

The Eric Fry Labour History Research Grant

The Canberra Region Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History (ASSLH) and the National Institute for Social Sciences and Law (NISSL) at the Australian National University (ANU) invite honours and postgraduate students to apply for a \$1,000 grant to do research at the Noel Butlin Archives Centre (NBAC), based at the ANU in Canberra.

The NBAC is the largest non-government archives in Australia, and holds an unrivalled collection of trade union and business records, along with the personal papers of many left wing and labour movement activists.

The aim of the grant is to assist a promising student, with an interest in labour history and/or the labour movement generally, to overcome the financial obstacles to doing research in Canberra.

The grant honours the contribution of the late Dr Eric Fry to labour history as Senior Lecturer in History at the ANU from 1959 and as Reader from 1967 to 1986. Together with the late Prof Robin Gollan, Dr Fry founded the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History in 1961 and was its first Secretary and then President from 1984 to 1986.

One grant will be awarded each year, for a lump sum of \$1,000 to assist with fares to Canberra, accommodation, and other research expenses. Students who reside in Canberra and the surrounding region are also eligible to apply.

To be eligible a student must:

1. Be enrolled in an honours or postgraduate degree at an Australian university, or university in New Zealand, PNG, Timor L'Este or Fiji, in which one requirement is the production of a research thesis of at least 10,000 words.
2. Intend to write their thesis in the broad areas of labour and social history or labour movement studies. Students need not be working within the discipline of history. Students of politics, international relations, sociology, Australian studies, economics, economic history, industrial relations, management, Pacific studies, cultural studies, museum studies, and other disciplines may also be eligible. It is the nature of the thesis project only that is relevant.
3. Intend using the resources of the NBAC as part of their research. Students are welcome to use other archival and research facilities in Canberra, and should outline any such intentions in their application.
4. Supply a written application with references from their intended academic supervisor, and one other academic with personal knowledge of the student. These references must, inter alia, attest to the nature of the proposed research program, the need to use the resources of the NBAC and the ability of the student to complete the proposed thesis to a high standard and on time.

The criteria for the grant will be:

1. The relevance of the project for the discipline of labour history.
2. The degree to which the resources of the NBAC are relevant to the proposed thesis.
3. The academic capabilities of the student, as reflected in university results, academic references and other evidence supplied.
4. The degree to which the grant may assist the student to do their research in Canberra.

Acknowledgement

The successful applicant is requested to acknowledge receipt of the grant in their thesis and to supply a copy of their finished thesis to the NBAC and the ASSLH.

Applications

Applications should be in the form of a letter addressing the above criteria, along with photocopies of all relevant documentary evidence.

Applications for the 2010 grant will close on 31 January 2010 and be awarded in February 2010. The decision will be made by a panel of three, consisting of a representative of the NBAC, the NISSL and the ASSLH. The panel reserves the right not to award the grant in any year. No correspondence will be entered into.

Applications should be addressed to:

Eric Fry Labour History Research Grant
Australian Society for the Study of Labour History
LPO Box 8043
Australian National University ACT 0200

Inquiries can be directed to:

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