

MEDIA RELEASE

Submissions OPEN for WH Bryan PhD Scholarship in Earth Sciences

Applications CLOSE 1 March 2023
Scholarship AWARDED end-March 2023

[26 August 2022] The Bryan Foundation is pleased to announce that applications are now open for eligible PhD candidates to apply for the next WH Bryan PhD Scholarship in Queensland Earth Sciences, with the successful applicant to be announced at the end of March 2023.

Established in 2018 by The Bryan Foundation, the Scholarship commemorates the legacy of Professor [WH Bryan MC](#), who made many fundamental, impactful and diverse contributions to the geology of Queensland, tertiary education and societal wellbeing.

The inaugural Scholarship was awarded to Robert Emo in late 2018 to undertake research at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) with Professor Balz Kamber to investigate rare, deeply sourced rocks or xenoliths brought to the surface by volcanic eruptions.

Robert completed his doctorate at QUT in June 2022 and his thesis, *Probing the lower continental crust with petrology and geochemistry of Queensland xenoliths*, can be found [\[here\]](#). His work is also [published](#) in several preeminent geological and scientific journals around the world.

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather WH Bryan MC and father, Bob Bryan AM, is QUT geologist Professor Scott Bryan and a Director of The Bryan Foundation.

Professor Bryan said the aim of the WH Bryan PhD Scholarship is to advance the understanding of Queensland Earth Sciences by addressing a globally significant problem leading to impactful outcomes.



WH Bryan PhD Scholar Robert Emo (left) and Professor Balz Kamber. Source: QUT

He congratulated Robert Emo for his outstanding efforts completing his PhD away from his Irish homeland and during the global pandemic.

“While the world was being impacted in different ways by Covid-19, Robert was able to complete his thesis on time and make significant advances in understanding of what happens in the lower crust and how the lower crust is connected to magmas and igneous rocks we see at the surface in Queensland,” Professor Bryan said.

The Bryan Foundation

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“Robert’s work also resulted in him receiving the Early Career Scholar award in February 2021 from the Australian Microbeam Analysis Society (AMAS) for his abstract, *Evidence for highly depleted lower continental crust using an integrated microanalytical reconstitution approach.*”

In August 2021 Robert presented that research (virtually) at the Microscopy & Microanalysis 2021 conference which is the largest scientific meeting on microanalysis and microscopy in the world.

“Robert was an excellent inaugural WH Bryan PhD Scholar, and the Foundation has been very fortunate to have such a diligent and professional candidate. We are extremely pleased to hear that Robert has been successful in being awarded a prestigious Humboldt Research Fellowship to Germany and that the WH Bryan Scholarship was able to provide Robert with an excellent academic preparation for what will be a successful academic research career.”

The WH Bryan Scholarship is available to domestic or international students meeting the entry requirements for the PhD programs at one of the [eligible institutions](#), with the aim of supporting developing researchers in obtaining a highly valued research experience in Queensland.

Professor Bryan went on to say that the level of international interest the WH Bryan Scholarship has generated since its inception has led to The Bryan Foundation increasing the scholarship program’s funding by a further AU\$20,000 to AU\$170,000 in total.

A one-off payment of up to AU\$20,000 will help cover the start-up costs associated with the commencement of the PhD project and that can be used towards relocation expenses, airfares, visa fees or health cover costs for international students and any dependents.

The WH Bryan PhD Scholarship is aligned with the educational focus of [The Bryan Foundation](#) which endeavours to support and empower people through education.

“The Bryan Foundation is proud to continue the legacy of WH Bryan and the important inroads he made.”

For important dates, eligibility, funding and application guidelines [\[visit\]](#)

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