Equity Trustees

AF PILLOW APPLIED MATHEMATICS TRUST

PHD TOP-UP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME

The AF Pillow Applied Mathematics Trust offers an annual 'top-up' scholarship to a student holding either an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) or equivalent award for full-time research in Applied Mathematics leading to the award of a PhD. The aim of the AF Pillow Applied Mathematics Top-up Scholarship is to increase the quantity and quality of postgraduate students in the field of applied mathematics in Australia.

In 2027, one top-up scholarship will be awarded.

ELIGIBILITY

- Prospective PhD students in a field of Applied Mathematics at an Australian University and resident within Australia for the duration of the PhD candidature
- Prospective PhD candidates holding or applying for an RTP or equivalent award with strong undergraduate academic training in the field of Applied Mathematics are eligible to apply. Applicants will ordinarily be completing their Honours degree, although current PhD students who commenced their PhD candidature no earlier than 1st January 2026 are also encouraged to apply.
- Part-time PhD candidates are not eligible to apply.

DETAILS OF THE AWARD

Scholarship top-ups will be awarded on the basis of academic excellence, the quality of the applicant's curriculum vitae, references from senior colleagues in the field and the likelihood of the applicant's future involvement in the field of applied mathematics in Australia.

Projects in the field of Applied Mathematics, as defined by AF Pillow, will be given special consideration (see attached manuscript).

The scholarship top-up is awarded for up to 3 years and consists of up to a $10,000 annual stipend for a full-time applicant, to supplement a basic postgraduate scholarship (e.g. an RTP or equivalent award). The value of the award will be adjusted pro rata in line with remaining time on the primary scholarship award for successful applicants who are awarded the top-up scholarship after commencement of doctoral studies. As a full-time scholarship top-up award, it is non-taxable.

Applicants may apply for a maximum extension of the top-up award of up to six months, in line with an extension of their primary award. Extensions may be approved subject to satisfactory progress, provided the grounds are related to their research and are beyond the control of the student. Scholarship top-ups will not be provided beyond 3.5 years following initial enrolment in a PhD program. Awards are provided from the commencement of 2026 and are not backdated to the commencement of the PhD.

An allowance of up to $1500 per annum (maximum $4500 over the duration of the top-up award) will be available and payable to the student on production of receipts for reasonable expenses associated incurred for economy airfares and registration fees to attend the ANZIAM national annual conference. No GST will be paid by the Trust, as it is GST exempt.

OBLIGATIONS OF TOP-UP SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS AND UNIVERSITIES

Top-up scholarship holders are expected to attend the annual Australian and New Zealand Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ANZIAM) conference to present the findings of their research.

Research Centres that comprise multiple university partners will be expected to determine at which university within the Research Centre the student will enrol. The funds involved in the top-up scholarship are to be administered by the university at which the student is enrolled, with the assistance of the relevant Research Centre where appropriate. This means that the funds can be dispersed in line with those made available through the student's main scholarship. Funds will be payable to the University in advance at the beginning of each year.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESEARCH CENTRES AND UNIVERSITIES

In order to secure funding, administering institutions are asked to:

1. Advertise AF Pillow Applied Mathematics scholarships to eligible students
2. Provide the AF Pillow Applied Mathematics Trust with formal notification that the student is enrolled and progressing as planned, including forwarding copies of annual PhD reports to the Trust.
3. In the event of the withdrawal of the student from PhD candidature, provide written notice to the AF Pillow Applied Mathematics Trust within thirty (30) days of the date of the withdrawal, and return the balance of the top-up scholarship within 30 days of the date of the notification letter.

TAKING LEAVE, ILLNESS AND EXTENSIONS

The AF Pillow Applied Mathematics Trust must be notified as soon as practicable if a student has deferred or discontinued their studies. The AF Pillow Applied Mathematics Trust must be notified, in writing, by the administering institution when the student is intending to take extended leave of absence (longer than 3 months), so arrangements can be made to suspend funding for the period.

Payments may continue for up to 12 weeks paid sick leave for medically substantially periods of illness lasting longer than 10 days.

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

The funding round is based on the calendar year.

The following table provides timelines for the application and funding disbursement process:

ACTION	DATE
AF Pillow Top-Up scholarship funding round opens.	19 October, 2026
AF Pillow Top-Up scholarship funding round closes.	4 December, 2026
Notification of successful applicant	4 February, 2027
Dissemination of Year One funds to administering institution	After 15 February, 2027 (on receipt of confirmation of enrolment)
Receipt of annual reports and confirmation of ongoing candidature	Every 12 months on anniversary of commencement date.

APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

The awards will be advertised on the 'scholarship' pages of University websites and in the JASON database. The online application form is to be completed in SmartyGrants and is available online through Equity Trustee's Philanthropy website:
https://equitytrustees.smartygrants.com.au/AFPillow27

The AF Pillow Applied Mathematics Trust will maintain a clear and transparent process for the assessment and awarding of scholarships. The following points will assist in the preparation of the applications:

- While it is necessary to have a PhD supervisor in place before the project is commenced, this can be negotiated after applications have been submitted. The Head of a relevant department within the University must sign the application.
- Priority will be given to projects investigating aspects of Applied Mathematics outlined in the article "What is Applied Mathematics" by AF Pillow. A copy of the manuscript is attached to the application form.
- Preference will also be given to Australian citizens, and those with Australian resident status.

The decisions of the AF Pillow Applied Mathematics Trust Scholarship committee are final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

1. SmartyGrants

a. Submit an online application, https://equitytrustees.smartygrants.com.au/AFPillow27

2. Research Proposal

Presentation

a. Applications must be submitted in typescript
b. The font used must be Times New Roman 11 pt

Part A: Title Page

Use the online form provide to provide details of the Candidate and Supervisor (where known).

Provide the names of two referees from whom reports have been sought. Referee reports should focus on the potential of the applicant to contribute to the ongoing development of applied mathematics in Australia with reference to the broad outline of the proposed project.

Part B: Research Proposal

a. Project Title
Short title (please complete on the form provided)

b. Lay Summary of Proposed Research
Up to 200 words (please complete on the form provided). The lay summary MUST BE intelligible to a non-mathematical academic.

c. Details of Research Project
To be typewritten and limited to a maximum of 3 pages of A4 paper using the form provided. Times New Roman 12pt font with 2cm page margins is required. The following headings are to be incorporated:

- Aims of the Project: List the specific aims and potential significance of the project. Hypotheses to be tested should be clearly stated.
- Background and Research Approach
- Expected Outcomes and Significance
- Relevance to Applied Mathematics as outlined in the article "What is Applied Mathematics" by AF Pillow
- Quality of the Research Environment
- References / Relevant Publications

Part C: Supporting Documents

a. Provide your curriculum vitae (CV) incorporating the information outlined below where applicable. It is acknowledged that applicants are at an early stage of their career and their CV may not yet contain some of the elements outlined below:

- Details of academic background including degrees, prizes, distinctions and/or other special qualifications awarded and where and when they were awarded;
- Details of scientific discipline involvement including membership of societies;
- Details of any bursaries, scholarships, or grants;
- Details of publications, conference papers or abstracts (if any)

b. Provide a copy of your academic records. This should be in the form of an official transcript from your University.

c. Details of any other relevant data to support your application including evidence of Australian Citizenship and/or Permanent Residency Status.

d. Referee reports are to be submitted by your referee and emailed to charities@eqt.com.au

3. Assessors' Reports

Your application will be sent to independent assessors for their comment on its scientific merit. For confidentiality reasons, these reports cannot be made available to applicants.

4. Lodgement of Application

The application must be submitted in SmartyGrants strictly by 4 **December 2026**. The referees/reports must be emailed to charities@eqt.com.au strictly by 4 **December 2026.**

If you have any queries in relation to the application process, please contact Equity Trustees via charities@eqt.com.au