

NFSA Research Fellowships



General Information for Applicants

The National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) collects, preserves and aims to ensure the permanent availability of the nation's audiovisual heritage. The NFSA has established the Scholars and Artists in Residence (SAR) program for established researchers and audiovisual practitioners with a record of significant achievement in the NFSA's fields of interest.

The aim of the NFSA's Scholars and Artists in Residence program is to promote SAR as a centre for scholarly activity, encourage and facilitate research relating to the NFSA's collections and programs including Australia's historic and contemporary moving image and recorded sound culture, and bring new ideas and expertise to the NFSA including knowledge of audiovisual preservation and archival practices. The Fellowship arrangement is designed to mutually benefit both the NFSA and the Fellow. In this regard the NFSA's collections must be the principal focus of the Fellow's research. In contributing to the interpretation and appreciation of national and international audiovisual culture and heritage, the Fellow might also use the Archive's collections to stimulate or otherwise inform new screen, sound or live event output.

Eligible fields of research

The research project undertaken by the Fellow may investigate the collection:

- as historical evidence
- as an interpretation of the past and enrichment of contemporary culture
- or for creative performance or audiovisual work.

Fellows are expected to undertake a research project that expands knowledge and understanding of the Archive's collection, including its audiovisual preservation and archival practices.

Who can apply?

Fellowships are open to established researchers and audiovisual practitioners with a record of significant achievement in a field relevant to the NFSA. These may include:

- senior academics, post-doctoral scholars, independent scholars, writers, audio and audiovisual practitioners, artists and archive professionals
- applications from academics will need to identify if the Research Proposal is part of an ongoing academic research engagement and provide written confirmation that the University fully accepts the conditions of the NFSA Research Fellowship Agreement
- Australian and overseas applicants.

NB: These Fellowships are not intended to support postgraduate studies.

Available support

Several Fellowships will be awarded each year depending on available resources and the scope of the research projects. They will be based at the NFSA in Canberra. Fellowships may be awarded on either a full-time or part-time basis, depending on the requirements of the applicant. Fellowships can be for a minimum of one month and a maximum of six, with the start date and the period of the Fellowship to be negotiated prior to commencement.

The Fellowship will include the following in-kind-support:

- access to the NFSA library and collections
- research support providing access to collection records, databases and staff expertise (fees waived)
- access to auditioning and reading/viewing facilities within NFSA working hours (fees waived)
- office space and a computer with network and internet connections, as well as telephone and photocopying facilities
- self-maintained (rent-free) residential accommodation (if required by non-Canberra based Fellows).

Please note Fellows will not receive direct financial remuneration such as a living allowance or stipend. However, reasonable on-site costs for research will be met by NFSA, together with a range of other in-kind support, as outlined above. These will be negotiated at the time of engagement. Fellows are required to meet their own living and personal travel expenses and to make their own travel arrangements.

Terms of the Fellowship

Fellows will be required to:

- undertake a significant piece of research for publication, performance or exhibition. The NFSA will seek to negotiate intellectual property rights arrangements on a case-by-case basis. Where appropriate the NFSA may seek the first option to publish the results of the Fellowship within two years of the Fellowship's completion, on the NFSA website, as a NFSA book or in some other form.
- spend most of the time associated with their research at the NFSA. Canberra will be the base of their research unless the specific project requires the researcher to work elsewhere.
- present at least one public lecture and/or seminar to Archive staff and invited guests, depending on the length of the Fellowship.
- make themselves available for publicity purposes, including interviews with the media to promote the results of their research, the benefits of having access to the NFSA collections and the Fellowship program.
- acknowledge the support of the NFSA in any publication resulting from the research.
- prepare a report at the conclusion of the Fellowship of the research outcomes.
- provide the NFSA with a copy of any work completed under the Fellowship.
- sign a contract upon acceptance of the Fellowship.
- make their own arrangements for personal insurances.

Fellowships will be advertised in the media, including:

- prominently on the NFSA website (www.nfsa.gov.au)
- through university/tertiary institution research service offices
- in various print media and on various websites.

When can I apply?

Fellowship applications are welcome at any time.

Selection criteria

Fellowships are awarded by the NFSA and will take into account the applicant's:

- qualifications
- research experience and the quality of that research
- record of completing research/creative projects within a given time frame and publishing/producing the results of that research/project, as confirmed by referees.

In addition, the NFSA will consider the particular research project nominated by the applicant, and:

- how each project makes use of the NFSA collections
- how the results of the research will be published/produced/performed/exhibited and how those results will promote awareness of the NFSA, its practices and collections
- how each project will make a substantial contribution to knowledge in its given field.

For further information about SAR Research Fellowships please contact:

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How to apply

Please complete and return the **application form** (available from www.nfsa.gov.au), along with:

- a detailed research proposal
- a current curriculum vitae, including a list of major publications and/or productions
- if relevant, a DVD showreel and samples of audiovisual projects as MP3 files.

Applications should be sent to:

Manager, Research Programs
Access Research and Development
National Film and Sound Archive
GPO Box 2002
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

Please ALSO send **electronic copies** of the application form, research proposal and curriculum vitae to: sar@nfsa.gov.au

Application forms are available at: www.nfsa.gov.au

IMPORTANT NOTE: The information contained in this document is provided for general information purposes only and does not have any legal effect. Specific terms of engagement will be negotiated with successful applicants.