



Australian
National
University

School of
Cybernetics

Florence Violet McKenzie Master of Applied Cybernetics Scholarships for Indigenous students



Introduction

The ANU Master of Applied Cybernetics is the world's first graduate program focusing on the challenges of ensuring AI systems are safe, sustainable and responsible. Masters students participate in a range of educational experiences and research projects at the School of Cybernetics and beyond to consider: who is building, managing and decommissioning our AI-enabled future? This question is at the heart of our mission, and our way in is cybernetics.

We are establishing cybernetics as an important tool for navigating major societal transformations, through capability building, policy development and safe, sustainable and responsible approaches to new systems, drawing on the history of cybernetics and reimagining it for our 21st century challenges.

Equity of access to our education programs is important and front of mind at the School of Cybernetics. We believe diversity and inclusivity are a MUST if we are to build the future we want to see. We need people from all walks of life to build the future with us. A future that is safe, responsible and sustainable for all of humanity.

With this in mind, and to increase diversity within our School, we are offering new scholarship opportunities to candidates from unexpected places. We are flexible about qualifications and welcome applicants that can demonstrate passion and experience that is relevant to the field of cybernetics.

These new scholarships are named in honour of Florence Violet McKenzie, Australia's first female electrical engineer, and the founder of the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps in the Australian Defence Forces in 1939. Join us as we prototype a new approach to education, one that transcends university walls, that has a bias to practice, that asks better questions in the context of history, and is designed for impact.



About Florence Violet McKenzie



McKenzie in uniform c. 1940

A pioneer in technical education, Florence Violet McKenzie was an outsider to formal learning. Apprenticing herself to her own electronics company to fulfill the requirements of the Diploma in Electrical Engineering and enter Sydney Technical College, she taught hundreds of men and women morse code and visual signalling in the 1920s.

By 1941, “Mrs Mac” had campaigned successfully to have some of her female trainees accepted into the all-male Navy, thereby originating the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service in an urgent time of war. To celebrate her accomplishments, the Florence Violet McKenzie scholarships will be offered on merit, rewarding experience, innovation and “out of the box” thinking. They will enable entry to our 2023 Master of Applied Cybernetics course from talented individuals who can demonstrate relevant professional and lived experience, including those who may not have pursued a traditional higher education pathways.

Our objective is to make the School of Cybernetics more inclusive, to recognise diverse systems of knowledge and to contribute to a global network of applied practitioners equipped to ensure next-gen technological systems are safe, sustainable and responsible.



Florence Violet McKenzie Master of Applied Cybernetics scholarship for Indigenous students

To accelerate Indigenous participation in our School, we are offering a targeted Florence Violet McKenzie Indigenous scholarship opportunity for our 2023 Master of Applied Cybernetics program.

Value of scholarship

- 100% tuition fee waiver (value approx. \$40k)
 - Stipend and living allowance - \$30,000
 - Travel subsidy for applicants relocating to Canberra including return trips home for the semester break.
- Academic and cultural support will be provided assist the successful candidate to complete their course of study.
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Eligibility

The award is available each year to a prospective ANU student who:

- (a) is an Australian citizen;
 - (b) identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander;
 - (c) has relevant experience and demonstrates interest in participating in projects that explore themes of interest to ANU School of Cybernetics.
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Applicant Profile

- We encourage diversity in background, education, experience, gender, orientation and aspiration.
- We are looking for track record of outputs and activities illustrating leadership in your field
- A demonstrated ability to communicate complex ideas to a range of audiences.
- A demonstrated ability to operate with a high degree of flexibility and openness to calculated risk-taking.
- Demonstrated determination and resilience. Aptitude for working in uncertain and fast- changing environments.
- Demonstrated aptitude for collaborating with people from different backgrounds.
- Individual and/or group-based professional / entrepreneurial / community service contributions.

If you have questions,
please contact us at
cybernetics@anu.edu.au

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Image of Brewarrina Fish Traps in the Barwon River on the lands of the Ngemba people. Known to the local traditional owners and custodians as Ngunnhu, the fish traps demonstrate Indigenous scientific and engineering ingenuity and are one of the oldest known human-built technical systems on the planet.

