

David Ashton Scholarship 2025

Form Preview

David Ashton Scholarship

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About the Scholarship

Dr David Ashton OAM, past member of the School of Botany, was one of Australia's most highly regarded plant ecologists. He demonstrated an exceptional breadth of knowledge, and published on plant community dynamics, long-term vegetation change, nutrient cycling, soil microbial ecology, and the influence of drought and disease on plants. His outstanding contribution was recognised by the Ecological Society of Australia, who awarded him their highest honour, the ESA Medal.

David was best known as the leading authority on the ecology of Australia's mountain ash forests. When he was a young postgraduate student no one knew how this forest regenerates and how its continuation depends on fire at certain intervals and intensity. The late Professor John Turner directed him to solve the problem and find out the secrets of Mountain Ash regeneration. Over a life-time David did just that. He documented how forests change over time in the absence of fire, how catastrophic fire can be, but how the mountain ash trees have amazing regrowth following events such as the devastating 1939 bushfires.

David Ashton was an outstanding teacher and made a major contribution to the training of later generations of ecologists and leaders. Many he trained have held positions within government or private agencies, national parks, CSIRO, forestry, universities and secondary schools.

A bequest from David and donations from colleagues and friends led to the establishment of two student awards -- the David Ashton Travel Award and the David H Ashton Scholarship.

Eligibility

To be considered for this scholarship you must:

- have achieved honours 2A (or equivalent) or above and
- be enrolled in your PhD in the discipline of botany within the University of Melbourne School of BioSciences

Selection Criteria

Awarded by the Dean on the recommendation of the head of school.

Outcome

All scholarship outcomes will be sent via SmartyGrants.

Please see outcome timing below:

- **Round 1** (Jan-March applications): May-July

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- **Round 2** (June-August applications): September-October

Please ensure that you check your email inbox as well as your SPAM/Junk mail as emails may sometimes be directed to these folders.

Applicant Details

Applicant *

Title	First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Student ID *

Must be a number.

Student Email *

Must be an email address.

Personal Email *

Must be an email address.

Area of Study

School *

PhD Program *

I am studying in the discipline of botany *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Scholarship Application

** indicates a required field*

Research Summary

Research Project Title *

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Principal Supervisor Name *

Brief summary of your current research project *

Provide a short description (100-150 words recommended) of your project - what are you out to do?

Please list any papers you have published

Personal Statement

Please describe your reasons for applying for this scholarship, and how these funds may assist you. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 400 words.

This may include, for example, using funds to reduce your hours of part-time employment, alleviating financial need or disadvantage, travel to a conference etc

Submission Declaration

* indicates a required field

Declaration

I declare that the information and content provided in this submission are true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false information, misrepresentation, or failure to disclose relevant details may result in review and possible corrective actions. By submitting, I confirm my agreement to adhere to all policies, guidelines, and terms associated with this submission. *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Finding this Scholarship

How did you hear about this scholarship? *

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online search (e.g., Google) | <input type="checkbox"/> Referral from an academic/supervisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (e.g., Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn) | <input type="checkbox"/> Referral from colleague or friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty Newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> University digital screens |

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- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty of Science Scholarship page
(science.unimelb.edu.au/students/
scholarships) | <input type="checkbox"/> Event, workshop, or webinar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email Campaigns | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact with Stop1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CANVAS/LMS | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University of Melbourne Scholarship page
(scholarships.unimelb.edu.au) | |
- Please select all that applies.

Privacy

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[View our privacy statement](#)

[Student Conduct Policy \(MPF1324\)](#).

Submit

Now that you have finished your application, please make sure you press the SUBMIT button below.

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact: science-awards@unimelb.edu.au