

Daintree Rainforest Observatory (DRO)

Student Research Grant (SRG) Scheme

Guidelines for Applicants

The DRO SRG Scheme is a funding source for post-graduate research students enrolled in Australian and international universities.

The scheme aims to provide support for projects conducted at the Daintree Rainforest Observatory, and to promote excellence in research by PhD, MSc and Honours students. The maximum grant will be valued at \$3000, with all students (both JCU and external applicants) charged JCU student rates (i.e. \$500 per day for crane use). Accommodation is included with crane bookings (from June 2014 onwards) but not for ground-based research. Applicants wishing to use the facilities for additional time will be charged at JCU student rates. **Please note that due to construction at the DRO there will be no accommodation or laboratory access available until June 2014. Applicants wishing to use the facility prior to June 2014 must seek accommodation offsite and at their own expense.**

DRO SRGs are awarded annually on a competitive basis to assist PhD, MSc and Honours students with their research in a manner that has the capacity to enhance research at the DRO through the production of high quality publications.

To be eligible, students must be currently enrolled in a PhD, MSc or Honours program at an Australian or international university.

Successful applicants will be eligible to apply to the scheme in subsequent years, subject to submission of a suitable grant report and their continued enrolment in post-graduate study at a university.

Funds will be allocated competitively, based on

- a) Quality of the proposal;
- b) Evidence that the project will lead to high quality publication output (the number of potential publications and journal status will form part of that assessment) that enhances the reputation of the DRO;
- c) Track record of the applicant relative to opportunity. This includes publication output (number of publications relative to opportunity), authorship (senior or sole authored papers are weighted more) and journal quality (journal status relative to the field, conference proceedings rate less than journals, etc.). Publications which are published or in press are ranked highest; papers in revision, review, and submitted will be taken into consideration, especially in the first year of study. Papers in prep are not counted as outputs from that applicant;
- d) If project quality, potential for publication output and track record of two applicants are similar, then preference will be given to students enrolled at James Cook University, or to projects involving a supervisor employed at James Cook University.

Applications should be made on the standard form provided at the DRO website (DRO SRG application form_Feb 2014.pdf).

Notes on the Application Form

The signed form can be submitted by email (dro@jcu.edu.au), mail (DRO Student Research Grant Scheme, Faculty of Science and Engineering, James Cook University, PO Box 6811, Cairns QLD 4870) or in person to the Student Resource Centre (Cairns Campus, Room A2.134, McGregor Rd, Smithfield QLD 4878) by **COB Friday 7th March 2014**.

The numbered items below refer to the corresponding parts of the form.

Part 1 is intended to provide information for a database for ease of comparisons among applicants.

Part 2 is intended to provide the information necessary for assessing the quality of the proposed research.

Part 3 is intended to provide evidence of the track record of the applicant and an indication of the potential of the applicant to deliver the proposed research outcomes.

Tips for filling in the form can be found by holding the mouse pointer over the field to be completed on the PDF form. For additional information please contact the site manager of the DRO.

PART 1: BACKGROUND DETAILS

1. Applicant's Details

2. Project Details

Provide a project title (maximum 40 characters) and project summary (maximum 100 words) including the aims, significance and expected outcomes of your project. If applicable, provide Field of Research (FoR) and Socio-Economic Objectives (SEO) codes relevant to your project and the percentage of each code as relevant to your project (this should add up to 100% for each code type). FoR and SEO codes can be found on the [JCU Research Office web site](#). Provide percentages for each type of research as relevant to your project (these should add up to 100%).

3. Funding Received/Identified for your Project

List the amount and year(s) of all current funding and requested funding, excluding this application, including grants to your supervisor. Indicate briefly how the money has been spent.

Examples are provided below.

Source of funding	Year(s)	Total Amount	Use
School Internal	2012-2013	\$1000	Photocopying, interlibrary loans
Grant to supervisor	2012-2013	\$5000	Lab consumables
Grant from Smart State*	2013	\$5000	Field expenses

4. Summary of Daintree Rainforest Observatory (DRO) Resources Requested

Provide the number of days/hours of crane time and night's accommodation being requested in the application up to a maximum of \$3000 worth (see [Schedule of Fees](#) for costs associated with crane and accommodation use). Also note that until June 2014, no accommodation will be available onsite due to construction. Prior to this accommodation must be sought offsite at the applicant's expense.

5. Supervisor and Head of School (or Equivalent) Endorsement

This section should be completed after the application form is complete. Please ensure that your supervisor and Head of School (or equivalent) have thoroughly read your completed application prior to signing. This will ensure the application is of the highest quality and increase the likelihood of success. This also acts to confirm your enrolment status. We also ask that the applicant sign the application to confirm that all details entered are correct and confirm that they are currently enrolled in post-graduate study. Unsigned applications will not be considered.

Part 2: THE PROPOSED RESEARCH

6. Research Project

Project description (20 lines maximum) - Indicate the aims and research approach of the specific component of your research activities to be addressed by the proposed DRO SRG.

How will this project contribute to high quality research outcomes/outputs at the DRO? (10 lines maximum) - Indicate how the achievement of the DRO SRG-funded research goals will support research excellence and high quality outcomes.

7. Budget

Include the number of days of crane time, night's accommodation and any other DRO resources requested, up to a maximum value of \$3000. Non-JCU students can access JCU student rates (i.e. \$500 per day (8 hours) of crane use, \$250 per half day (4 hours) and \$150 per hour; \$45 per night's accommodation; see [Schedule of Fees](#) for more details). From June 2014 onwards, accommodation will be included with crane bookings but not ground-based research. Applicants wishing to use the facility prior to June 2014 must seek accommodation offsite and at their own expense. Successful external applicants requiring additional time can access the site at JCU student rates. Priority can be listed as A (essential to the project, funding required), B (important to the project, funding of this would improve the overall quality of the project but is not essential) or C (desirable to the project, but non-funding of this would not affect the ability of the project to proceed).

8. Budget Justification

Justify the DRO resources requested. For instance, you should explain why you need the number of days or hours of time requested, how these will be used etc.

PART 3: SUPPORTING INFORMATION

9. Publication List

Provide full references and append copies of abstracts of all published, accepted, and submitted publications that have been refereed. (Papers in preparation should not be listed). Provide a list only of non-refereed contributions such as consultancy reports, technical memoranda, popular articles, un-refereed conference proceedings, etc. Substantiation of this list may be requested.

10. Other Relevant Professional Experience

Use this space to supply any other information that you believe demonstrates your ability to carry out the proposed DRO SRG project and to achieve excellence in research.

Please note:

- Successful applicants must provide the Chair of the DRO Research Committee with a 1-page report by 1st August in the year following the grant. The report should comprise: name, project title, the use of the funds, their value to the thesis project and any resultant conference presentations or publications.
- Metadata for the dataset collected will be required to be deposited with the Australian Supersite Network database (the DRO is the Cape Tribulation node of the FNQ Rainforest Supersite) within 2 months of completion of the field work. The web address for the database is <http://www.tern-supersites.net.au/knb>, the metadata may either be directly entered or provided to a data officer to enter if need be (contact is the Australian Supersite Network coordinator : <http://www.tern-supersites.net.au/contact.jsp>). Ideally the primary data will also be deposited with the database where it is under complete control of the person who provides the data using a creative commons type license.
- Carry-forward of funds beyond 1 calendar year after the award of the grant will require permission from the Chair of the DRO Research Committee.
- Funds granted may not be spent for purposes other than those detailed in the original application unless the written permission of the Chair of the DRO Research Committee has been obtained.
- All grant funding is subject to occasional audit by the University's Internal Auditor.
- Under no circumstances should retrospective requests for support be considered, as to do so would contravene the University's audit requirements. For the purposes of this Scheme, a retrospective request is defined as a request made for funds that have been spent or committed before the candidate has been advised that the funding has been awarded.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For further information, please contact the DRO site manager, Peter Byrnes, on (07) 4098 0135 (within Australia), +61 7 4098 0135 (international) or via email dro@jcu.edu.au