

COAL MINESITE REHABILITATION TRUST FUND

2025 POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS GUIDELINE

The Coal Minesite Rehabilitation Trust Fund was established in 1999 to support research into Queensland Coal minesite environmental management for sustainable operations and post-mining land uses.

The fund is overseen by a Steering Committee of representatives from the fund trustees – the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) in partnership with the Queensland Government, along with representatives from the Queensland coal mining industry.

Up to two Postgraduate Scholarships are on offer in 2023, each up to a **total value of \$40,000 per annum for up to three years**. (Please note: scholarships are for support of the scholar and not a contribution to the research project itself).

Applications are sought by way of a brief proposal, that must be aligned to one or more of the 2025 Research Priorities and be no more than 10 pages in length.

A university can also submit a proposal, without an assigned student to the proposed project.

THE 2022 RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Applications for the scholarship must be aligned to one or more of the following research priorities for 2025:

- Sustainable post-mining land uses including:
 - native ecosystem rehabilitation esp. listed communities and success criteria,
 - rehabilitation of agricultural land esp. subsidence impacts, and
 - landform design including final voids.
- Measurement of rehabilitation success esp. new and emerging technologies.
- Water management impacts – surface and groundwater quantity and quality.
- Mine closure and transition esp. working with communities to identify rehabilitation outcomes, meeting regional planning expectations, and evaluation of residual risk.

NB. Other relevant areas of environmental management for coal mining may be considered such as carbon sequestration from rehabilitated land and cumulative impacts.

CRITERIA FOR PROPOSALS

The Steering Committee will consider proposals based on:

- How the research aligns to the 2025 research priorities.
- The likelihood of success.
- How the results will benefit the Queensland coal industry.
- An estimate of the size and nature of the benefits of success in dollar, regulatory and/or social terms, where possible.
- The credibility of the proposed research and the capacity of the applicant to undertake the research.

Proposals must also include:

- A statement of objectives, which explain how the research will be carried out.
- The expected outcomes and benefits of the research.

Statement of research objectives

It is essential that the project objectives identify the problem to be solved. The objective should not be a précis of the work program, but a simple statement of what is to be achieved (project outcomes), e.g. develop a technique, understand a mechanism.

Expected outcomes and benefits

The benefits and risks in the project should also be made clear. Note that the Steering Committee recognise that every research project has an element of risk, and that not all projects will succeed.

All proposals must:

- Be accompanied by a completed Proposal Cover Sheet, signed by both the student and Project Leader (in the case of a University Proposal, by the Project Leader only).
- Be accompanied by a summary tertiary academic record.
- Contain no extraneous material such as company profiles, lists of publications etc.
- Indicate if any other funding is being/has been sought for the research project.
- Be no more than 10 pages in length.

SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals are to be received by the QRC on behalf of the Steering Committee only via rehabfund@qrc.org.au by **Friday 13 December 2024**.

University proposals are also due by **Friday 13 December 2024**. If the project is successful in proceeding to the next round of the selection process, universities will have until Monday 23 January 2025 to nominate a student to the project.

The student must/will be undertaking research within Queensland and with a Queensland University.

Successful applicants, the actual scholarship funding allocation and the key payment milestones for each research project, will be determined at the sole discretion of the Steering Committee.

The successful applicants will be notified in writing by 9 February 2025.

STANDARD SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT

The Standard Scholarship Agreement details the research project reporting milestones, requirement for publication and promotion of results, scholarship payment value and schedule, and intellectual property issues.

The successful applicants and their project leader/s will be required to read and accept the terms and conditions set by the Steering Committee in the Standard Scholarship Agreement.

CONTACT

For further assistance with submitting an application, email rehabfund@qrc.org.au