*2021 Student Research Awards - Guidelines*

In 2021 the ACRS will support the research of up to five students by the provision of Student Awards. The most outstanding proposals (which meet the eligibility criteria) will be awarded the Terry Walker Prize of $4,000 or the Danielle Simmons Prize of $4,000. Up to three ACRS research awards of $2,500 will also be awarded. Awards may not be used to fund conference attendance or travel not related to field studies.

**Eligibility criteria**

Any student who is currently enrolled at an Australian or New Zealand university and working towards a PhD or MSc on a topic involving research on Australian coral reefs is eligible to apply.

Applicants must be a **financial member of the society for 2021** before applying for these awards. A copy of your membership payment receipt provided electronically by PayPal needs to be included in the application.

Given Terry Walker’s commitment to field studies on Australian coral reefs and cays, this award is to be spent primarily on field studies on Australian coral reefs.

Given Danielle Simmons’ commitment to field work at Heron Island, successful applicants for this award will need to spend some time at Heron Island working the field.

The other research grants (up to three) of $2,500 are to be used for laboratory and / or field studies relevant to Australian coral reefs.

**Assessment criteria**

All applications are assessed blind (student identity and institutional affiliation removed) by a sub-committee of ACRS Council members and are ranked according to the following criteria:

* Scientific merit of proposed research
* Relevance of topic to current Australian coral reef research
* Design of project and appropriateness of methods
* Project scope and feasibility
* Track record of the student relative to opportunity and career stage (e.g. publications, talks, prizes)
* Proposal presentation

Applicants are reminded that proposals should not encompass their entire PhD project and that some of the most successful applications are those that apply for funding for a discrete segment or chapter of the overall thesis project. Their proposed project should fit within the 1 year timeframe.

Successful applicants are required to prepare a one-page report for publication in the Society’s newsletter at the end of the one-year grant period, and to **provide a summary and budget report (see form on website) of how the research grant money was spent**, **including justification for any items where the amount spent deviates from the amount awarded by 10%.** This form is to be emailed to Andy Hoey (austcoralreefsoc@gmail.com) no more than two months after the end of the grant period (mid-May 2022).

To apply, please email your completed application as a **single WORD file** (lastname\_firstname. docx) to Andy Hoey (austcoralreefsoc@gmail.com).

The closing date for research grant applications for 2021 will be **5pm AEDT on Friday 2nd April 2021**. Successful applicants will be notified by mid-May, with the formal announcement of award recipients to be made as part of the proceedings of the ACRS Annual General Meeting 2021.

**Please note: Incomplete applications, applications not submitted in the format requested, or received after the closing date will not be considered.**