

FAQ

Question

When must a candidate comply with the condition that he or she must have a “first or upper second class honours degree in a related field?” For example, is a currently enrolled 4th year undergraduate student eligible to apply in the current ASI scholarship round?

Answer

The ASI would need to be assured that applicants will meet all eligibility criteria, including that they hold a first or upper second class honours degree in a related field, by 28 February 2011 (the date by which successful applicants must be free to take up their award). In a situation where an applicant expects to receive his or her degree after the ASI scholarship evaluation process has taken place in August-September 2010, the ASI considers that letters of recommendation from the candidate’s referees will form a critical part of the evaluation process.

Question

Would having an ASI scholarship exclude a candidate from applying for the Australian Postgraduate Award (APA)?

Answer

Candidates should contact the administrator of the APA awards about its policy in this regard. The ASI’s policy is that a candidate is free to apply for both an APA and an ASI award but must notify the ASI if he or she is offered and intends to accept an APA. Candidates are reminded of the eligibility criterion for ASI scholarships and fellowships that candidates “do not expect to receive another equivalent award or scholarship to undertake the proposed study which is greater than 50% of the ASI stipend rate.”

Question

Some of the required responses to ASI eligibility criteria such as 'details of any research papers submitted' or 'employment history since graduation' seem to be aimed at graduates. How do I respond to these questions?

Answer

Candidates should list any research papers submitted as well as their employment history. If a candidate has not submitted research papers and/or does not have an employment history, they should state “Not applicable” in their response to this part of the application form.

Question

Are the scholarships to be applied for only by the student or fellow wishing to undertake the award, or can the awards be applied for by an institute or organisation, based on a research leader’s expertise who will then seek a candidate to fill the role/project description?

Answer

ASI scholarships and fellowships will be awarded to individuals only. A candidate may be supported by a letter of recommendation from a referee or supervisor in an institute or organisation relevant to the candidate’s research, provided all ASI eligibility criteria are met.

Question

Are the projects meant to be linked to an existing ASI project or something completely new?

Answer

No, it is not mandatory that a candidate’s proposed research project be linked to an actual or prospective ASI-funded project.