult decision to restrict eligibility for this year's round to applicants who already have existing rights to work in Australia.

We would encourage you to consider applying in next year's round, for which we hope to have lifted this eligibility restriction.

**Q: I reside overseas and do not have a current visa to work in Australia. Am I eligible to apply?**

**A:** If you are currently residing overseas and you do not hold a current visa to work in Australia you are ineligible to apply to this year's round.

We would encourage you to consider applying in next year's round, for which we hope to have lifted this eligibility restriction.

**Q: I am an Australian Citizen/Resident residing overseas. Am I eligible to apply under the Candidate eligibility criteria?**

**A:** Due to the ongoing COVID travel border restrictions, for the 2021 GUPF round, applicants who are Australian Citizens/Residents and are currently located overseas are eligible to apply, so long as applicants meet all the other eligibility requirements and noting this year's 2 stage application process.

If successful, applicants **must** commit to being located full-time at Griffith University no later than final commencement date 30 June 2022 of the Fellowship. There can be no exemptions to this date.

**Q: My visa expires this year but am applying for a Permanent Residency before January 2022, am I eligible?**

**A:** If successful, you must have your Permanent Residency approved and in place no later than 28 January 2022. If it is not in place by this date, the fellowship will be revoked.

**Q: My current visa expires this year but I will be applying for a postgraduate visa, am I eligible?**

**A:** If successful, Fellows will be required to have a visa to work in Australia for the duration of the Fellowship by the final acceptance date of 28 January 2022.

**Q: My visa expires next year, am I still eligible?**

**A:** So long as you have a valid working visa as of 28 January 2022 and your new visa has been approved (and will cover the duration of the Postdoctoral Fellowship) before your current visa expires, then you are eligible to apply. If successful, you must provide confirmation of your new visa approval before your commencement date. If the visa is not in place by your commencement date, the fellowship will be revoked.

**Q: My post-graduate visa expires August 2022, but am also applying for a Permanent Residency (PR) before my current visa expires, can I still apply?**

**A:** You can still apply, however, if you are a successful for this year's round, you must ensure the Permanent Residency is in place before 30 June 2022 with no extensions granted. This is the final date in which the Fellowship can commence. If your Permanent Residency is not in place by this date, the fellowship will be revoked.

**Q: I am currently doing my PhD in Australia and wish to apply for a GUPF. Currently, I am residing in Australia on Study Visa (500) and thus, I have limited working rights but I can readily apply for the Graduate Visa as soon as I get my PhD degree which will give me full working rights. Am I eligible to apply for this fellowship?**

**A:** So long as you have a valid working visa as of 28 January 2022 and your new visa has been approved (which will cover the duration of the Postdoc Fellowship) before your current visa expires, and you meet all the other eligibility criteria of this scheme, then you are eligible to apply. Please note if you are successful in receiving the Fellowship, you must provide confirmation of your new visa approval. If this is not in place by your final commencement date, the fellowship will be revoked.

**Q: I am currently on an International Student Visa in Australia. Am I eligible to apply for this year's GUPF round?**

**A:** Given you are already in Australia on an international student visa, and you meet all the other eligibility criteria of this scheme, you will be eligible to apply for this 2021 round as long as you obtain a visa to work in Australia for the duration of the Fellowship by the final acceptance date of 28 January 2022. If you are successful in receiving the Fellowship and the visa is not in place by this date, the fellowship will be revoked.

## Eligibility Exemption Requests

**Q: I was awarded my PhD on 5 July 2018, am I still eligible?**

**A:** Our Guidelines state, under the heading 'Candidate Eligibility', that 'Holders of a Research Doctorate awarded not more than three years prior to the closing date of 23 August 2021 (ie: awarded on or after 23 August 2018) are eligible to apply'. This means you are just outside of the eligibility timeframe. If you experienced a significant career break since your PhD award, you can complete the eligibility exemption form which must be attached to your Expression of Interest (EOI) application. Please refer to page 3 of the Guidelines under the heading 'Exemptions', which outlines the details required for such requests.

The Eligibility Exemption Form can be found on our webpage

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/research/research-services/research-grants/funding-opportunities/internal-grants> - scroll to GU Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme section.

**Q: My thesis won't be submitted until after the full application deadline indicated in your guidelines. Can I request an exemption to the submission date?**

**A:** As per our 2021 GUPF Guidelines:

- Applicants who have not been awarded their Research Doctorate by the closing date must have submitted their thesis by 23 August 2021. If the Research Doctorate has not been conferred by this date, a letter is required from the relevant institution confirming that the thesis has been submitted for examination.

As you mentioned your PhD won't be submitted until after the scheme's full application deadline, you are not eligible to apply for this year's round. There are no exemptions to the submission date above. We encourage you to reconsider applying again next year.

## Expressions of Interest (EOIs)

**Q: Is there an EOI process or is it too late to submit an EOI?**

**A:** The 2021 GUPF is being conducted as a 2 Stage application process: Stage 1 – Expressions of Interest and Stage 2 – Full application (by invitation only as a result of Stage 1 outcome).

Please refer to our webpage for further details and closing dates for the EOI process:

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/research/research-services/research-grants/funding-opportunities/internal-grants> - scroll to *GU Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme* section.

## Extensions Requests

**Q: Due to exceptional circumstances, I am writing to request a one-week extension to my application submission date due.**

**A:** This is a highly competitive scheme. There are no extensions granted for late submission of either EOI applications or full applications after the closing date.

## Academic Records (transcripts)

**Q: In terms of supplying an official transcript, is it possible to supply one through 'myEquals' portal or does it have to be printed, sighted and signed by a JP?**

**A:** Copies of transcripts from 'myEquals' are acceptable. These will still need to be saved into a single PDF for upload as per the Full Application checklist for submission.

**Q: What makes a copy of an academic record 'certified'? I downloaded my transcript from 'myEquals' after my degree was conferred – is this considered 'certified'? If not, what does?**

**A:** Certified documents are ones that have been [sighted and signed by an authorised person](#) (not necessarily a JP). They would then need to be scanned, saved into a single PDF as per the guidelines and attached. Copies from 'myEquals' are also acceptable. Again they would need to be saved into a single PDF for upload.

## Other

**Q: Is the GUPF scheme only available for internal applicants at Griffith University?**

**A:** The scheme is open to both internal and external applicants. Please ensure to read the current round's Guidelines before proceeding with your application. Details are on our webpage

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/research/research-services/research-grants/funding-opportunities/internal-grants> - scroll to *GU Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme* section.

**Q: I am a joint PhD student between GU and an overseas University. My first PhD was award from my overseas University, and I will submit my GU thesis by end of 2021. Am I eligible to apply?**

**A:** Eligibility is based on the time since your first PhD conferral. Therefore you are eligible to apply, however if successful, your second PhD thesis should be submitted before commencing the fellowship – noting the timelines by which the Fellowship must commence.

**Q: Please help me connect with a prospective supervisor in my discipline for me to prepare my Expression of Interest application.**

**A:** Please refer to our webpage <https://www.griffith.edu.au/research/research-services/research-grants/funding-opportunities/internal-grants> - scroll to *GU Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme* section. Click on the '2021 participating GU Elements' from which you can make contact. If the area of interest is not listed, it means that they are not participating in this year's round and will not be accepting applications.

**Q: I have completed my application but still waiting for it to be endorsed. Is this endorsement a requirement?**

**A:** Yes. All applications (EOIs and Full Applications) must be endorsed by the Research Centre/Institute Director or Head of School. This confirms they have read and support your application, as well as confirming they will provide the required 50% funding contribution required for the term of the fellowship if successful. Applications submitted without the required endorsements will be deemed ineligible.

**Q: I've been approved to proceed to Stage 2 – Full application. I'm currently a research fellow working at Griffith. One of the requirements is to provide "one referee report external to Griffith University". The best person to provide such reference for me is a researcher who I worked with from another lab within Griffith. Can I use this researcher as my external reference?**

**A:** The University Assessment Panel requires a referee report external to Griffith. Are there previous external employers, supervisors etc you could ask to be a referee? Last year, some of our successful applicants' external referees were from Industry for which they had worked with.

**Q: I wish to apply for the GUPF. Can you please advise me on what is required?**

**A:** The 2021 GUPF is being conducted as a 2 Stage application process: Stage 1 – Expressions of Interest and Stage 2 – Full application (by invitation only as a result of Stage 1 outcome).

Please refer to our webpage for further details of this year's round including documentation and closing dates: <https://www.griffith.edu.au/research/research-services/research-grants/funding-opportunities/internal-grants> - scroll to *GU Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme* section.

**Q: I have a few questions before I will apply:**

1. Do I need to develop a new research project proposal, or can I work on the existing research projects in the GU?
2. Do I need endorsement from the head of research group?
3. Can I give referees from my previous research group from another university?

**A: 1:** You will need to discuss your proposed research project at the Stage 1 - Expression of Interest round with the Director/Head one of this year's participating GU Research Centre/Institute or School.

They will confirm if they support your proposed project or advise to develop a new project proposal. A list of the 2021 GUPF participating Research Centres/Institutes and Schools can be found on our webpage <https://www.griffith.edu.au/research/research-services/research-grants/funding-opportunities/internal-grants> - scroll to *GU Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme* section.

**A: 2:** Yes. Endorsement must be obtained for both EOI applications and Full applications. Without this endorsement, applications will be deemed ineligible.

**A: 3:** This is only relevant if you are successful to proceed to Stage 2 of the 2021 GUPF round. If you have been invited to proceed to Stage 2, then yes. Please ensure you have at least one referee report from your current supervisor (as per our Guidelines).

**Q: The full application form asks for Research Publication Outputs and Research support and Grant history. Could you please advise what these mean?**

**A:** 'Publication Outputs' refers to any publications you have, such as journal articles, books or chapters. The full application question is asking for a general statement about your publication history.

'Funding scheme' is the name of the funding body/scheme who funded any research grants you have undertaken eg: the Australian Research Council's Discovery Projects. Any grants you have applied for, whether or not you were successful in getting them, can be included in this section of the full application form.