



# State Library Victoria Fellowships

**Preparation Pack**  
January 2025



STATE LIBRARY  
VICTORIA

# Fellowships Preparation Pack

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# Preparing to apply for a State Library Victoria Fellowship

## How to apply

Applications for 2025 will open on Tuesday 4 February and close at **5pm** on **Friday 21 March 2025**.

Apply by following the link to the SmartyGrants [application form](#).

## Key dates

- **Applications open:** Tuesday 4 February 2025
- **Online information session with Arts Access Victoria:** Tuesday 25 February 2025, 3–4.30pm
- **In-person information session:** Wednesday 26 February 2025, 6.30–8pm, State Library Victoria Theatrette
- **Applications close:** Friday 21 March 2025 at 5pm
- **Notifications:** Early to mid June 2025

## Eligibility

You're eligible for a Fellowship if:

- you're able to take your residency in person between 1 July 2025 and 19 June 2026, for a period of time decided by you, based on the fellowship funding offered
- you're 18 years old or over
- you live in Australia
- you live in regional Victoria (if you're applying for a regional fellowship)
- you're able to attend an induction in person at the Library on either Thursday 26 June or Friday 27 June 2025
- you're able to attend an announcement and photocall at the Library on Tuesday 24 June 2025.

You're not eligible for a fellowship if:

- you're claiming paid study leave from your workplace to attend the residency
- your project is supported by university-derived funding
- your project is part of examination requirements toward a degree or similar qualification.

## Contact details and demographics

During the application, you will be asked to provide the following contact details and demographic information.

- Title
- First and last names
- Preferred name/s
- Date of birth
- Gender (optional)
- Whether you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (optional)
- Whether you identify as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (optional)
- Whether you identify as a person who is d/Deaf or has a disability (optional)

## Education and study

There are no educational requirements to apply for a fellowship at the State Library. People from all walks of life can apply. You may choose to include details of your current and previous education and studies (where relevant to your Fellowship application).

# Information Sessions

We're hosting two information sessions about the application process and residencies. These sessions will provide you with important information to assist with the application process. You'll also have a chance to ask any questions about the fellowships during these sessions. If you can't make it, the sessions will be recorded.

If you have any further questions regarding the fellowships program, email [fellows@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:fellows@slv.vic.gov.au) or call 03 8664 7000. We will not be able to provide feedback or help with your concept or project ideas.

If you have a research or collection question, you can ask a librarian:

- in person in the Redmond Barry Reading Room, which is open for walk-up visitors from 10am–6pm daily
- by phone 03 8664 7002
- or [send your question using our online form](#).

## Online info session with Arts Access Victoria

Tuesday 25 February 2024, 3–4.30pm

Register for [online info session](#)

## In-person info session

State Library Victoria Theatrette - Wednesday 26 February 2024, 6.30–8pm

Register for [in-person info session](#)

These sessions will be Auslan-interpreted and recorded with closed captions. The in-person info session will be livestreamed.

# Fellowships on offer in 2025

## 1. Amor Residency at Baldessin Studio

This residency allows a visual artist to explore works on paper, in particular printmaking. You'll use research material from the Library and the studio facilities at Baldessin Studio.

*Applying for this residency? Additional information will be required in the application which is outlined on page 10.*

## 2. Berry Family Fellowship

The Berry Family Fellowship is awarded for a project exploring an aspect of the social history of Melbourne or Victoria.

## 3. Children's Storytelling & Literature Fellowship

Do you have a captivating idea that celebrates the art of storytelling for, by and with children? Come play with us!

Storytelling for children is an ancient tradition and can take many forms. Your project could include writing, illustration, music, oral storytelling or a physical experience for children 0–18 years.

## 4. Climate Futures Artist Fellowships

### **2 fellowships available**

What social impact will climate change have on future generations? How will these changes manifest within our cultural and artistic spheres?

The State Library Victoria Climate Futures Artist Fellowships empower two artists to shed light on these questions. We invite artists working in any artform to imagine a future where art and climate intersect in profound and meaningful ways.

## 5. Creative Fellowships

### **2 fellowships available**

Artists, writers, dancers, performers and musicians – now's your chance to go wild with the Library's collections or in response to our site!

Our two Creative Fellows will have the chance to create new work in any medium. Write a book, create an artwork or plan an immersive experience for the Library – it's up to you.

## 6. George Mora Fellowship

The Georges Mora Fellowship allows a contemporary artist to study, experiment and explore fresh thinking in their art.

### **7. Kerri Hall Fellowship for the Performing Arts**

This fellowship supports creatives, artists and writers from regional Victoria in the field of theatre and performing arts. Your research can focus on any area or topic.

### **8. John Emmerson Research Fellowship**

Apply for the John Emmerson Research Fellowship to research a project on England in the early modern period. You'll have access to the John Emmerson Collection, which comprises more than 5000 books and pamphlets from the 15th to 18th centuries.

### **9. Marion Orme Page Creative Regional Fellowships**

#### ***2 fellowships available***

Do you live in regional Victoria and have an exciting creative project? Take an adventure into the Library's collection with two regional fellowships up for grabs. Artists, writers, dancers, performers and musicians – now's your chance to go wild with the Library's collections or in response to our site! These regional Fellowships offer the chance to create new work in any medium. Write a book, create an artwork, or plan an immersive experience for the Library – it's up to you.

### **10. Redmond Barry Fellowship**

Apply for the Redmond Barry Fellowship to research a project using collections at the Library and the University of Melbourne's Archives and Special Collections. You can be a creative or researcher in any discipline. We welcome early career creatives, researchers and graduates, as well as established ones.

### **11. Tate Adams Residency at Baldessin Studio**

This residency allows an artist to create a limited edition or unique state artist's book. You'll use research material from the Library and the studio facilities at Baldessin.

*Applying for this residency? Additional information will be required in the application form which is outlined on page 10.*

## Cultural Protocols

If your application has an Indigenous Australian Aboriginal focus or content, you need to show a connection to the relevant communities.

This could be in the form of either:

- a letter of support from an Indigenous Australian Aboriginal organisation
- a joint fellowship application with an Indigenous Australian Aboriginal applicant, if you're not Indigenous.

Once you have a letter of support, you'll also need to talk to the Victorian Indigenous Research Centre (VIRC) team at the Library before you apply. Make an appointment between Tuesday 4 February and Friday 21 March 2025 by:

- Contacting the VIRC Support Officer on 03 8664 7174
- Emailing the VIRC at [virg@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:virg@slv.vic.gov.au)

Observing and following cultural protocols is necessary to ensure the cultural integrity of a project.

## Access and inclusion

We use the SmartyGrants online portal for fellowship applications. In this portal you can submit your application in audio, video or written format.

If SmartyGrants isn't accessible for you, please contact us and we'll be happy to discuss other options for submission. Please allow at least 5 days prior to the closing date for these requests. These could include:

- a Word document of the application
- an Auslan video (we can arrange Auslan interpretation if needed)
- an audio file.

Arts Access Victoria can provide access support with your application. This could be reviewing your draft proposal, helping to compile support material or helping to complete the form. For information about access support, please contact Margaret Mayhew:

- [grants@artsaccess.com.au](mailto:grants@artsaccess.com.au)
- or phone 03 9699 8299

For more information, visit the [Arts Access Victoria](#) website.



# What to expect in the application form

## **Project Overview** (max 100 characters including spaces)

Provide a succinct project overview including Project Title and a brief Project Summary.

## **Project Description** (400 words or equivalent)

Describe your project idea. Outline the artistic, creative or research intent and demonstrate how this is a well thought-through or innovative idea.

## **Experience**

What experience do you have to undertake your project?

- Provide a summary of your skills and experience in relation to your proposed project. (Must be no more than 150 words)
- Describe how your skills and project would benefit State Library Victoria and the broader Victorian community (Must be no more than 250 words)

## **Link to the Library or Library Collection**

All Fellowships must have a link to either the Library's collections, the Library site or engage with the nature of what a library is – or a combination of these. Search the Library's catalogue to find material in the State Collection including articles, books, photographs, maps, manuscripts and much more.

Need some help using the catalogue? Learn more about [using the Library's collections](#).

## **Project Outcome** (200 words or equivalent)

Is there a public outcome you have in mind, either during or after your residency? Public outcomes are desirable. However, proposals with a public outcome involving Library spaces and staff will be considered separately and are not funded through the Fellowships process.

## Selection Criteria

We review applications in response to four criteria:

- **Creative merit:** How does the artistic, creative or research concept show a well thought-through idea or innovative approach?
- **Link to the Library or Library collection:** How does the proposal engage with either the nature of what a Library is, the Collection itself, or the Library site – or a combination of these? Have you identified specific collection items or topics?
- **Applicant experience:** What experience and skills do you have to carry out the proposed project? For example: research skills, artistic skills, community knowledge or connections?
- **Library and community benefit:** How does your project benefit or engage with the needs and interests of your community or others? How will it help the community connect with the Library, or build and enrich the collection?

Some examples of successful site-specific projects:

- In 2014, Linda Tegg [transformed the Library forecourt into a wild grassland](#) using hundreds of specially grown native plants. Grasslands was the result of Linda's Georges Mora Fellowship.
- Ross Coulter, the 2010 Georges Mora Fellow, [released 10,000 hand-folded paper planes](#) from the balconies of the Library's La Trobe Reading Room to create a visual representation of thought patterns that have occurred in the room.

# Baldessin Studio Fellowships

## About Baldessin Studio

Set within the idyllic surrounds of the St Andrews bushland, 60 minutes north-east of Melbourne, the bluestone Baldessin Studio was conceived and built by George and Tess Baldessin in the 1970s for their personal use.

<https://baldessinpress.com.au/about-studio>

Baldessin Studio offers two art residency programs as part of the State Library Fellowships:

- Amor Residency at Baldessin Studio
- Tate Adams Residency at Baldessin Studio

## Application for Baldessin Studio Residencies

Additional information is required in an application for the Baldessin Studio Residencies.

a. Artist CV/ biography. Your CV must:

- list your qualifications including dates and institutions, and outline any relevant industry experience
- list any prizes and awards
- include details of any exhibitions or projects that you have been involved in, including place and date.

b. A short artist statement that describes your concerns, ambition and practice as an artist (200 words or equivalent)

c. Links to your website and/or social media accounts

d. **Visual Support** Materials

Support materials are utilised by the selection committee to review your practice in more detail.

**\*\*Each uploaded file must include your last name in the file name.\*\***

Your **Visual Support** materials should consist of:

- 1 document/presentation, 10 pages max, 1 image per page
- Each image accompanied by a caption noting: work title, medium, year, dimensions
- 10mb file size max
- Accepted file formats: PDF/DOC/DOCX/PPT/PPTX