



**Application
guide**



2021 Victoria Fellowships

Closing dates:
Applications - 19 July 2021
Referee Reports/Endorsement - 26 July 2021

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Victoria Fellowships

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Introduction

Science & innovation have been essential in combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In recognition of the important role of innovation to Victoria's economic recovery & future and the need for Victorians to be skilled in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the Victorian Government will continue to provide twelve Victoria Fellowships.

Each Fellow receives a travel grant of up to \$18,000 to undertake a short-term overseas study mission - when international travel resumes - to assist in developing a commercial idea; undertaking specialist training; or career development not available in Australia.

Additionally, Fellows can apply for an Australian-French Association for Research and Innovation (AFRAN) Associate Award valued at up to \$5,000.



In 2021 up to three AFRAN Associate Awards are available to support study missions in France, in conjunction with a Victoria Fellowship, to facilitate science and technology innovations of mutual benefit to Victoria and France.

The AFRAN Associate Fellowships are supported by AFRAN and the Embassy of France, Australia.



Activities that may be supported by a Victoria Fellowship during the overseas study mission include:

- attending a laboratory or industrial site(s) to learn practices which will assist with the rapid advancement of the Fellow's Victorian activities;
- undertaking specialised advanced technological courses or training not available in Victoria;
- using test facilities not available in Victoria;
- delivering an oral presentation at an international meeting; and
- progressing start-up initiatives or a commercial idea which would be assisted by work or development within a professional environment not available in Victoria.

veski will deliver 12 Victoria Fellowships in 2021 on behalf of the Victorian Government comprising:

- Six fellowships for Life Sciences
- Six fellowships for Physical Sciences.

Life Sciences

The Life Sciences category comprises the fields of science that involve the scientific study of living organisms and their life processes and ecosystems, covering fields such as biology, medicine or anthropology.

Physical Sciences

The Physical Sciences category encompasses the branches of science that study non-living systems, including but not limited to fields such as physics, chemistry, earth sciences, engineering, ICT, mathematics and statistics, or astronomy.

Applicants with planned study missions based in Europe may wish to apply for both a Victoria Fellowship and an AFRAN Associate Award.

Eligibility and application

Applications are sought from:

- early-career individuals who have an original and innovative idea which needs development;
- individuals employed in research and development in industry, research institutes or universities; and
- postgraduate students undertaking a 100% research based degree, **nearing the completion of their studies.**

Proposals that demonstrate a link to Victoria's knowledge base or technological strengths or show significant potential for innovative advances are encouraged.

At the closing date for applications (19 July) applicants must be:

1. An Australian citizen, Permanent Resident of Australia or New Zealand citizen, with legally certified evidence to be provided within the application.
2. Either:
 - a) currently employed in Victoria in a field relating to science, engineering or technology; or
 - b) currently enrolled in Victoria in postgraduate studies in either science, engineering or technology.
3. A current resident of Victoria and either:
 - a) working or studying in Victoria for the previous 18 months (study or work missions spent outside Victoria must not exceed three months in total); or
 - b) working or studying in Victoria for the previous two years (study or work missions spent outside Victoria must not exceed six months in total).

There is no age limit but preference will be given to applicants at an early stage in their career (5 years post PhD study at 1 FTE). **Fellowships are not intended to support the completion of PhD studies.**

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Study missions

Study missions offer Victoria Fellows the opportunity to broaden their experience, develop networks and better identify where their activities fit into the local and international community.

Reasonable costs will be met for:

- accommodation and living expenses;
- medical and travel insurance;
- reasonable out-of-pocket expenses while overseas;
- child care costs; and
- approved materials required for the completion of the study mission,

within a maximum budget of \$18,000 from the Victoria Fellowship (plus up to \$5,000 if eligible for an AFRAN Associate Award).

Other sources of funds available to the applicant should be declared, including the source of salary during the study mission. Living expenses should not exceed the level set by the Australian Tax Office in "reasonable amounts for overseas travel allowance expenses for individuals" earning less than \$126,970. It is expected that Victoria Fellows will travel in economy class.

If a Victoria Fellowship is awarded, confirmation of details of the study mission, including budget, must be provided by 31 January 2022. A template will be provided for this purpose.

It is understood that 2021 Victoria Fellow's study missions, due to commence in 2022, may be affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. Due to the disruption to global travel, the period for approved travel has been extended to allow 2021 Victoria Fellows to travel between 1 January 2022 and 30 June 2023.

Assessment criteria and selection

Applications will be screened for eligibility on the basis of Australian or New Zealand citizenship, or Australian permanent residency and Victorian residency status by **veski**. All eligible applications for the Victoria Fellowships will be considered by the selection panel.

The selection panel is drawn from leading members of Victoria's science and technology sectors. The panel may also seek assistance from appropriate learned specialists, professional associations and consultants.

The selection panel will assess applications against the following key criteria:

- the quality of the candidate including demonstrated achievements to date and future potential in their field of research;
- the extent to which the proposed study mission would contribute to the applicant's career development in research and development, innovation and/or industry; and
- the innovation potential of the study mission and its impact for industry, and/or public benefit.

The selection panel will, with absolute discretion, select the proposed Victoria Fellows on the basis of the key criteria. The panel's recommendations will be submitted to the Minister for Innovation, Medical Research, and the Digital Economy. The recommendations of the selection panel are final and appeals will not be considered. Feedback on unsuccessful applications will not be provided by either the panel or **veski**.

veski and the Victorian Government reserves the right not to make awards in any given year.

The application must include:

- i. details of the applicant's Head of Department or Institution for Endorsement of the application;
- ii. contact details for two Referees qualified to assess the application and provide comments on the applicant's achievements. Referees should not be the applicants Head of Department or Institution. **Independent** international Referees and Referees outside the applicant's department or institution are **strongly encouraged**;
- iii. proof of citizenship or permanent residency, or immigration documents with passport information page for completion of a Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) check;
- iv. CV including commencement and end dates of study and/or employment (MM/YY); and
- v. professional headshot of you facing the camera in a smiling, relaxed pose in front of a plain background; head and shoulders must be included with space above and to each side of your head; landscape orientation; jpeg format; high resolution (minimum 300 DPI/1 MB); full colour; 20 cms wide.

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Application process

Applications for a Victoria Fellowship and/or an AFRAN Associate Award are to be submitted by **Monday, 19 July 2021** via **veski's** Award Force platform; www.veskidelivered.awardsplatform.com

On submission of an application, emails will be automatically generated to the following individuals named within the application;

- two Referees,
- Head of the applicant's Department or Institution (for endorsement of application).

The emails contain a link providing access to complete the relevant online forms.

Referee Reports and Endorsement by Institution must be completed by **Monday, 26 July 2021**.

It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure Referee Reports and Endorsement by Head of Department or Institution are submitted by the due date to ensure the eligibility criteria of the application is met.

Please check that emails have not landed in spam/junk/promotion or clutter email folders.

Media engagements and award ceremony

It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of the success of their application by **October 2021**.

The Victoria Fellowships Award Ceremony will be held in November 2021. Updates regarding the Award Ceremony will be communicated directly to recipients.

It is expected that Victoria Fellowship recipients attend and participate in media engagements where possible.

Obligations of Victoria Fellows

Victoria Fellows will be called upon to actively participate in **veski** activities as part of the **veski** connection, which includes **veski** fellows, board members and recipients of the Victoria Prize for Science & Innovation.

Events

Recipients may be invited to participate in additional activities and events organised by **veski** subsequent to the awards, to promote the Fellowships, to provide suggestions on future directions for the Fellowships, and to present study mission outcomes at public fora or conferences.

Recipients of an AFRAN Associate Award may also be expected to present their outcomes to AFRAN and the Embassy of France, Australia.

Curriculum vitae

Victoria Fellows are required to include a reference to the Victoria Fellowship as a significant achievement or equivalent on their curriculum vitae and professional biography and in media releases for a period of 10 years.

Reporting

Victoria Fellows are expected to return to Australia immediately after completing their study mission, unless otherwise approved by **veski**, and to provide a detailed written project report within three months of their return. This report may be made available to the public.

Victoria Fellows are expected to fulfil any additional obligations made separately with academic organisations or companies.

Recipients of an AFRAN Associate Award will be expected to provide a detailed written report of their study mission in France to AFRAN & The Embassy of France, Australia, as part of their report for the Victoria Fellowship program.

Submission of applications

- i. Applications must be submitted by 5.00pm (AEST) on **Monday, 19 July 2021** via www.veskidelivered.awardsplatform.com
- ii. Endorsement by Head of Department or Institution must be submitted via the link within the email notification 'Victoria Fellowships in 2021 - Endorsement Requested' by 5.00pm [AEST] on **Monday, 26 July 2021**.
- iii. Referee Reports must be submitted via the link within the email notification 'Victoria Fellowships in 2021 - Referee Report Requested' by 5.00pm [AEST] **Monday, 26 July 2021**.

Please note: the process for completion of Referee Reports and Endorsement by Head of Department or Institution via Award Force can only commence following the submission of an application.

The file naming protocol to use when uploading your professional headshot is;

surname_initial_headshot_vicfellow

For advice or further information regarding applications, please contact veski via veski@veski.org.au