

Williamson Research Fellowship Position 2025

The Dolphin Research Institute (DRI) invites qualified candidates to apply for the Williamson Research Fellowship position. This Fellowship was created to strengthen our long-term impact-focused research programs and support the next generation of environmental scientists and leaders.

This Fellowship is part of planning for DRI's fourth decade, with a focus on achieving meaningful outcomes in four impact areas:

1. Dolphin and whales in Victorian waters.
2. Victoria's marine environment.
3. The Victorian community.
4. DRI's capacity to deliver long-term programs.

Through this Fellowship, we aim to enhance scientific understanding of dolphins and whales in Victoria, especially Port Phillip, Western Port, and Central Bass Strait, while also providing a young graduate with hands-on experience and professional mentoring to help start their career.

This role aims to support the DRI's broader commitment to education, behaviour-change, wider environmental science, citizen-science and communication.

Offered as a salaried, part-time position (four days per week), the current Fellowship runs for nine months, from October 2025 to June 2026. There will be some capacity for the successful candidate to negotiate the timing.

This Fellowship is made possible through the generous support of the Hugh D. T. Williamson Foundation, whose commitment to fostering leadership and community impact empowers DRI to advance marine conservation while supporting the development of emerging scientists.

Interested candidates should apply in writing by **Monday September 1**, clearly responding to the selection criteria below, with their resume, a cover letter and the contact details of two referees.

Address applications and questions to Jeff Weir, DRI's Executive Director, at director@dolphinresearch.org.au.

Dolphin Research Institute Williamson Research Fellowship Position 2025.

Selection Criteria

1. Relevant experience and qualifications.
2. Clear demonstration of competencies.
3. A compelling case for DRI to award the Fellowship.

Required qualifications

- A relevant tertiary qualification with Honours or equivalent in a marine science, environmental science or related field.
- A current Australian (or equivalent) driver's license and your own reliable vehicle.

Competencies

- A passion for learning and for marine mammal conservation and science.
- A strong ethical approach to science, work and relationships.
- A critical and whole system thinker, committed to achieving organisational goals.
- A high attention to detail, procedure and data integrity.
- The ability to work as a flexible, supportive team member and problem solver.
- The ability to balance using initiative with knowing when to seek guidance.
- Strong organisational skills and outcome-oriented mindset.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, suitable for a variety of audiences and communication channels.
- Experience in marine environmental research, including both office-based and field-based activities.
- Familiar with Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, and R for data analysis.

An ideal candidate may have

- Previous experience in marine mammal research including vessel or land-based surveys, photo identification and cetacean species identification.
- Competency in photography using DSLR cameras, including data transfer and management.

Roles

- Commitment to four days per week, with at least three days based at the DRI Hastings office and one work-from-home day negotiable.
- Participation in fieldwork, including collection and processing of photo-ID data, image analysis, and data management.
- Report writing, data entry, quality control, and preparation of data for internal use, reports, and contributions to government policy and management documents.
- Provide support for liaison with state and federal government agencies and other stakeholders as needed.
- Engage with the community through events, festivals, citizen science programs, and educational presentations.
- Assisting with the development of content for DRI's communications and fundraising initiatives.
- Contribute to DRI social media channels and development of web-based blog posts.
- Support the supervision and mentoring of university interns and volunteers.
- Represent and promote the DRI's work and values within the community and at events.

A DRI panel will review applications and ensure an equitable process. We will respond to all applicants in a timely manner.