



Knowledge, Skills, Networks in Earth and Planetary Science

Agate Project Grant Scheme

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Scholarship Fund Guidelines

Overview

Goals:

The aim of the Agate Research Grant scheme is to provide partial support to students who wish to study a Masters degree or PhD in the Earth and Planetary Sciences.

Deadlines:

- **2026 application deadline: 15th October 2026**

Completion of application form:

- The online form is available at agate-project.org and must be completed online, guidelines are provided below.
- The application form must be accompanied by a CV, a copy of your course transcripts, and a letter of support from your supervisor, all to be uploaded within the form
- On completion of the form, you will be sent a confirmation email to the address supplied..
- Only Earth and Planetary Science projects will be considered
- Students who already awarded a multi-year grant do not have to apply again, but will have to submit an report on their activities via email to grants@agate-project.org

Confirmation of Acceptance:

All students chosen to receive a grant will need to confirm their acceptance. The Student will receive a Letter of Agreement with the agreement conditions. This document will have to be signed and emailed to grants@agate-project.org

Start of the scholarship:

The Research project needs to start within 6 months of the grant award.

Eligibility:

- Applicants need to be a citizen of an African nation.
- Applicants need to be enrolled in an African University, and we encourage women to apply.
- Applicants cannot submit more than one application per year.
- If a student is applying for a MSc, they need to have completed MSc first year's coursework requirements.
- Although multiple applications from the same institution are allowed, no more than one award will be made to any one higher education institution.

Grant Amount and Duration

- The research grant will be allocated up to the submitted budget.
- The maximum budget is AU\$6,000 pa renewable annually for up to 1 year for MSc or 3 years for PhD degrees.
- The actual amount awarded may be less than the amount requested.

Use of funds

- Tuition, accommodation, stipends, student insurance, analytical costs, fieldwork, small equipment items including software, conference costs to present results of Agate-funded research, publication costs, bench fees, other research costs with prior approval and justification.

Funds Cannot be used for:

- Computer hardware, conference registration fees (unless to present Agate Project funded research), travel to conferences, departmental costs/overheads, excess baggage, expenses relating to accompanying dependents, and costs incurred by project participants not associated with the applicant organisations.

Applications:

- Applicants need to complete the online Grant Proposal Application Form available at agate-project.org
- Within the online form, applicants need to upload their CV, a copy of their transcripts from previous year, and a letter of support from your supervisor.
- Before applying you must read and understand these guidelines.

Review Process

- All complete applications to the Research Grant Scheme are reviewed and assessed by two (or more) members of the selection panel who have the most appropriate scientific expertise using the criteria detailed above.
- Short-listed candidates may be required to have a video conference interview with the selection panel members.

Results:

- Results are reported to applicants via email first week of March and will be published on the Agate Project website.
- The decisions of the review panel are final.

Activity Report and Financial Statement:

- All applicants are required to submit a **quarterly activity report in English** that will include an **expense statement**. Reception by Agate project of the activity quarterly report with expense statement and receipts will release the next tranche of funds.
- Students must post monthly on Agate Project social media account.

Publications

- Publications resulting of Agate Project research must be in recognized international peer reviewed journals.

Acknowledgements

- All publications must acknowledge Agate Project

Distribution of Funds:

- Distribution of funds will be every six months in advance, non-submission of the quarterly report will freeze payment of the grant, the last payment will be made at completion of the research project subject to reception of the final activity report.
- Expense statement with Receipts must be joined to the activity report to validate the report and the distribution of funds.
- The applicant will have to provide relevant bank account held in his name and which the grantee controls and all information to enable Agate Project to transfer the grant funds.

Assessment criteria

Before completing the form please ensure you have all the necessary information

ALL questions must be completed on the online form, as submission of incomplete forms is not possible.

The application will be assess as follows:

- **Rationale for Project** A brief rational of the purpose and benefits of the projects (contributes 30% to project score), no more than 300 words

The scientific background to the proposed project:

- Previous work in this research topic and research methods
- If a field study , previous work in this geographic area;
- how the anticipated outcomes will address an important problem

The research question, including:

- Importance of research question
- How the research project will address the problem.

- **Project Description.** Description of the project activites (contributes 30% to project score), no more than 300 words

The extent to which the project is significant including:

- any new methods or technologies to be developed;



- how the anticipated outcomes will address an important problem

The research approach including:

- the data already available,
 - the methods and
 - analytical techniques
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- **National Benefit** (contributes 10% to project score), not more than 75 words
Please describe how this project will help the country in which you are based in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Budget and budget justification, no more than 200 words
 - All budget items **MUST BE IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS**
 - Exchange rates available from <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>
 - Budget is only for first year of multi-year project
 - For each item that costs more than AUD1000 you will need to explain the need for the expenditure in the Budget Justification Section.
 - Please refer to the Use of Funds section above for eligible expenditures
 - **CV** (contributes 10% to project score)
Upload a one page CV (**as a pdf, less than 5MB**) which includes:
 - Biographic Information
 - Current degree being sought
 - Previous Education
 - Awards
 - References for up to 5 abstracts, publications or external research talks (if applicable)
 - **Student Course Transcripts** (contributes 20% to project score)

Only from your most recent complete study year, and must be signed by your supervisor.

Documents to be uploaded via the online grant proposal application

- ☐ CV
- ☐ Copy of your transcripts
- ☐ Letter of support from your supervisor
- ☐ Some form of government ID (passport, driver's license etc.)