

2025 AINSE Postgraduate Research Award (PGRA) / Residential Student Scholarship (RSS) APPLICATION GUIDELINES

2025 Guidelines for the Preparation of Applications

These notes are intended to assist applicants complete the online application form

The application form is found online at the AINSE Grants Portal:

<https://ainse.grantplatform.com/>

PLEASE SELECT AINSE PGRA & RSS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUR APPLICATION

Please note the AINSE Grants Portal requires you to register with your AINSE-member university or institutional email address. If you require any assistance with accessing the AINSE Grants portal, please contact AINSE via applications@ainse.edu.au.

TO ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR APPLICATION, PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND HELP LINKS ON EACH QUESTION.

PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETING THE PGRA/RSS 2025 APPLICATION

Each application should be prepared by the research student responsible for the project using the online form on AINSE's website in consultation with their university supervisor and proposed ANSTO co-supervisor.

PLEASE NOTE LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

AINSE will advise the member universities of the awards made in the current series of AINSE PGRA and RSS Awards by 30 June 2025.

General Procedure

- Register an account with the AINSE Grants Portal (or log in to your existing account) and start your application.
- Contact the ANSTO research scientist(s) attached to the facility you propose using to discuss your application as soon as possible.
- Save your application regularly. Don't click "submit" until you have completed your application because you cannot make changes to your application after you click "submit".
- **Send your draft application to both your university supervisor and your prospective ANSTO co-supervisor for comment.** You can save your application as a PDF by clicking the PDF icon next to your application under the "My applications" section of the home page. **If you have issues saving your application to PDF, please contact AINSE before the submission deadline.**
- You can upload files*, including images, charts, graphs and PDFs on the "Attachments" tab of the application form. **PLEASE SCAN AND UPLOAD SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION, including your required reference letters and research office letter.**
- When you have incorporated any suggestions from your university supervisor and your prospective ANSTO co-supervisor, **notify your AINSE Member Representative of your application.**
- Press "submit application" on the application form

AINSE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING ANY APPLICATIONS VIA MAIL. APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED VIA THE AINSE ONLINE PORTAL.

PLEASE NOTE: THE APPLICATION IS ONLINE. ANY DOCUMENTATION AS PART OF YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE UPLOADED ON THE FINAL PAGE OF THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM BEFORE SUBMISSION, INCLUDING ALL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS LISTED IN THE FORM.

DO NOT INCLUDE IN YOUR APPLICATION:

- Your academic transcript
- A full copy of your thesis(s)
- Full copies of publications
- Full copies of posters

Please provide a reference list of any publications, including posters.

Scholarship Selection

On the “Start Here” tab of the form, you are required to select whether you are applying for the PGRA or RSS. Students can only hold one of the PGRA or RSS awards at any given time.

PGRA students will typically spend up to 4 weeks per year (on-average) on-site at an ANSTO campus, while RSS applicants will be required to justify their ability to live and study at ANSTO for a minimum of 6 months per year (on average).

Please visit the AINSE [PGRA](#) and [RSS](#) websites for full details, including the Terms and Conditions of each scholarship.

Candidate

A candidate for an AINSE PGRA/RSS must be nominated by the member university of AINSE at which tenure of the Award is proposed.

As a prerequisite for applying for an Award, overseas students must produce evidence of having obtained the necessary entry permits to Australia. Tenure of an AINSE PGRA or RSS is conditional upon the student meeting the requirements of the governing authorities at ANSTO in connection with the use of ANSTO facilities.

Other factors that will be considered by AINSE include evidence of research capability and the degree of collaboration with ANSTO or other AINSE Supported Facilities (ASF).

Eligibility

The “Eligibility” tab of the form will ask you three questions to assist in determining whether you meet the eligibility requirements as outlined under the [PGRA](#) and [RSS](#) Terms and Conditions. Once you have answered these questions, click the 'Check eligibility' button at the bottom of the page. The form will then advise whether you are eligible to proceed with your application for the 2024 AINSE PGRA or RSS.

You must complete the “Eligibility” tab before proceeding to the remaining sections of the application form.

Applicant Details

It is important to outline your primary scholarship details and attach supporting documentation to verify your approved primary scholarship. YOU MUST ATTACH TO YOUR APPLICATION verification of your Australian Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship OR a letter from your university research office verifying the scholarship you have received is equivalent to an RTP. Attachments can be uploaded on the “Attachments” tab of the application

Project Details – AINSE Specialist Area Applicant Details

All applications are evaluated by one of AINSE's three Specialist Committees. You are required to select the Specialist Committee that best matches your research project from the options below:

- 1) **Archaeology, Geosciences and Environmental Sciences (AGES)**
Applications in the AGES specialist area would be expected to use nuclear science techniques to advance knowledge in any of the branches of archaeology, geosciences, or environmental sciences. Examples include filling knowledge and data gaps in the historical record, informing sustainable management strategies regarding the use of resources, and understanding human impacts on the natural environment, including climate change and the impacts of contaminants.
- 2) **Biomedical Science and Biotechnology (BBS)**
Applications in the BBS specialist area would be expected to use nuclear science techniques to support research leading to the development of diagnostic tools and treatments for disease, better understanding of the mechanisms that cause or influence the development and progression of disease, or strategies to reduce the risk of disease. Examples include diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine, nuclear technology-based therapy outcomes (including experimental radiation oncology and particle therapy), and understanding the effect of radiation on biological systems in a variety of contexts, including in space.
- 3) **Materials Science and Engineering (MSE)**
Applications in the MSE specialist area would be expected to use nuclear science techniques to study the structure and function of materials at an atomic or molecular level. Examples include the study of soft condensed matter (e.g. proteins and membranes) and hard condensed matter (e.g. magnetic materials), investigating properties and composition of engineering and inorganic materials, surface characterisation and surface properties; advanced materials processing, specialist techniques in materials characterisation, materials testing, bulk and local materials properties, investigating materials for use in nuclear applications (including improved fuels for advanced reactor designs and management of spent fuel and associated waste forms), and investigating effects of radiation on non-biological materials.

Project Title

A concise title that best describes your research project is required. Please use 120 characters or less.

Socio-Economic and Research Field Codes

Using the Australian Research Council website, please enter the codes that most closely fit the expected outcome of the project. These codes can be accessed through the [ARC website](#).

Scientific Objectives

Provide a concise statement of the scientific objectives, in 250 words or less. You should describe the research question(s) you will endeavour to answer through this research and include the expected outcomes.

AINSE PGRAs and RSSs support research projects undertaken by its member organisations in the fields of nuclear science and engineering or their applications.

For a project to be considered it must satisfy AINSE of its high scientific merit and technical feasibility.

Background

Explain the relationship of the proposed research to present knowledge and to comparable investigations in progress elsewhere, in 500 words or less.

Experimental Plan

Provide a concise outline of the experimental method to be used in the project, in no more than 1000 words. Specify the design of the experiment, the procedure to be followed, project milestones for the achievement of scientific objectives, and any other information which will assist AINSE in making a scientific evaluation of the proposal.

Details should be given of the facilities, equipment, services, and consultations, which you plan to use. The use of such facilities must be discussed with the ANSTO Facility Contact Scientist responsible. A list of facilities and their ANSTO Facility Contact Scientist details is given in the [ANSTO Research Capabilities and Facilities Guide](#), and further information can be found on the ANSTO website (visit www.ansto.gov.au and click on the FACILITIES section to access information about each facility).

ANSTO Co-Supervisor

You should make contact with your proposed ANSTO co-supervisor as early as possible. Additional information is required for many facilities, and should be discussed with your prospective ANSTO co-supervisor before the application is submitted. This information should be included in the application.

It is expected that the university will appoint a suitably qualified member of staff from ANSTO as a co-supervisor of the project. The co-supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the ANSTO facilities and services required for the project can be made available. Access to facilities is not guaranteed: equipment failure or other difficulties may arise which prevent the execution of the grant. AINSE does not accept any responsibility for the consequences of equipment becoming unavailable.

Facility list and justification

Details of facilities are given in the [ANSTO Research Capabilities and Facilities Guide](#). As mentioned above, you should contact your proposed ANSTO co-supervisor and agree on the most appropriate facilities and ascertain the availability of the facility and ANSTO staff.

You must state clearly and concisely why the facility/facilities you have chosen is/are the best for the project and clearly demonstrates how ANSTO will benefit from the outcomes of the project.

References

Your two referees should provide a short (max. one A4 page) summary explaining why they support your application for this award. References may cover such questions as:

- How long have you known the applicant?
- What do you think of the applicant's performance so far? Support with examples eg. medals won, academic achievement, comparison with other students you have supervised
- How would you describe the applicant's attitude towards their research? Support with examples eg. self-motivated, works hard, time management skills, talented, visionary, original, enthusiastic
- How well do you think the applicant will perform in the future?
- Why would this award benefit the student?

Applicants must ensure **a reference from their university supervisor, plus one additional reference**, are included with the online application, in the "Attachments" section, upon submission.

Attachments

In addition to your two required letters of reference, and your required letter from your university / institutional research office confirming the details of your RTP or equivalent primary scholarship, you can also attach to your application any additional supporting information, especially regarding research capabilities and publications (reference list only), or to expand upon information given elsewhere in the application.

You may also upload copies of your prizes or awards, and can upload diagrams, images, graphs, etc. which relate to your application. Please ensure you cross-reference them to the appropriate section in your application.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

1. Ensure you have contacted your potential ANSTO co-supervisor(s) to discuss your project and received their support to proceed with your application. You will be required to verify you have done so in the "Declarations" tab.
2. Ensure you have contacted your AINSE Member Representative to notify them of your application. You will be required to verify you have done so in the "Declarations" tab.

AINSE Member Representative Information can be found on the AINSE website:

<https://www.ainse.edu.au/members/>

3. Ensure the information you have entered is complete and correct, and complete the "Declarations" section of the application.

Please note: It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all relevant information is submitted. If information is not supplied in full by the closing date, your application will be deemed incomplete and will be ineligible for consideration.

4. You will receive confirmation through the Grants Portal and via your registered email, advising that your application has been submitted. Your Application Status should now show **Submitted** on the home page of the Grants Portal.

PLEASE NOTE: THE APPLICATION IS ONLINE. ANY DOCUMENTATION AS PART OF YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE UPLOADED ON THE ATTACHMENTS TAB OF THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM BEFORE SUBMISSION.

AINSE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING ANY APPLICATIONS VIA MAIL OR EMAIL. APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED VIA THE AINSE ONLINE PORTAL.

**The closing date for submissions is 15 April 2025,
11:59 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)**

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by 30 June 2025.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR APPLICATION OR THE APPLICATION PROCESS PLEASE CONTACT THE AINSE OFFICE AT applications@ainse.edu.au or by phone: +61 2 9717 3376.