LAURIE PRANDOLINI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Guidance for Sponsors and Candidates

Laurie Prandolini Research Fellowship

The Laurie Prandolini Research Fellowship (LPRF) was established in November 2011 to honour the memory of the late Mr Lawrence (Laurie) Prandolini, OAM, CEng FIMarEST MIEAust MRINA. Laurie made an outstanding contribution to the maritime community in the Australia, New Zealand, and South Pacific region, and in particular to IMarEST, nationally and internationally. The LPRF Award provides an annual grant, for up to two-years, to a Doctoral candidate or post-Doctoral researcher in the maritime domain: i.e. Marine Engineering, Marine Science, or Marine Technology. The LPRF Award is designed to foster and encourage higher level learning and research with a view to promoting the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology in the broadest sense within the ANZSPAC Division.

Definitions

For the purposes of the Laurie Prandolini Research Fellowship application and management processes, the following definitions and abbreviations shall apply:

‘ANZSPAC Division’ means the Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific region that includes:

- Australia, and its external territories;
- New Zealand, and its external territories;
- Papua and New Guinea;
- All island states in Micronesia;
- All island states in Melanesia; and
- All island states in Polynesia.
- ‘Applicant’ means the person named on the Application Form;
- ‘Application Form’ means the document issued by the IMarEST LPRF MC;
- ‘Award’ means the Laurie Prandolini Research Fellowship Award;
- ‘GST’ means the Goods and Services Tax that may be imposed by the Australian Government;
- ‘IMarEST’ means the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology;
- ‘LPRF’ means the Laurie Prandolini Research Fellowship;
- ‘LPRF MC’ means the Laurie Prandolini Research Fellowship Management Committee

Criteria

The ANZSPAC Division of IMarEST may award a single Laurie Prandolini Research Fellowship each year to a selected candidate judged to be of outstanding potential to enable a significant piece of research to be undertaken in an approved marine engineering, marine science, or marine technology subject to Doctorate or post-Doctorate level. Applicants must be formally affiliated with an ANZSPAC Division university; however, consideration may be given to applicants from other backgrounds with an outstanding research proposal.
Conditions of the award

To be eligible for the Award, the following conditions shall be met:

- Applicants shall have previously obtained a relevant engineering or marine science degree or equivalent for acceptance as a candidate into a doctoral research program;
- Applicants shall be an Associate member, or above, of the IMarEST;
- Applications for the LPRF can only be made using the IMarEST LPRF Application Form and sent to the ANZSPA Division Secretary by the sponsoring organisation;
- Applications must be received no later than close of business (Australian Eastern Standard Time) on the last business day in September each year;
- Application forms that are incomplete, or incorrectly completed may not be considered further;
- The Application Form shall be accompanied by:
  - A project plan, in the form of a Gantt Chart, from the candidate outlining when the studies or the research work are to be undertaken and key milestones; eg delivery of papers, during the period of study, or research. This should be referenced in Section 4 of the Application Form – ‘Scope of Work’.
  - A testimonial from the sponsoring university setting out the capabilities, skills and aptitude of the candidate and their ability to benefit from the course of study or research to be undertaken; and
  - The LPRF MC may select suitable applicants for interview by a panel of senior IMarEST members.

Award

The award of the IMarEST Laurie Prandolini Fellowship will usually be for a period of two years with a maximum annual value of $7,000 (AUS), exclusive of GST. The award can be used by the recipient to finance activities related to the planned research, such as assisting to fund a research student, procure additional time on specialist instrumentation, or purchase specialist equipment (not for personal retention), and travel costs specifically related to the research. Subsistence costs are the sole responsibility of the sponsoring university.

Subject to the appropriate processes, if in the opinion of the LPRF MC the applications and/or interviews are not of a sufficiently high enough standard, the LPRF MC reserves the right to not award a Fellowship. The LPRF MC decisions are final and binding.

Publications

All papers arising from the studies or research are to be offered to IMarEST for publication and/or presentation.

Papers, whether published or not, should carry an acknowledgement that funds provided by the IMarEST Laurie Prandolini Research Fellowship assisted in permitting the research to be carried out.

Management Committee

The LPRF Management Committee has two primary functions:

- To ensure that the LPRF funds are efficiently and effectively managed; and
- The selection of a suitable candidate from the pool of annual applicants.

Other issues for consideration may include:

- That the sponsoring organisation (university) is appropriately accredited to offer higher degrees;
- That the selected Applicant for the Award has a very good chance, in the opinion of the sponsoring organisation, of successfully completing their Doctorate, or post-Doctoral research project; and
With the exception of GST, that it is a condition of the application that all sundry costs and disbursements are met by the sponsoring organisation.

The LPRF MC will convene (electronically) each November to consider applications received. After discussion, the applications will then be ranked. Short-listed Applicants will be invited to interview. Details of the Award decisions shall be advised to candidates and sponsors as soon as practicable.

**Interview Procedure**

Applicants who meet all of the selection criteria, the LPRF MC will shortlist a limited number for interview. The Award interview committee shall consist of senior members of IMarEST, usually Fellows, who may also be members of the LPRF MC.

The location and time for interviews will be chosen to be as convenient as possible for both the candidate(s) and the interviewers. Where face-to-face interviews are impractical, a teleconference or IT-based solution will be employed. Interviews can be expected to last about 45-minutes to 1-hour. The prime objective of the interview is to assess a candidate’s potential and motivation to succeed in the chosen studies/research and benefit from an award.

Candidates will be expected to make a short presentation (of no more than 5 to 10-minutes) about their proposed studies/research, and how their previous education, training and experience will help them to complete these successfully. During subsequent discussions the interviewers may probe:

- the candidate’s marine engineering/science/technology education and any professional training and experience;
- Special aptitudes, skills and knowledge which will help the candidate to undertake the chosen studies/research and the benefits which may derive from the research;
- The benefits to the community which may derive from the research;
- Disposition, general demeanour, commitment, determination of the candidate;
- and
- the candidate’s circumstances - domestic and financial - other grants or funding available to, or sought by the candidate.

At the end of the interview, no indication will be given to the candidate about the potential outcome other than to indicate that a decision will be made as soon as practicable. On completion of the interview a short report commenting specifically on the five points above, and recommending whether or not an award should be made will be submitted by the interview panel for consideration by the LPRF MC.

**Applications**

Completed hardcopy Application Forms should be submitted to:

Laurie Prandolini Research Fellowship,  
c/ Management Committee Chairman,  
59 Mullan Street, Fadden,  
ACT 2904, Australia

by no later than the last business day of September.