

NFSA Indigenous Research Fellowships



General Information for Applicants

The National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) is offering an Indigenous Research Fellowship as an opportunity for Indigenous Australian researchers and creative practitioners to engage with the national audiovisual collection including its associated documents and artefacts.

The aim of the Indigenous Fellowship is to promote research activity, encourage and facilitate research by Indigenous Australians relating to the NFSA's collections including historic and contemporary moving image and recorded sound culture, and to bring their ideas and expertise to the NFSA. The fellowship arrangement is designed to mutually benefit the NFSA, the Indigenous Fellow and the Indigenous communities involved. In contributing to the interpretation and appreciation of national and international audiovisual culture and heritage, the Fellow might also use the NFSA's collection to assist in the production of new works.

Eligible fields of research

The research project undertaken by the Indigenous 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
- for academic research related to any field of endeavour in relation to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander studies.

Fellows are expected to undertake a research project that expands knowledge and understanding of the NFSA collection.

Who can apply

The Indigenous Research Fellowship is open to applicants who are Indigenous Australian, identify as Indigenous and who are accepted as such by the community with which he/she is associated.

Terms of the Fellowship

The Indigenous Research Fellowship will be based at the NFSA in Canberra and be awarded on a full-time basis to be completed by June 2010. The length of stay is negotiable depending on the nature and requirements of the project. The researcher will :

- undertake a significant piece of research that explores the national audiovisual collection from an Indigenous perspective
- based on the research proposal: deliver a paper, a presentation or performance to the NFSA
- obtain informed consent from individuals, family or peoples whose cultural knowledge or cultural materials will be used as part of the research
- adhere to NFSA's research protocols
- make themselves available for publicity purposes, including interviews with the media to promote the results of their research, and the Indigenous Research Fellowship
- acknowledge the support of the NFSA in any publication resulting from the research
- prepare a written report at the conclusion of the fellowship regarding their experience at the NFSA and the research outcomes
- provide the NFSA with a copy of any work completed under the Indigenous Research Fellowship

Upon commencement, a formal agreement outlining the specific terms of the fellowship will be signed by both parties.

Available support

The fellowship will include the following research support:

- Indigenous Collections Branch research and cultural support including providing access to collection records, databases and staff expertise (fees waived)
- Access to the NFSA library and collections as far as practicable
- Access to auditioning and reading/viewing facilities within NFSA working hours
- Office space and a computer with network and internet connections, as well as telephone and photocopying facilities
- Self-maintained residential accommodation
- Travel arrangements and costs to and from Canberra at the beginning and conclusion of the fellowship period

Indigenous Fellowship recipients will also receive a basic living allowance for the period of their residency negotiated prior to commencement.

Selection criteria

The Indigenous Research Fellowship will be awarded by the NFSA. The selection committee will evaluate each proposal according to the following criteria:

1. The research project is assessed on originality and freshness with unique outcomes and not simply an adjunct to existing projects and grants.

2. The research projects have a specific focus that engages part or with all aspects of the national audiovisual collection.
3. The applicant has proven experience in high quality, audiovisual research and presentation skills. Applications must be of a high quality overall.
4. The research project delivers a high yield for NFSA profile. The proposal must benefit the NFSA, identifying tangible results and promotional opportunities to a specific market.
5. The research project is recognised as an independent work and not easily satisfied by Collection Access services for commercial or external projects and production to the NFSA.
6. The research project brings balance between Moving Image, Recorded Sound, Documents and Artefacts and broader archival issues. NFSA will avoid having multiple fellows carry out similar research on a particular theme at the one time.

How to apply

Please complete and return the **Indigenous Research Fellowship Application Form**

(available from http://www.nfsa.gov.au/about_us/sar.html), along with:

- a detailed research proposal
- a current curriculum vitae, including a list of major publications and/or productions
- if relevant, a DVD show reel and samples of audiovisual projects as MP3 files.
- Letters of reference as evidence of Indigenous community/organisational support for the project, and evidence of cultural knowledge and identity.

When can I apply?

A completed application form, detailing the research proposal must be submitted by the **2 October 2009**

Submitting your application

Please mail your completed application by the due date to

Manager, Scholars and Artists in Residence

National Film and Sound Archive

GPO Box 2002

Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

and if possible, please email a copy of your application to: sar@nfsa.gov.au

Further information

Please Contact:

Vincent Plush: Manager, Research Programs

National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra

Phone: (02) 6248 2041

Fax: (02) 6248 2078

Email: vincent.plush@nfsa.gov.au

Or visit the Scholars and Artists in Residence website at:

http://www.nfsa.gov.au/about_us/sar.html

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.