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Specialised  
Skills  
Institute



est. 1991

# Lady Shirley Gobbo Fellowship

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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## Introduction

The ISS Institute is offering one (1) Lady Shirley Gobbo Fellowship in the amount of \$15,000.

The Lady Shirley Gobbo Fellowship provides an opportunity for artists, artisans and innovators in Australia to expand their skills acquisition and drive leading practice upon their return. It is intended that the Fellowship will demonstrate potential benefits for, and application in, Australia.

## About this Fellowship

The Lady Shirley Gobbo Fellowship is designed to support skills acquisition to the Veneto region of Italy. The goal is for recipients to expand their skills in fields where the Veneto region excels

*The Fellowship is a year long program - international applied research and completion of report must be completed within 12 months.*

Applications are open to Australian residents over the age of 18. Candidates must travel to the **Veneto region of Italy** as part of their Fellowship.

Sponsored by Lady Shirley Gobbo, this Fellowship offers successful recipients the chance to engage directly with master craftspeople, renowned institutions, and centuries-old traditions that continue to shape contemporary practice with each recipient receiving comprehensive support for their skills acquisition journey.

## Priority Areas

Those eligible are invited to apply for a Fellowship that will support the continued development of a skilled Australia with a focus on fields where the Veneto region excels such as:

- **Viticulture**
- **Glassmaking**
- **Traditional Crafts**
- **Heritage Skills**

## Lady Shirley Gobbo

As wife of Victoria's first governor from a non-English speaking background, Lady Shirley played a pivotal role in representing Australia's multicultural identity.

Lady Shirley's dedication to community service mirrored her husband's humanitarian work through organisations like the Italian Assistance Association and the Order of Malta. Together, they championed educational opportunities, particularly those connecting Australia with Italian heritage and expertise.

## International Specialised Skills (ISS) Institute

The ISS Institute was founded in 1991, by a small group of innovative leaders who had a vision of building a community of industry specialists who would lead the up skilling of the Australian workforce. Investing in the development of talented, passionate and innovative Australians to develop new skills and knowledge and return to Australia to disseminate their learnings has, and continues to create a 'better skilled Australia.' Our Fellows represent abroad cross-section of industries and our Fellowship program creates impact in many ways including economic benefits, skills preservation, the personal and professional advancement of our Fellows, new thinking, practice and increased innovation in the workforce.

## What is International Applied Research?

Applied research is an approach used to solve practical problems. This study and research is often used in education, training and across industries with the intention to generate actionable knowledge, to find solutions or develop innovative practice that has direct applications to the world. ISS Institute's Fellowship Program invests in Australians undertaking a form of applied research outside of Australia.

## What are Skill Enhancements?

Skill enhancements are opportunities to develop skills, advance knowledge and identify innovation. Fellowships allow individuals to enhance their skills for the benefit of organisations and industries in Australia. Fellowships provide opportunities to identify problems or skill gaps in Australia, enable Fellows to identify best-practice and ways of addressing these and provide detailed recommendations so that innovative or new approaches can be implemented in industry.

## How to apply for this Fellowship?

To apply for this Fellowship you are required to:

- Complete the Application Form
- Provide a current Curriculum Vitae (resume)
- Provide 1 x letter of support which indicates that your Fellowship field is relevant and will benefit the industry (eg. peak industry bodies, government agencies, professional associations, community organisation)
- Provide 1 x Employer Endorsement Letter (unless you are self-employed) indicating that you will be supported to meet the obligations associated with this Fellowship (this letter should be from your CEO, Director or Manager).

You must attach these documents to your application form during completion.

## Who can apply?

The Fellowship welcomes applications from established professionals, and skilled practitioners who demonstrate:

- Australian residency - permanent residents or Australian citizens
- Proven expertise in viticulture, glassmaking, traditional crafts, or heritage conservation
- Leadership roles within their professional community or cultural organisations
- Commitment to sharing acquired knowledge
- Professional standing that enables them to serve as disseminators of new knowledge and skills

## What does a Fellowship involve?

- Fellows must use their Fellowship payment to undertake applied international research.
- Overseas Fellowship research may include meeting knowledgeable leaders, conducting interviews, observation, immersion in workplaces, undertaking specialised training or attending specialist conferences.
- Fellows must manage their Fellowship funds personally to arrange their international activities.
- Fellows must prepare a formal Fellowship Report documenting findings and recommendations for industry / skill enhancement in Australia within 12 months of receiving their Fellowship. ISS Institute will assist with the editing, design and publication of this Fellowship Report.
- Fellows participate in a Fellowship Induction Program and are proudly supported by ISS Institute staff throughout the Fellowship period (and beyond).

- Fellows must arrange for time off work with their employer to undertake the overseas applied research component of their Fellowship. While the Fellowship is being awarded to the individual and not their employer, it is important that the employer supports the individual's application and will enable the individual to meet Fellowship obligations.

## **Selection Process**

- Each submission will be evaluated by ISS Institute team members, who may draw upon specialist experts when evaluating applications.
- Short-listed applicants are then interviewed by a Selection Panel, made up of ISS Institute team members.
- Interviews may be conducted by video-conference.
- The Selection Panel's decision is final and binding, and given the number of applications we receive we are unable to provide feedback on individual applications.
- Each applicant will be advised of the outcome of their application.

## **Conditions of Entry**

1. Fellowship Application (including the attachments – Curriculum Vitae, 1 x letter of support, 1 x Employer Endorsement Letter) must be received by the ISS Institute by the closing date.
2. The duration of the applied research component varies depending on the aims of the Fellowship (done on a case by case basis).
3. Successful applicants will enter into a contractual agreement with ISS Institute to ensure that all Fellowship requirements are met.
4. Fellows must prepare a detailed Fellowship Report outlining their international research, findings and recommendations.
5. The Fellowship, including publication of the final Fellowship Report, must be completed within 12 months.
6. Fellows agree to disseminate their Fellowship learnings, findings and recommendations to peers, industry leaders and other relevant bodies and report back to the ISS Institute about these.
7. Our Fellows agree to be ambassadors of ISS Institute throughout their Fellowship and into the future.
8. Our Fellows agree to take part in periodic evaluation, generally via surveys, so we can capture the impact that a Fellowship has had at a personal, professional or industry level over time.
9. While Fellowship applicants can be undertaking tertiary studies, the Fellowship cannot be used to gain a tertiary qualification.
10. The Selection Panel's decision is final and binding.
11. Unsuccessful Fellowship applicants are welcome to apply for a Fellowship in the future.

## **Preparing your Fellowship Application - What are Letters of Support?**

Letters of Support indicate that your Fellowship field is relevant and will benefit your industry or sector. Letters of Support can come from a peak industry body, industry/sector partner, government agencies, professional associations or community organisations. The best Letters of Support describe how the person/organisation may support your Fellowship, convey enthusiasm and lend credibility to the need for your proposed Fellowship.

Before approaching individuals who could provide you with a Letter of Support it is a good idea to make a list of potential supporters. Contact them, preferably over the phone or via email, and ask if they would be willing to provide you with a Letter of Support. It is a good idea to have a brief summary of your proposed Fellowship and explain how it will benefit your industry or sector when asking for a Letter of Support.

Don't forget to ask the person to put their Letter of Support on letterhead, then sign and date it.

## What is an Employer Endorsement Letter?

An Employer Endorsement Letter shows that you have discussed your Fellowship Application with your employer (eg. CEO, Director or Senior Manager).

While it is the Fellow, and not the Fellow's employer, who receive the Fellowship it is important that your employer is aware that you are applying for a Fellowship. This ensures that your employer understands you will need to take leave from work (eg. Annual Leave, professional leave etc) to travel overseas, you will be completing a Fellowship Report and seeking opportunities to disseminate your Fellowship learnings and findings.

- Please submit your application through the online form.
- If you have questions when submitting your Fellowship application form please contact [comms@issinstitute.org.au](mailto:comms@issinstitute.org.au)

Your employer may also want to assist you while you are developing your Fellowship Application, particularly if the skill enhancement areas you want to investigate are of relevance to your employer.

## About the Fellowship Application questions

- So all members of the Selection Panel can best evaluate your Fellowship Application, it is a good idea to avoid industry / sector jargon.
- Make sure your answers are succinct, clear and to the point – there are restricted word limits per each question so it is best to be as concise as possible.

## Fellowship Application questions guidance

You may want to consider the following tips when preparing responses to each of the Fellowship Application questions.

### 1. Please succinctly describe your Fellowship proposal? [200 words, written in third person]

Please introduce your Fellowship proposal succinctly in a clear and thoughtful way. In many respects, this is how you will convey your proposed Fellowship to your employer, your peers, and people you contact overseas who you would like to learn from.

*Molly intends to enhance her practice in technical wool knitwear through exposure to the world's capital of textile craftsmanship, Italy. Molly aims to address the knowledge gap of yarn spinning in Australia, whilst exploring heritage and new wool recycling methods to develop the quality of knitwear in Australia, further supply chain knowledge, and subsequently promote circularity. Through understanding state-of-the-art yarn spinning technology, Molly can apply and share knowledge to encourage innovative textile applications, whilst investigating opportunities to support the ongoing demand of one of Australia's largest export commodities, Merino wool.*

### 2. Please describe the skills enhancement area/s or innovative practice that your Fellowship will focus on. (including any links you may have to industry/sector/education/community bodies if relevant)? (200 words, bullet points are acceptable)

In this question we are looking to understand your current role / job / personal area of interest and how it relates to your Fellowship proposal.

### 3. Please discuss the evidence which indicates the need for applied research and/or capacity building into the proposed skill enhancement areas? (200 words, bullet points are acceptable)

In this question you have an opportunity to discuss research undertaken and/or the evidence you have collected which indicates the need for your proposed skill enhancement areas.

**4. In what ways do you anticipate that your overseas investigations and findings will positively benefit and have impact on your industry/sector? (200 words, bullet points are acceptable)**

While we know you may not have the answers now, you will have no doubt thought about the ways in which your Fellowship may have a positive influence in Australia and this question is a chance to discuss that. In addition this question provides you with a chance to discuss leading practice occurring overseas but which may not be evident or occurring in Australia.

**5. How do you intend to share your Fellowship findings and recommendations with the relevant industry, sector and/or other influential areas (such as education, training or government) upon completion of your Fellowship? (100 words, bullet points are acceptable)**

A core component of any Fellowship is disseminating learnings and ideas with colleagues, peers and influential organisations/individuals. In this question we are interested in learning about who you believe would benefit from the outcomes of your Fellowship and the ways you might share that information. Some dissemination examples include: presentations; conferences; articles; workshops; mentoring; and, media etc.

**6. Which overseas organisations/training programs/conferences/other do you aim to visit and develop connections with and why have you selected these? (200 words, bullet points are acceptable)**

In this question, we don't expect you to have organised a detailed itinerary or travel plan as yet. However, there is an expectation that you will have identified leading practice and skill enhancement opportunities, including where these are located and who is offering them.

## **Enquiries**

ISS Institute welcomes applications from any individual who meets the conditions of entry. Information sessions regarding each of our Fellowships are frequently hosted prior to the deadline of applications. Please visit our website for dates and times of any upcoming information sessions.

For enquiries regarding the application process, sponsors or Fellowships, please refer to the FAQs page on the ISS Institute website

If you have any questions please contact the ISS Institute team:

Email: [comms@issinstitute.org.au](mailto:comms@issinstitute.org.au)

Website: [www.issinstitute.org.au](http://www.issinstitute.org.au)