

The Cathy Foley Early Career Research Fellowship

Eligibility and Application Information

The ARC Centre of Excellence in Quantum Biotechnology (QUBIC) aims to pioneer paradigm-shifting quantum technologies to observe biological processes and transform our understanding of life.

Named after an Australian pioneer in quantum science and technology as well as a champion for diversity in STEM, The Cathy Foley Early Career Research Fellowship supports emerging researchers in this field.



This two-year fellowship aims to increase the diversity of the QUBIC community by supporting the recruitment and retention of Early Career Researchers from communities that typically face barriers to entry and progression in STEM and related fields.

Eligibility

- Applicants must identify a [QUBIC Chief Investigator](#) who agrees to act as supervisor and host the fellowship prior to submission.
- **Note:** Applicants who do not have a confirmed QUBIC supervisor will not be considered.
- Applicants must be Early-Career Researchers who are either currently affiliated with QUBIC or external candidates intending to join the research group of a [QUBIC Chief Investigator](#).
- Applicants must hold a PhD (or have submitted their PhD thesis for external review) at the time of the application in a relevant discipline such as quantum science, biotechnology, synthetic biology, computational chemistry, science policy or related fields.

The successful applicant will take on a research-focused academic role aligned with QUBIC's research themes (description available [here](#)) and work closely with their supervising Chief Investigator.

How to apply

Applicants must first contact and secure agreement from a [QUBIC Chief Investigator](#) to host their fellowship. Applicants should be within five full-time equivalent years of PhD award and must provide:

1. Research Proposal (use [template](#) provided)

Outline the research that will be undertaken during the fellowship, including:

- A brief background and rationale for the project
- Aims and objectives
- Expected outcomes and significance

- Alignment with QUBIC's core research themes
- Description of how the project will enhance interdisciplinary collaboration within QUBIC or with external partners

2. Statement on Diversity and Inclusion (use [template](#) provided)

Address the following:

- Your personal experience and professional engagement to diversity and your field(s) of research. This may include lived experience, community background, identity, etc.
- Past engagement and planned future contributions to promoting inclusivity and equity in your academic career.
- How your research achievements and contributions relevant to this position should be assessed relative to opportunity.

3. Curriculum Vitae including References (3 pages maximum)

As a guide, your CV should highlight research contributions and include contact details for two referees. Your CV should also contain details such as:

- Education, training and appointments.
- Awards and/or prizes.
- Traditional research outputs such as peer-reviewed publications, posters, invited talks, conference presentations, etc.
- Significant non-traditional research outputs such as policy briefs, reports, software development, etc.
- Leadership and service activities related to discipline and/or equity, diversity and inclusion.

4. Letter of Support from the Supervising Chief Investigator

- This letter ([guidelines](#) provided) must confirm that, if the applicant is successful, the Chief Investigator will support the remaining salary and project expenses for the duration of the two-year fellowship.
- Each supervisor may support a maximum of two applicants.
- This letter should be sent via email from the supervising Chief Investigator directly to ideas.qubic@uq.edu.au

Assessment and Outcomes

Applications will be assessed relative to opportunity, based on:

- Qualifications and experience of the applicant (50%)
- Research proposal (50%)

The successful applicant is expected to commence between 1 January 2027 and 1 June 2027.

Kindly note that the supporting position associated with the university laboratory is subject to the hiring procedures and regulations of the institution. Full compliance with the host institution's policies is required.

If needed, additional information or interviews may be requested.

Please [apply here](#) by **31 July 2026**.

Submissions will be reviewed and ranked by QUBIC's Inclusivity, Diversity, Ethics and Access (IDEA) Portfolio Committee. This list will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for final approvals and outcomes will be communicated to applicants and their supervising Chief Investigator prior to the Annual Symposium in November.

Any questions can be directed to Allison Fish, chair of the IDEAs Portfolio, at ideas.qubic@uq.edu.au.