Rozetta Institute Scholarship Award | Summer 2026

Australia's Energy Transition

Cheap, abundant renewable energy is the foundation of Australia's next generation of industry.

The Rozetta Institute is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that invests in collaborative initiatives to solve systemic challenges facing Australian industry. Rozetta works at the intersection of market design, emerging technology and industrial policy — convening researchers, industry leaders and policymakers to identify and advance initiatives that can make a material difference to Australia's economic capability.

The Rozetta Institute Scholarship Award (RISA) reflects Rozetta's belief that the next generation of researchers will play a critical role in addressing the challenges that matter most to Australian industry. RISA is designed to bridge the gap between high-level academic inquiry and practical impact — supporting outstanding doctoral and research masters students whose work is strategically aligned with Rozetta's mission, and creating the conditions for that research to translate into real-world change.

ABOUT THIS AWARD

Australia has some of the best renewable resources in the world. Whether that becomes an industrial advantage depends on the price and reliability of the electricity that reaches firms. That outcome is set by the markets, contracts and institutions that govern the system, many of which were designed for a different one.

Energy-intensive industries choose where to invest on the basis of long-term power costs. If Australia can offer firm, low-cost renewable energy on long-dated terms, it can compete for processing, manufacturing and other large loads that would otherwise go offshore.

Electricity will not meet every need. High-temperature process heat, aviation and heavy transport fuels, and chemical feedstocks will need other renewable sources, and bioenergy is among the most ready. Australia's agricultural, forestry and organic waste streams give it a feedstock base few countries can match. But bioenergy projects often struggle to compete on cost. Whether they do depends as much on the measures around them, such as certification, offtake arrangements, feedstock supply chains and carbon pricing, as on the technology itself.

Rozetta is seeking students working at the intersection of market design, industrial demand and energy governance. We are particularly interested in research that gives market participants, regulators and policymakers actionable answers on how to lower the cost of energy for Australian industry.

RESEARCH TOPICS

Rozetta is interested in supporting research to answer the question:

What market design, institutional arrangements and policy measures are required to deliver abundant, low-cost renewable energy, including bioenergy, and how can that energy become the foundation of a new generation of competitive Australian industries?

Your research might include, but is not limited to, the following topics:

- **Bioenergy Opportunities:** Where can bioenergy, including biomethane, sustainable aviation fuel, renewable diesel and biomass for process heat, compete on cost in Australia? Which feedstocks, regions and end uses offer the strongest case, and how does bioenergy compare with electrification and hydrogen for hard-to-abate industrial and transport demand?
- **Improving the Economics of Bioenergy:** What complementary measures would close the cost gap for bioenergy projects? These could include long-term offtake and demand commitments, feedstock aggregation and logistics, co-location with agricultural and industrial sites, value from co-products such as biochar and fertiliser, and carbon market settings.
- **Forward Markets:** How can well-designed forward markets reduce investment uncertainty, lower the cost of capital for new generation, and give energy-intensive industries the long-term price signals they need to commit to Australia?
- **Market and Institution Design:** What changes to wholesale settings, pricing mechanisms and the mandates, incentives and accountability of AEMO, the AEMC, the AER and related bodies would deliver a faster, lower-cost transition?

THE AWARD

Recipients of the Rozetta Institute Scholarship Award receive a $15,000 top-up scholarship paid over 12 months, in addition to their primary research funding. Recipients also gain access to Rozetta's network of industry leaders, researchers and policymakers, and will be matched with a mentor from Rozetta's Research and Innovation Advisory Committee.

WHAT WE ASK IN RETURN

In addition to their scholarship, recipients will be asked to produce an impact assessment of their research and an implementation plan. The purpose of this output is to connect the recipient's research to a real-world initiative that Rozetta can support. Recipients will work with a Rozetta-nominated mentor to develop this output. The specific scope, format and deliverables of the impact assessment and implementation plan will be mutually agreed between the recipient, their host institution, and Rozetta.

ELIGIBILITY

The Rozetta Institute Scholarship Award is open to students enrolled in a PhD or Masters by Research program at an Australian university. Applicants must be undertaking research that is aligned with one or more of the focus topics listed above. All applications must be endorsed by the applicant's academic supervisor.

Applications will be assessed on merit by a selection committee established by the Rozetta Institute. Selection criteria include:

- Strategic alignment with the focus identified in the EOI
- Potential for significant, real-world impact that can be implemented at scale
- Demonstrated academic excellence and potential for innovative research
- Supervisor endorsement

We welcome and encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

HOW TO APPLY

Your application should comprise of:

1. A 2-page (maximum) cover letter that outlines your academic and career experience.
2. A 2-page (maximum) proposal that outlines your research proposal, its alignment with the topics outlined in the current round of RISA Expressions of Interest, and how it might contribute to improving Australia's future productivity and competitiveness.
3. Supervisor endorsement.

Applications should be submitted to scholarships@rozettainstitute.com by 16 December 2026. Shortlisted applicants may be invited to discuss their proposal with the selection panel.

DISCRETION

The Rozetta Institute retains full discretion over the award of all scholarships. This includes the number of awards made in any given round, the assessment of applications, and decisions regarding the continuation of funding in subsequent years.