

# 2025 WESTPAC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Online Information Session

 Scholars



# MEET YOUR HOSTS



**Alissa Nightingale**

Program Director,  
Westpac Scholars Trust



**Dr Kai Chan**

2023 Westpac  
Research Fellow, ANU



**Dr Shelley Wickham**

2018 Westpac  
Research Fellow, USYD



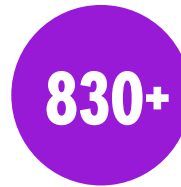
**Janine Birch**

Marketing & Communications  
Westpac Scholars

**WESTPAC SCHOLARS TRUST  
WAS LAUNCHED IN 2014 WITH A  
\$100 MILLION GIFT FROM  
WESTPAC GROUP TO FUND 100  
SCHOLARSHIPS EVERY YEAR,  
FOREVER.**

**TO INVEST IN AND UNITE A NEW  
GENERATION OF BRILLIANT  
AUSTRALIANS TO CHALLENGE,  
EXPLORE AND SET NEW  
BENCHMARKS IN INNOVATION,  
RESEARCH, AND SOCIAL CHANGE.**

# WESTPAC SCHOLARS ARE CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS



Westpac  
Scholars



Awarded to Westpac  
Scholars in 2023



Awarded to Westpac  
Scholars since 2015



## Our approach

Scholarships that  
shape futures

Leaders that create  
a better tomorrow

Collaboration that  
drives change



## Our Scholarships

Westpac  
Future Leaders  
Scholarship

Westpac  
Research  
Fellowship

Westpac  
Social Change  
Fellowship

Westpac  
Young  
Technologist  
Scholarship

Westpac  
Asian  
Exchange  
Scholarship



## Our focus areas

Sustainable  
Futures

Australia  
in Asia

An Inclusive  
Country

Thriving Tech  
Sector



# OUR SCHOLARSHIP STREAMS



## Westpac Research Fellowship

Working with some of Australia's leading research universities, we invest in the brightest, most innovative early career researchers. Not just to enable them to do their best work, but to actively help them influence positive change.



## Westpac Social Change Fellowship

A social innovation program focused on the growth and development of extraordinary individuals leading social change in Australia. The fellowship is tailored to the needs of the individual to help them grow as a leader, with a bespoke personal development plan and leadership course.



## Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship

Young Technologists Scholarships are designed for high school graduates who are passionate about technology and eager to explore its potential for good. With a newly established Disruptive Leaders Program, this scholarship provides new networking and growth opportunities for young innovators.



## Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship

With a focus on leadership development, the Future Leaders Scholarship was designed in partnership with Australia's leading universities to be a life-changing experience. We invest up to \$120,000 in scholars' postgraduate studies and leadership development experiences.



## Westpac Asian Exchange Scholarship

We offer scholars an international experience to help develop their cross-cultural thinking and provide them access to networking opportunities with Australia-Asia thought leaders. An immersive experience helps to forge meaningful relationships between the next generation of young Australian and Asian leaders.



## The Westpac 100 Scholars Network (W100)

The W100 is the alumni program to which all Westpac Scholars become lifelong members. It's an inspiring network of game-changers, achievers, bright sparks and believers.

# ABOUT THE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Supporting exceptional researchers with the passion and drive to create a brighter future for Australia.

- ✓ Receive crucial financial support for your research project with a minimum of **\$400,000 over 3-5 years** (co-funded with the University).
- ✓ **Two Fellowships awarded annually** to inspiring early career researchers at one of four leading universities across Australia, including The University of Melbourne, The University of Sydney, The Australian National University and The University of Queensland.
- ✓ Beyond funding, the Fellowship provides opportunities for individuals to **enhance their leadership skills and expand their networks**. This includes direct access to senior business leaders and industry experts.
- ✓ You'll become part of the **W100 Scholars Network** and attend the **2024 Scholars Summit** (7-8 April 2025). And the 2025 Westpac Research Fellow **Alumni Leadership Retreat**.



# ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ An **Australian citizen** or hold permanent residency status.
- ✓ Awarded a PhD between **2018 and 2021**; or have obtained an Eligibility Exemption from the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research).
- ✓ Proven record of **academic/research excellence** and impact.
- ✓ Proposed program of research is **relevant to at least one of Westpac Scholars Trust focus areas**: Technology and Innovation, Sustainable Futures, Ties with Asia and An Inclusive Australia.
- ✓ Experience includes **international and professional development opportunities** to develop your skills and global networks.
- ✓ Research budget and professional development fund **approved by your university**.
- ✓ **Commence Fellowship by June 2025**





# PROGRAM COMPONENTS



**3+ years' Salary  
and Research  
support**



**Bespoke  
Professional  
Development  
Budget**



**Westpac  
Scholars  
Summit**



**360 Leadership  
Circle &  
Coaching**



**Research Fellow  
Leadership  
Retreat**



**Fellowship  
Report**

## W100 NETWORK

- W100 State & University Events
- W100 Hub
  - Mentors in Residence
  - Three Coffee Challenge
  - Book club
  - Speaker series

## PLUS WESTPAC GROUP

- Networking
- Media
- Profiling & Speaking
- Events such as National Press Club
- Mentoring
- More

# RESEARCH FELLOW ATTRIBUTES

1

Passionate about creating a better future for Australia and driven to succeed

2

Comfortable with complexity

3

Possess a desire and potential to lead

4

Connected communicator

5

Collaborative team player



# **MEET DR KAI CHAN**

**2023 Westpac Research Fellow**

**The Australian National University**



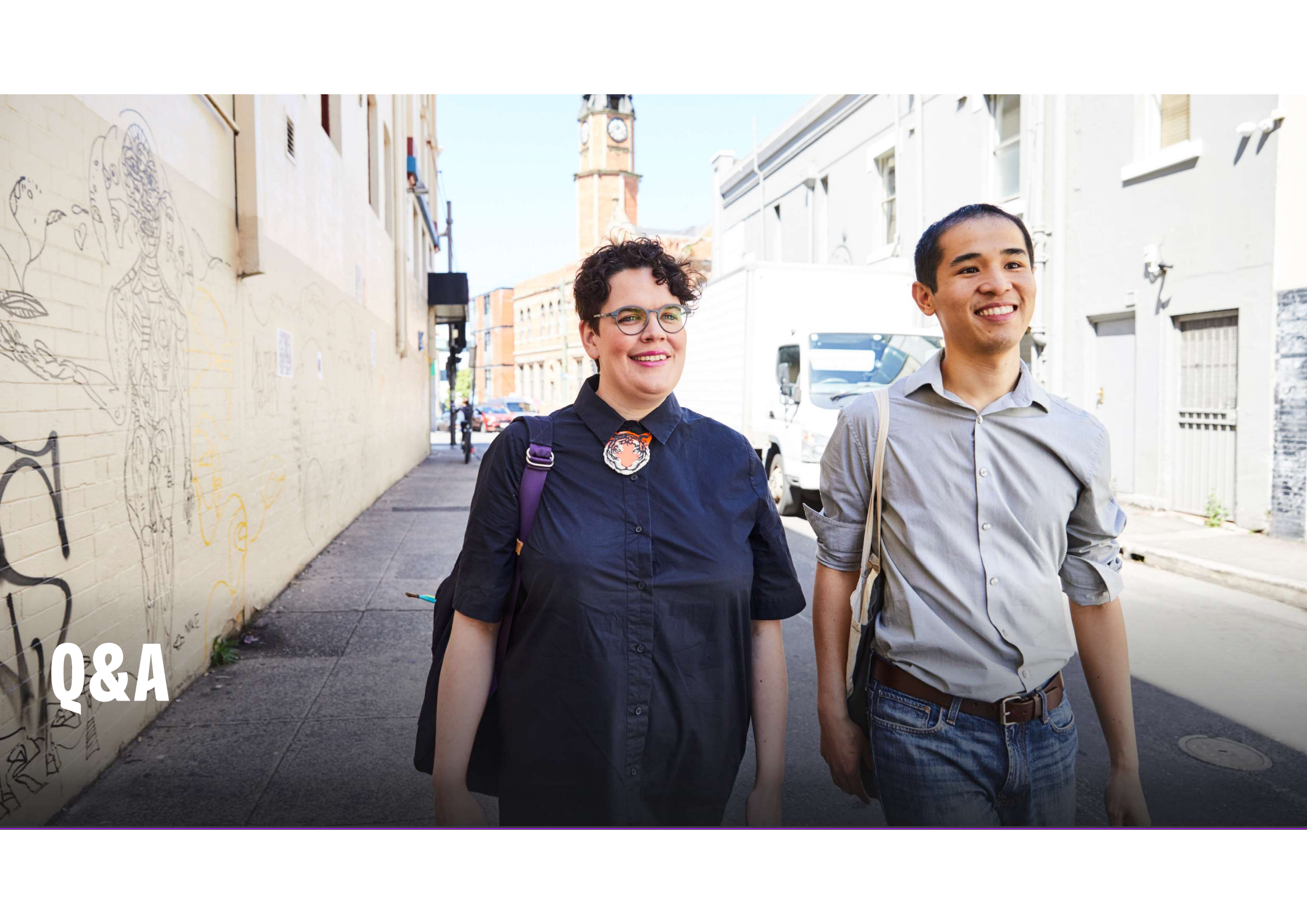
# **MEET DR SHELLEY WICKHAM**

**2018 Westpac Research Fellow**

**The University of Sydney**



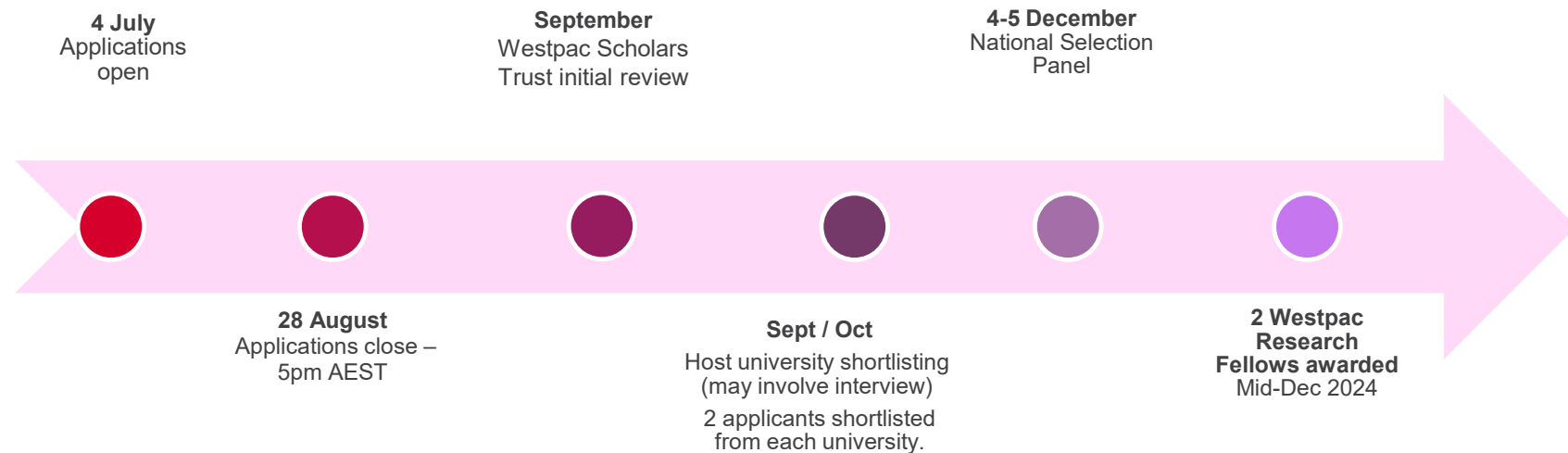




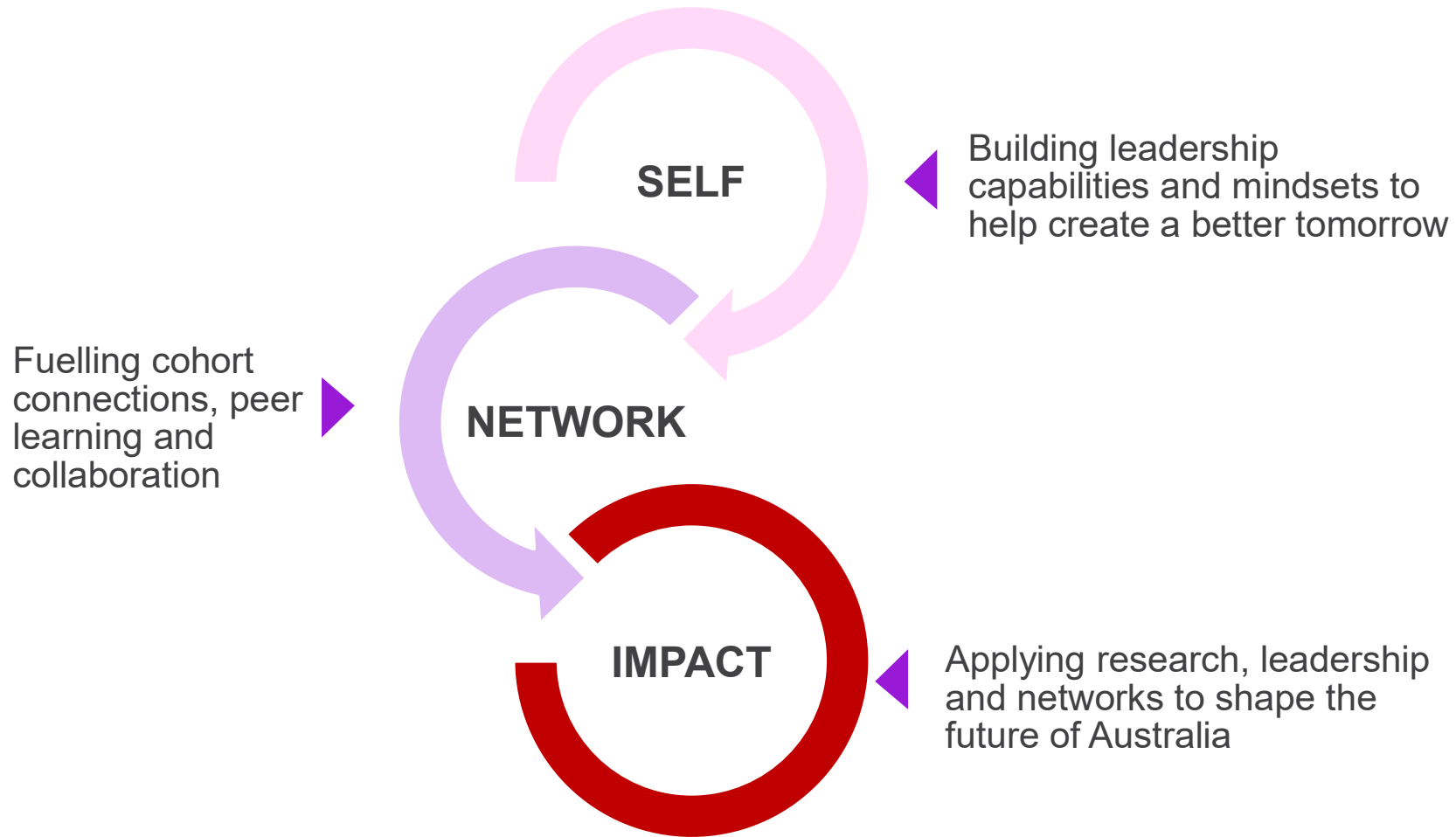
Q&A

# SELECTION PROCESS

- The following timeline highlights the key dates for the 2025 Westpac Research Fellowship application round.
- Please connect with your University to discuss your application and understand any internal EOI processes.
- Applications are shortlisted by partner universities before 8 finalists across Australia are selected for review by the National Selection Panel via in-person interview and group exercises in Sydney.
- Up to 2 Research Fellows will be awarded for 2025.



# INTENDED OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM



# W100 NETWORK

The W100 is our scholar alumni network. Scholars from across all five scholarship programs are given membership to the W100 which grows by 100 members every year, forever.

In 2024, we now have over 830+ scholars.

The W100 is an empowered network of diverse, talented and committed collaborators who drive along with bold thinking will help shape a better future for all Australians.

Providing lifelong learning, development and networking opportunities, the W100 is owned and driven by scholars with the support of Westpac Scholars Trust.

## Annual Scholars Summit

Westpac Scholars Trust brings the most recent cohort of scholars to the Scholars Summit to honour their achieve and participate in tailored workshops, hear from business and academic luminaries and to form connections.

**Date:** 7-8 April 2025

**Location:** Sydney





# WHAT DOES A SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT LOOK LIKE?

- ✓ Demonstrates **commitment and leadership** to creating a brighter future for Australia.
- ✓ **Academic excellence** and achievements to date. And Research is **innovative** and **meets a need or solves an issue** in the Australian community that aligns to one of the Trust's focus areas.
- ✓ Has researched the fellowship opportunity and has a **well-considered funding plan** that enhances both research vision and professional development
- ✓ Ability to articulate why the fellowship would be a **turning point** for you and how it would help **build your capacity** to create a better future for Australia.
- ✓ Operates within a supportive and high-quality research environment.
- ✓ Has considered what it means to be a Westpac Scholar and has **an interest in engaging and supporting** the W100 Scholars Network.
- ✓ Demonstrates a **generosity of spirit**.



# APPLICATION TIPS

- Read the **Funding Guidelines** on our website and use the eligibility screener to confirm you are able/ready to apply.
- Gather your supporting documents:
  - Up to date CV
  - Recent headshot
  - Referees and University supporting documents – pick the right people who know you and your research well.
- Consider why the fellowship would be a game-changer in your development and achieving research impact goals.
- Main selection questions are divided into the following sections:
  - Professional and Leadership Experience
  - Research Project, Goals and Budget
  - Fellowship fit and experience
- Answer all parts of the question and don't use "refer to above" as some answers may be assessed in isolation. Include any relevant links in the question that asks for links
- Where possible use language that a non-specialist would understand and use specific examples to bring your experience and vision to life – avoid broad statements.
- Remember to save as you go – a PDF will be emailed to you each time you save.

If your application is successful, we will work with you and the University to finalise your Research and Development Budget.



Download

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION



# TIPS FROM PREVIOUS FELLOWS

“

If you are a researcher with bold ambitions seeking a supportive platform, I encourage you to **share your unique story** in this year's application process!

Demonstrate your leadership and your potential through personal examples. Be specific – what was your role, what leader are you, how did you show up and reflect on how you want to grow.

Imposter Syndrome nags us with reservations like “I don't deserve this” and “I'm sure other people are more qualified”.

Try to flip your thinking to **put the focus on those who will benefit from the change you hope to make. After all, it's ultimately to help them that you're applying for this Fellowship!**

“Think deeply not just about your work and your career plans, but also about your own personal drivers and motivations. They reveal more about you than you might initially think.”



”





**Q&A**










“

“I cannot overstate how important this kind of early-stage career support is **for launching the careers of newly independent researchers**, and I am heartened by the knowledge that the W100 program will be offering new opportunities every year, forever.”

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**Dr Yu Heng Lau,  
2020 Research Fellow  
The University of Sydney**

# THANKYOU! CONNECT WITH US

-  [westpac.com.au/scholarships](https://westpac.com.au/scholarships)
-  [westpacscholars@westpac.com.au](mailto:westpacscholars@westpac.com.au)
-  [WestpacScholars](https://www.instagram.com/WestpacScholars)
-  [Westpac Scholars](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Westpac-Scholars)
-  [WestpacScholars](https://twitter.com/WestpacScholars)

