



## 2024 Parliamentary Library Summer Scholars

The Parliamentary Library offers two summer research scholarships for postgraduate students each year. Scholars work alongside specialist researchers in the Parliamentary Library in Canberra for a period of six weeks to produce a report on a topic of relevance to the Library's research program.

### Research topics

In 2024, the Library is seeking applications from students who have an interest in and knowledge of the following:

#### Areas of Interest

Scholars can conduct research into any area of public policy that is relevant to the federal Parliament in its representative, legislative or scrutiny roles. This includes but is not limited to:

- agriculture and natural resources
- economics, finance and budgets
- energy
- environment, biodiversity and sustainability
- law and justice
- international relations, aid, Defence and national security.
- social policy, education, welfare, health
- Parliament, politics and elections

Scholars may also choose to approach any of these subjects from a thematic perspective such as regulation, federalism, or analysis of Parliament's consideration of the issue (for example through debate in the Chambers or via committee inquiries).

While most subjects can be relevant to the Parliament, not all forms of analysis are suitable. Consistent with the role of the Parliamentary Library, research should:

- be politically neutral and focus on explanation rather than advocacy.
- focus on matters on which the Australian Parliament might debate, make laws, or scrutinise the work of the Executive government.

Particularly relevant for any analysis of a public policy issue is:

- exploring the evidence of the issue, and theories (or narratives) of proximate and ultimate causation
- the evolution of the issue over time including policy responses and outcomes
- exploration and comparison of other jurisdictional responses (including internationally and state/territory)

## When do the scholarships occur?

The Summer Research Scholarship is generally undertaken during the summer academic recess. Scholars are based in the Parliamentary Library in Canberra from Monday 8 January until Friday 16 February 2024. Scholars submit their research report on or before Friday 19 April 2024.

## Elements of the scholarship

To successfully fulfil the requirements of the scholarship, recipients must:

- be based in the Parliamentary Library for a period of six weeks
- present a short work-in-progress seminar
- produce a research report on one topic (5,000-8,000 words).

Summer Research Scholars also participate in a number of activities during the scholarship period, including:

- an induction program where scholars learn about the role of the Parliamentary Library, its place in the parliamentary environment, and the purpose and style of its research publications
- research section meetings as appropriate and other Library activities
- functions with summer research scholars from the National Library of Australia and the Australian War Memorial and
- a guided tour of Parliament House.

For the period of the scholarship in Canberra, scholars will be provided with a fully equipped workstation (phone, internet, email) and access to a printer.

Scholars may discuss any requirements for specialised software.

Upon successful completion of the placement, an honorarium of \$1,800 will be awarded to scholars.

## Do I need to be studying in an area related to the research topic?

Applicants do not need to be studying in an area directly related to the areas of interest. However, applicants do need to demonstrate their knowledge in the area, relevant research skills, and prepare a research proposal detailing how they will approach their nominated topic.

## Why should I apply?

The Parliamentary Library is a unique research environment, and the Summer Research Scholarship allows scholars to understand and work within this important national institution. The scholarship also gives recipients the opportunity to:

- build research expertise
- contribute to scholarship on the Parliament and its work
- receive training and access the Library's specialist collections and databases
- interact with subject-matter experts and
- be guided by a mentor who will provide advice during the scholarship.

## Who can apply?

The Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship is open to postgraduate students studying at an Australian tertiary institution who have successfully completed at least one year (FTE) of postgraduate study. Applicants must be Australian citizens and be enrolled at the time of the scholarship.

## Selection criteria

Applicants do not need to directly address the selection criteria in their applications, but they should demonstrate the following:

- a quality research proposal on one of the identified areas of interest
- strong research skills
- excellent written communication skills
- an ability to work within set guidelines and to deadlines and
- a capacity to work effectively within a professional research environment.

## Selection process

Applications for the 2024 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship will close at midnight on Thursday **14 September 2023**. Applicants will be assessed by the selection panel and those short-listed will be scheduled for a telephone interview. Successful applicants will be notified in November 2023.

## Other issues to note

### Assistance

The Parliamentary Library is unable to provide any assistance (financial or otherwise) with travel or accommodation in relation to the scholarship.

### Relationship between the scholar and the Library

The relationship between the Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholars and the Department of Parliamentary Services will not be one of employer and employee, and no employee benefits will arise for the Summer Research Scholars. Scholars will be covered for all work health and safety issues for the duration of their placement and as such are required to abide by all Department of Parliamentary Services work health and safety policies and procedures.

Scholars will not have direct dealings with the Parliamentary Library's clients, undertake work directly related to client inquiries, or be involved in any activity that would breach the confidentiality provisions of the Parliamentary Services Act 1999.

Scholars will, for the period of the scholarship, be assigned a mentor with whom they can discuss their research. The mentor will be a specialist researcher in the Parliamentary Library and will oversee the scholar's work and progress.

## Ownership of work

The Parliamentary Library will retain the ability to use, reproduce, adapt, modify, distribute or communicate any work produced by scholars. In some instances, research papers may be accepted for publication. If accepted for publication, the paper will be published online as part of the Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholar series, and copyright in the scholar's paper will be owned by the Commonwealth. Scholars may of course request permission to republish the paper for their own purposes.

Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholars are required to acknowledge the support of the Parliamentary Library in any publication or other material resulting from the research they undertake during the scholarship. They may be required to deposit with the Library a copy of their thesis, other publication or subsequent research outcome arising from the scholarship.

## Pre-commencement requirements

Prior to commencing the scholarship, recipients must:

- obtain a police record check so a security pass can be issued for access to the non-public areas of Parliament House and
- agree to meet and maintain the standards of behaviour, conduct and confidentiality in accordance with the Parliamentary Service Values and Parliamentary Service Code of Conduct under the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*.

## Further information

If you would like to discuss the 2024 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship further, please contact:

Carlene Dunshea  
Executive Officer  
Parliamentary Library  
[carlene.dunshea@aph.gov.au](mailto:carlene.dunshea@aph.gov.au)  
+61 2 6277 2721

or

Jonathan Curtis,  
Assistant Secretary, Research Branch  
Parliamentary Library  
+61 2 6277 2470



## 2024 Parliamentary Library Summer Scholars

### Preparing your application

Applications for the 2024 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarships must include the following documents.

#### Application form

Applicants must complete all sections of the 2024 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship application form.

#### Academic transcript

Certified copies of academic transcripts for all undergraduate and postgraduate study are to be attached to the application form. Documents can be certified by individuals identified in Schedule 2 of the Statutory Declarations Regulations 1993 (Commonwealth) available at [www.legislation.gov.au](http://www.legislation.gov.au). The certifying statement should be as follows:

‘This is a true copy of the original documents sighted by me.’

Name of certifier and date

Signature

Contact telephone number

Certifier’s qualification

#### Curriculum vitae

Applicants can format their *curriculum vitae* in any manner they wish, but it should include details of any qualifications, previous employment, other research awards previously held, and a list of published or unpublished work.

#### Research proposal

Each application must be accompanied by a research proposal up to 1,000 words (not including footnotes or references), which outlines how the applicant proposes to approach one of the identified research topics or a related topic. This proposal should include:

- a draft outline of the scope of the work
- discussion of methodology
- identification of areas of relevant literature
- any suggestions on novel ways in which the topic might be approached or treated
- a statement on how working in the Parliamentary Library will contribute to the content/quality of the research.

The purpose of this proposal is to assist the selection panel to understand your ideas and approach to research. For successful applicants, the final scope and shape of the research project will be discussed and agreed upon at the commencement of the scholarship.

#### Referee reports

Applications must include referee reports from two academic or professional referees. Each referee report must be attached to a referee report form, which must be signed by the referee and the applicant.

#### Submitting your application

Applications for the 2024 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship will close at midnight on Thursday **14 September 2023**. Applications are to be submitted by email to: [parliamentary.librarian@aph.gov.au](mailto:parliamentary.librarian@aph.gov.au). All applications will be acknowledged within one working day of receipt. No late applications will be considered.



## 2024 Parliamentary Library Summer Scholars Application Form

### Personal details

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Preferred title:</b>		
<b>Mailing address:</b>				
<b>Phone number:</b>	(daytime)		(mobile)	
<b>Email address:</b>				
<b>Citizenship:</b>	Australian Citizen	<input style="width: 40px; height: 25px;" type="checkbox"/>		

### Details of current study

<b>Degree for which you are currently studying:</b>			
<b>Field of study/major:</b>			
<b>Name of institution:</b>			
<b>Date of commencement:</b>		<b>Expected completion:</b>	
<b>Topic/title of thesis:</b>			

### Previous tertiary qualifications

Start	Completion	Institution	Name of degree

**Summer research scholarship area of study**

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Identify which research topic you propose to study:

**Referee 1**

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Name and title:

Position:

Institution/organisation:

Relationship to applicant:

Phone:

Email:

**Referee 2**

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Name and title:

Position:

Institution/organisation:

Relationship to applicant:

Phone:

Email:

**Attachments**

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Certified copies of academic transcript:

Curriculum vitae:

Research proposal:

Referee reports:

Submit the application form and all attachments to  
[parliamentary.librarian@aph.gov.au](mailto:parliamentary.librarian@aph.gov.au)  
by midnight 14 September 2023.



## 2024 Parliamentary Library Summer Scholars Referee Report

### Applicant's details

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Name:

### Referee's details

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Name and title:

Position:

Institution/organisation:

Relationship to applicant:

Phone:

Email:

### Referee's statement

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Please attach a statement to support the above-named applicant for the 2024 Parliamentary Library Summer Research Scholarship. In particular, you may wish to provide comment in the following areas:

- quality of the research proposal
- demonstrated research skills
- standard of written and oral communication
- ability to work within set guidelines and to deadlines
- capacity to work effectively within a professional research environment.

Additional comments may be used to emphasise any strengths and weaknesses. In some cases the selection panel may contact you for further discussion and clarification of your comments. Please note that the applicant will have access to the comments made.

### Signatures

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Referee

Applicant

Date:

Date: