Australasian Society for Classical Studies

EARLY CAREER AWARD

2026

ASCS is an inclusive organisation. It encourages applications from Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Māori and Pasifika early-career scholars and from those who are living with disabilities, from people of diverse gender and sexuality, from those who are mature-aged, and from those who come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The Award

This annual award, introduced in 2005, is intended to offer acknowledgment and some financial support to 'early-career' scholars. There are two awards, each worth AUD$3000. The aim of the Award is to assist the winners with the publication of their PhD thesis or other significant research project.

Eligibility and Criteria for Applying

The award is open to those who completed a doctorate by research in the last five years (measured from the submission deadline of the competition) at an Australian or New Zealand university, and who do not hold a full-time teaching or research position at a university or tertiary institution. Those in a full-time but non-academic university position are eligible. Determinations on eligibility will be made by the competition coordinator, when necessary.

Applicants must be:

- within five years of the date on which they were awarded a doctorate by research in the field of Classics, Ancient History, Archaeology, Egyptology, or other related fields, at an Australian or New Zealand university;
- citizens of, or have permanent residency status in, either Australia or New Zealand;
- financial members of ASCS **prior** to submitting the award.

Applicants who applied previously but were unsuccessful may apply again, provided they still meet the eligibility requirements.

Use of the Award and Reporting the Results

The award can be used for the following purposes:

- to access publications and library resources to advance the research topic;
- to assist in the publication costs of the original thesis;
- for subsistence costs (including childcare) where the applicant needs research time away from paid employment;
- to enable travel for further research

The winner is expected to:

- spend the funds on the project proposed, according to the budget submitted;
- publish the results of the project as an academic, peer-reviewed publication in the form of an article, book chapter in an edited volume, or book/monograph;
- notify the Early Career Award Co-ordinator of the publication by supplying bibliographic details within one year of receiving the award, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Application Procedure

Applicants should prepare a research statement (of no more than two pages) outlining the research project, and its significance to the discipline.

- If the award is to be used for further research, applicants should also set out their preparation to undertake the proposed research, and should provide a detailed budget showing how the award would be utilised to pursue that research project.
- If the award money is to be used for publishing the original doctoral thesis, applicants should also include communication from the intended publisher about its acceptance, and any costings should be provided.

In addition to the research statement, applicants **must** provide the following:

- A completed coversheet for the award.
- A copy of the title page of the thesis, the table of contents, the introduction and/or the conclusion. This material should be kept to no more than ten pages.
- Copies of the examiners' reports on the thesis. The name and institutional affiliation of the examiner should be clearly identified unless examiners are anonymous at the institution granting the PhD.
- Evidence of the date of the award of the doctoral degree.
- A brief CV outlining tertiary education, publications, and conference papers.
- Where relevant, applicants are encouraged to provide a statement regarding any special circumstances that should be considered when assessing your application, such as career interruptions during the post-PhD period—for instance, periods of parental leave, medical conditions, child rearing, carer responsibility, relevant cultural expectations or circumstances, etc.).
- A confidential reference from the supervisor(s) of the thesis commenting on the applicant's personal attributes, ability to pursue further research, relevant experiences, and present employment situation. This reference should be sent direct to the Award Competition Coordinator (Andrew Connor, Monash University: andrew.connor@monash.edu).

All material provided will be kept confidential and used only by the coordinator and judges for the purpose of assessing the competition.

Documents can be provided as individual files (preferably in PDF format) but each should be clearly labelled, and all (save the confidential reference) should be sent together in a single e-mail to the competition coordinator.

Assessment of Applications

The general conduct of the scheme will be in the hands of the Society's Secretary or one of the Vice Presidents. The applications are to be assessed by two to three senior members of the Society who have not been associated with the applicants' doctoral candidature or subsequent research.

Selection will be based on the merit both of the candidate (in the light of the examiners' reports on the thesis and subsequent research history) and of the proposed research project, and of the uses to which the award will be put.

Deadlines

Applications should be submitted to the competition coordinator, Andrew Connor, via e-mail by:

5 PM (AEDT) on 11 December, 2026.

Applications received after this date, or applications that are incomplete will not be considered. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their supervisor(s) provide a confidential reference by the deadline, and applicants are reminded that they should discuss this with their supervisor(s) well in advance of that date.

Applications and further enquiries should be addressed to the competition coordinator, Dr. Andrew Connor (Monash University) at andrew.connor@monash.edu.