



ACNS ECR Travel Award

Aim

The ACNS ECR Travel Award aims to support a period of overseas travel by an early career post-doctoral researcher in the field of cognitive neuroscience in Australasia (up to four years post-PhD, excluding career disruptions).

The objective of this award is to facilitate the career of a talented early career researcher, and enhance the reputation of cognitive neuroscience research in Australasia. This will be achieved by fostering international collaborations, and increasing the potential for carrying out high-quality research.

This award will contribute towards a period of time abroad, which may comprise presenting at a conference/symposium/workshop, and/or a brief or extended lab visit. This is a competitive scheme, and applications outlining trips that combine multiple activities will be favoured.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek other funding to support or supplement their intended travel.

Important Dates

- *Call opens:* 19th January 2026
- *Call closes:* 24th April 2026

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be working in an area of cognitive neuroscience.
- Have a doctoral degree conferred no more than four years (not including career disruptions) prior to the application deadline.
- Be a current member of the Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society.
- Be currently employed (at least 0.5 FTE) at a university or research institution within Australasia.

Travel Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, the travel activity must:

- Include an international destination
- Commence by 30 June 2026.

Equity and Career Disruption

The committee will consider issues surrounding equity and career disruption when determining an applicant's eligibility, and assessing achievements. A career disruption involves a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work. This can include (but is not limited to): pregnancy/parenthood/adoption; major illness or injury; carer responsibilities including parental leave and care for immediate family (e.g., spouse, children or parent); time spent out of the academic environment (e.g., employment in industry, periods of unemployment); natural disasters directly impacting research productivity (e.g., closure of research facilities due to flood, fire, earthquake, pandemic, etc.). Teaching, clinical and administrative loadings within academic positions are typically *not* considered career disruptions for the purposes of this award. For example, 40/40/20 (teaching/research/administration) or 80/20 (research/clinical) academic roles would not be considered disruptions.

Applicants should clearly outline any issues surrounding equity and career disruption as part of their application. It is up to the applicant to determine the level of detail provided. Applicants should provide an estimated impact of career disruption on productivity.

The award panel will first assess any issues of career disruption to determine eligibility of the application. If the application is assessed as *eligible*, the panel will then take into account the impacts of the disruption on track record in their assessment.

Please note that in the interests of fairness, the ACNS Executive cannot provide guidance on the eligibility of an application with career disruption prior to the meeting of the award panel.

Award

- Each award is for a maximum of \$2,500.
- For the successful applicant, transfer of funds will only occur once we receive evidence of each component of the itinerary (e.g., email indicating abstract acceptance or formal invitation to present at a lab).
- Applicants must inform ACNS if travel circumstances change, and ACNS reserves the right to amend the amount awarded in such circumstances.

Assessment Criteria

The award panel will consider:

- The applicant's track record
- Previous travel opportunities
- The purpose of the applicant's travel, and likely benefit of that travel to the applicant, and in enhancing the reputation of cognitive neuroscience in Australasia.

Application

1A. Applicant's CV (maximum two pages), including:

- Name, institution, email
- Academic qualifications
- List of current and previous positions
- List of any awards, fellowships and grants
- Previous conference attendance, and invited talks

1B. Full publication list (separate to page limit), including any preprints.

2. Summarise the purpose of travel (≤ 200 words for each component of the itinerary).

- For conferences:
 - Name, dates, and venue
 - Type of presentation to be delivered
 - Indicate whether the abstract been formally accepted
- For lab visits:
 - Name, dates, and location of lab visit
 - Purpose of the lab visit (e.g., talk, data collection, data analysis)
- For other travel, please provide corresponding details.

Applications must include all documentation available at the time of submission confirming each item of the itinerary (e.g., evidence of abstract acceptance). Where such documentation is not yet available, successful applicants must provide it prior to transfer of funds.

3. A summary of the applicant's current research interests; how the travel will support their career development; and how this travel will enhance the reputation of cognitive neuroscience in Australasia (≤ 500 words)

4. Previous travel opportunities in the last three years. Please indicate (\leq 200 words for each opportunity):
 - Purpose and outcome.
 - Location and dates.
5. Statement(s) of support from your local supervisor. If applicable, a statement of support from your overseas supervisor is also encouraged.
6. Budget (add rows as required)

Expense	Amount
Airfare:	\$
Accommodation:	\$
Conference Registration:	\$
Incidentals (food, transfers, etc):	\$
Other (specify):	\$
Total:	\$
Total amount from other funds: ¹	\$
- Fund 1	\$
- Fund 2	\$
Total requested from ACNS:	\$

¹ If you have other funding, please indicate source and value.

7. If applicable, please provide a statement outlining the effects of equity and/or career disruption on your career (\leq 500 words).

Submission

Submit all components in one pdf (ACNSTravel_2025_Surname.pdf), and send to acns@acns.org.au.

Enquiries

If you have any questions about the application and selection process, please email acns@acns.org.au.

Version Control

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