

## Welcome to your VURF27 application

### About the Fellowship

The Victoria University Research Fellowship (VURF) program supports researchers to undertake high-quality research that strengthens research performance, builds capacity, attracts external funding, and contributes to research impact and engagement.

### Before you begin

Before commencing your application, please ensure you:

- Have read the VURF guidelines available on the [Research Fellowship SharePoint site](#).
- Meet eligibility requirements.
- Have reviewed and updated your [Researcher Performance Framework](#) (RPF) information and relevant source systems: InCites, Elements, ORCID.
- Have discussed your proposed application with your ADRRT or research leader where appropriate.
- Have notified your Supervisor/Line Manager of your intent to apply?

**PLEASE NOTE:** Please ensure your RPF is complete and up to date by the application closing date. Changes made after the close of applications **will not** be reflected in the profile information provided to the Assessment Panel.

### Assessment

Applications will be assessed on merit against the published assessment criteria. Assessment will be informed by both:

- Information provided within the application; and
- Relevant information available through the [Research Performance Framework \(RPF\)](#), including validated research performance data.

Applicants should avoid duplicating information already available through the RPF and instead focus on providing contextual information, future plans, and other information specifically requested in the application.

### Key Dates

Round Opens: 30 June, 2026

Round Closes: 26 August, 2026 (12.00pm AEST)

Applicants notified: Mid November, 2026

### Resources and Support

For detailed information, including eligibility requirements, assessment criteria, FAQs, application guidance, RPF Information and support resources, please refer to the Research Fellowship SharePoint site; click [here](#)

### Contact

For assistance with the application process, please contact Research Fellowships:  
Research.Fellowships@vu.edu.au

### Applicant Details

\* indicates a required field

Employee Number: \*

Must be a whole number (no decimal place).  
e not required

Do you have a PhD? \*

Are you a ECR? \*

Name \*

Title

First Name

Last Name

Supervisor/Line Manager Name \*

Email \*

Must be an email address.

Supervisor/Line Manager Email \*

What is your gender? \*

Other:

What is your current employment type? \*

If T&R, what is your Research FTE workload allocation in your Institute (excluding your VURF FTE allocation & any externally funded time)?

Must be a number.

Please indicate the FTE allocated to your Research FTE in your workload allocation(excluding your current VURF)

### PhD Equivalent

You are required to complete this section because you selected "No" to the PhD Equivalent qualification question.

**Provide justification for being considered to have experience equivalent to a PhD.**

Word count:

ECR

**What date was your PhD conferred?**

Must be a date.

Early Career Researcher is defined as a researcher who has been conferred their PhD within the past 5 years.

## Selection Criteria 1: Track Record and Capacity 40%

\* indicates a required field

The Assessment Panel will consider research activity from 2023 to the present using information available through VU Elements, QUEST, your Researcher Profile, Research Performance Framework, and other relevant research systems. Please ensure these platforms are accurate and up to date by the closing date of VURF27 round.

In the Research tab of the RPF, please provide clear overview of your research program, including its purpose, strategic intent, and future trajectory. This tab should not be a summary of research outputs or achievements.

Assessors may not be specialists in your field, so ensure your description is accessible to a multidisciplinary audience and clearly communicates the significance and impact of your research.

Click [here](#) to access Researcher Performance Framework

**Do you hold a VURF in 2026? \***

**Have you had career disruption which has affected your ability to undertake research? \***

### Career Interruption

This section is only applicable because you responded to question "have you had a career disruption which has affected your ability to undertake research" .

Information here will be treated confidentially by the Assessment Panel. If your circumstances are particularly sensitive, you can send necessary details in a confidential email to your Institute Executive Director.

**Indicate the nature of your research career disruption**

☐ International relocation ☐ Medical condition ☐ Disability

- |                                         |                                                                                          |                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parental leave | <input type="checkbox"/> Carer's responsibility                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Being the primary care giver of a dependent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment   | <input type="checkbox"/> Non research employment not concurrent with research employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>                 |

### Duration of disruption

Must be a number.  
Must be in days

## VURF holder in 2026

Please provide a summary of your VU Research Fellowship activity in 2026 included but not limited to

- key research project undertaken and their outcomes
- impact and engagement resulting from your work
- leadership and mentoring contribution
- research funding applications submitted.

If you are unable to fully meet your VURF research plan, please provide an explanation outlining the reason it was not achieved.

*Note: You do not need to include research income, publications or HDR completions as these will be sources from the Researcher Performance Framework*

### Summarise your research activity for 2026 \*

Word count:  
Must be no more than 300 words.

## Research Leadership, Mentoring and Capacity Building Capabilities (10%)

### Assessment of this criterion

This section does not require a written response. The Assessment Panel will use information available in the Researcher Performance Framework (RPF) when assessing this criterion. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their RPF profile is accurate and up to date by the application close date.

Consider evidence of:

- Leadership of research teams, centres, programs or collaborative initiatives
- Mentoring and supporting Early Career Researcher, HDR candidates, postdoctoral researchers, or professional staff.

- Building capacity through training, workshops, communities of practice, or development programs
- Contributions to fostering an inclusive, collaborative, and high-performing research environment.
- Participation in research governance, strategy development, advisory, committees, assessment panels, or peer review activity

Click [here](#) to access Researcher Performance Framework.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Please ensure your RPF is complete and up to date by the application closing date. Changes made after the close of applications **will not** be reflected in the profile information provided to the Assessment Panel.

## Alignment of the Research with Strategy (30%)

### Assessment of this criterion

This section does not require a written response. The Assessment Panel will use information available in the Researcher Platform Framework (RPF) when assessing this criterion. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their RPF profile is accurate and up to date by the application close date.

Please ensure the following are correct:

- FOR Codes
- UNSDG Codes
- VU Key Thematic Areas
- Clearly articulate Research context section

Click [here](#) to access Researcher Performance Framework

**PLEASE NOTE:** Please ensure your RPF is complete and up to date by the application closing date. Changes made after the close of applications **will not** be reflected in the profile information provided to the Assessment Panel.

## Research Plan - Impact and Feasibility (20%)

\* indicates a required field

### Plans for your VU Research Fellowship

This section should be based on your VURF plans for the duration of your VU Research Fellowship you are applying for.

#### Plans

When preparing your Research Plan, clearly articulate the significance, feasibility, and expected impact of the proposed research activities over the course of the fellowship.

Please note applications may be reviewed by assessors who are not specifically in your field.

When preparing your research plan, ensure the language, details and focus are accessible to a multidisciplinary assessment panel.

### Research Overview

- Brief description of the proposed research.
- Research aims, objectives, and key research questions.
- Background and rationale, including the significance of the research area.

\*

Word count:

Must be no more than 250 words.

### Research Activity and Methodology

- Outline the proposed research activities to be undertaken during the fellowship period.
- Describe the methodology, approach, or program of work
- Include key milestones and anticipated timelines.

\*

Word count:

Must be no more than 500 words.

### Impact and Engagement

- Describe the anticipated academic, economic, commercial, environmental, social, and/or cultural benefits of the research.
- Explain how the research aligns with one or more of VU six thematic areas.
- Identify opportunity for engagement with industry, community, government, or other end-users.
- Outline the potential pathway to impact and translation of research outcomes.

\*

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

### Research Funding Strategy

List external funding opportunities that will be targeted during the Fellowship.

| Funding Scheme/Organisation | Funds sought             | Purpose of funding                           | Includes Salary Support Y/N | Percentage of salary covered        |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                             |                          |                                              |                             |                                     |
|                             |                          |                                              |                             |                                     |
|                             |                          |                                              |                             |                                     |
|                             | Must be a dollar amount. | Project cost, salary, equipment, consumables |                             | % not required<br>Must be a number. |

## Strategic alignment

Explain how the proposed research:

- Aligns with VU's Research and Impact Plan and key thematic areas
- Builds research capability and capacity
- Supports HDR supervision and researcher development
- Complements and enhances teaching and learning within your college.

\*

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

## Research Time

\* indicates a required field

### Research allocation sought

Please indicate the research allocation (FTE) being sought through this Fellowship.

HDR supervision is in addition to the research allocation and is calculated outside the application as per [Victoria University Enterprise Agreement 2025](#).

\*

- ☐ 0.2 FTE  
☐ 0.3 FTE  
☐ 0.4 FTE

### Additional FTE

Refer to the VU Research Fellowship Guidelines 2027, click [here](#)

- Externally funded time is handled via the contracting process for research contracts and successful grants
- Bridging Support can be applied for here, or otherwise (where possible) before taking Parental, Sick or Carer's leave of 3 months or more
- Embedded industry research allocation can be applied for here, where this is confirmed in writing
- Internship allocation can be applied for here, where an HDR student has taken it this year.

#### **Are you seeking Bridging Support? \***

☐ No ☐ Yes

#### **Were you supervising a PhD student in 2025 who had an industry placement? \***

☐ No ☐ Yes

#### **Will you be involved in an embedded researcher arrangement, as the host or as the embedded researcher at least 1 day per week for 6 months (or equivalent)? \***

☐ No ☐ Yes

### Bridging support

For more information about Bridging Support please refer to the guidelines. Click [here](#).

Note that applications for Bridging Support should now be made BEFORE you go on extended leave (when this is planned and unless circumstances do not permit this).

#### **What will the extra FTE allocation enable you to do beyond what was outlined in your previous application? \***

#### **How will an additional research allocation contribute to returning your research track record to the level it was prior to your Extended Leave? \***

Word count:

Must be no more than 70 words.

#### **When will you return from leave and commence your Bridging Support?**

Must be a date.

### Embedded industry research

Embedded research is encouraged as part of the University's drive for research with impact and an inverted campus.

#### **Will you be embedded or hosting an external partner? \***

- ☐ Embedded with an external partner
- ☐ Hosting an external partner

Industry partner details

Where will the hosting take place, what will you and industry partner do; how does the embedding benefit your research and the partner?

Describe the embedding arrangement

Word count:  
Must be no more than 150 words.

When will the embedding occur and for how long?

Make sure you provide the duration and expected month & year

Provide a letter from the industry partner outlining and supporting the arrangement \* \*

Attach a file:

Internships

Time is available for VURFs who are principal supervisors of PhD students who have undertaken an internship in 2025. This is in recognition of the time required to help a student prepare an internship and in alignment with the Commonwealth government proposed doubling the weighting of PhD completions which include an internships when allocating Research Training Program (RTP) funding to universities.

Information on interns will be cross-referenced with the Researcher Development team

Are you the principal supervisor?  
Name of student intern  
Student ID

Where did the internship take place?  
With which organisation did the internship take place?  
How long did the internship take place for?

|  |  |                                            |  |  |                          |
|--|--|--------------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
|  |  |                                            |  |  |                          |
|  |  |                                            |  |  |                          |
|  |  |                                            |  |  |                          |
|  |  | s prefix not required<br>Must be a number. |  |  | Must be a dollar amount. |

Final Statement

\* indicates a required field

Is there any final information you would like to provide that supports your application but this form has not already elicited?

**Provide any other information which is necessary for understanding your request for a research time allocation (optional)**

**Provide any other supporting material essential to your proposal**

Attach a file:

### Supervisor and Deans Acknowledgement requirements

It is an expectation that all college-based academics seeking a research FTE allocation would have informed their Supervisor and Dean or nominee of their intention to apply.

No formal acknowledgement form is required.

Following the receipt of applications, Research Services will submit to College Deans a report on the VU Research Fellowship applications submitted by academics in their College. At this point, College Deans will be requested to make an assessment of the extent to which the proposed research will align with the College's teaching, and if there are any constraints on individual applicants' availability for research.

### Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information I have provided in this application is true, complete and accurate. If it is found that I have withheld, distorted any information, or provided false statements, my application may be subject to rejection.

**I accept and agree with this declaration \***

☐ No

☐ Yes

**Date submitted \***

Must be a date.

Must be the date of submission