

SOME FACTORS INDICATED IN UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN FELLOWSHIP

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The AFGW and its state counterparts are able to provide funding through scholarships, bursaries and grants to women students all over Australia. The funds provided are entirely donated through membership fees, bequests and donations by members. The Assessors and Convenors administering the grants are in most cases members but also guest academics – all commit their time voluntarily. In most cases they also do not have office or administrative support and are often singly processing over 100 applications.

In the process of assessing grants, Convenors have compiled a list of recurring issues relating to applications to assist candidates but also reduce the time required by the volunteer Assessors in ensuring applications are complete. Please read through before preparing your application.

- Application Form not submitted or attached
- Application Form incomplete – not all information, which was requested, was submitted
- Application Form submitted late, deadlines need to be adhered to
- Tenure criteria not met (eg: Project/ PhD requirement a tenure of 6 to 12 months from date of award)
- Project/PhD already completed before closing date
- PhD only just commenced (consider applying for a later Fellowship)
- Dates not supplied
- Travel for research to be taken before deadline for submission on travelling scholarships
- Referees not supplied when requested
- Applicant not eligible, has not checked criteria
- More detail needed to establish case
- Internet research showed that the same, or very similar projects had been successfully completed and published
- No real plan, eg: project plan appears disjointed and appears to be a piecemeal approach
- Project could be done at no cost using email and the internet
- Lack of forward planning - applicants had already visited country/areas for which funds were requested for another visit

OTHER FACTORS, WHILE NOT INFLUENCING OUTCOME, HAMPER THE EFFECTIVE WORK OF THE ASSESSORS AND THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICER

- The official application form was not used
- Enormous email files
- Some applicants had received Fellowship details from a third party or website and had never visited the AFGW website
- Prospective applicants not reading the guidelines and application form carefully and making unnecessary telephone calls
- Carefully reading the details for the outcome of the award; some applicants requested information on the status of their applications soon after the closing date
- Information was submitted which was not required. This means Assessors have to sift through unnecessary documentation.

Feedback from Assessors for prospective applicants – AFGW Inc