



Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship in Architecture

2026 Application Outline



Australian Institute of Architects



Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship in Architecture 2026

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Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship in Architecture 2026

2026 Key Dates

Call for Entries Commence	24 Aug 2026
Entries Submission Deadline	9 Oct 2026
Judging Period	12 Oct - 6 Nov
Announcement	19 Nov 2026 (Tentative)

**Submissions welcome from 1 April 2026.*

**Key dates including submission deadline will be promoted through the Institute e-newsletter and socials when known.*



Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship in Architecture 2026

Announcement

The Institute SA Chapter is calling for applications for the Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship. Established in 2007 following a bequest from the estate of the late modernist architectural figure who died in 2005 aged 92, the Fellowship is for an amount up to \$15,000.

Applicants must be graduates in architecture from the University of South Australia or University of Adelaide of up to five years standing. For the 2026 Fellowship, this means graduates who completed their architecture degree at the end of 2020 or later.

The Jack McConnell Travelling Fellowship is for promising designers, who might ultimately practice in South Australia, to undertake an independent program of research or course of further study in Architecture or a related field, most likely overseas.

Institute National President at the time of Jack McConnell's death, Warren Kerr, said: "Jack McConnell's influence in shaping the architects and the architecture of Australia was considerable. He pioneered modern architecture in South Australia and was without doubt the first serious modernist to build modern buildings in Adelaide."

Further information on the Fellowship and applications procedures can be accessed from the Institute SA Chapter website at www.architecture.com.au/sa

2026 submissions close – 9 Oct 2026



Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship in Architecture 2026

Jack Hobbs McConnell 1913-2005 The Benefactor



Throughout his outstanding career, and his significant contribution to the architectural profession as Australian Institute of Architects National President in 1968-69, as a Life Fellow, and as an Institute Gold Medalist in 1970, Jack McConnell had a remarkable capacity to lead and inspire others, with a number of Australia's most prominent architects still acknowledging him today as their mentor.

He was born on 5 June 1913, and attended Haileybury School, Victoria, where he was awarded the McCaughay Scholarship to study architecture at the University of Melbourne, where he graduated with distinction at the age of 21.

In 1937, aged 26, as a leading modernist from the Melbourne offices of Harold Desbrowe Annear, Leighton Irwin, Marcus Martin and Edward F Bilson, he joined the architectural practice

in Adelaide that became Claridge Hassell and McConnell, as the design architect for the new Bank of New South Wales, on the corner of North Terrace and King William Street.

From 1937 to 1970 he designed many outstanding buildings for both state and national clients and was particularly recognized for his prize-winning designs as one of the leading industrial architects in Australia.

Jack McConnell was the original lateral thinker –before the term had been invented. He always drummed into students and staff that design grew out of analysis – “first analyse, analyse, analyse!”

He said on many occasions that the Heinz Factory in Dandenong was the best job he ever did. He explained the ‘analyse’ principle as applied to this project:

- He knew nothing about canned food processing.
- He undertook what research he could.
- He prepared 10 pages of questions and presented them to Heinz in Melbourne.
- Heinz said we haven't got a clue, but we'll send the questions to the United States.
- They sent them back and said we don't know the answers either. Send the young architect overseas to wherever he wants to go to find the answers.
- (It appears that Jack's “research and analyse” technique was suggesting by the questions he asked, not only a new architectural approach, but new and innovative factory planning and processing techniques. This was new and foreign to them).

McConnell visited the US and Canada, the UK and Spain, did extensive research and analysis, returned, and wrote his report - including his own answers to his own questions - and presented it to Heinz. They took one look and said you're the architect and now the expert, go for it!



It subsequently won the Australian Architects and Arts Award in 1955.

He joined Stephenson and Turner Architects as a Partner in 1970 and continued to carry out major projects in that capacity. He retired from that partnership in 1980 but continued to undertake individual consulting work. He continued his involvement with the Institute as a member of various committees until 1992.

Jack McConnell had a great influence on post-World War II architecture in Australia and left his mark in the form of architectural excellence in many of his prestigious buildings both in South Australia and in other states.

More importantly, he influenced and inspired many students and architects to produce better architecture, not only in terms of design, but also of function.

‘Jack McConnell’s influence in shaping the architects and the architecture of Australia was considerable. He pioneered modern architecture in South Australia and was without doubt the first serious modernist to build modern buildings in Adelaide.’

Warren Kerr

National President of the Institute at the time of Jack’s death in April 2005

** Biographical notes by Keith Neighbour, LFRAIA*



Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship in Architecture 2026

Outline & Conditions

The Fellowship

The Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship was established in 2007 following a bequest from his estate. His Executors and close associates established that his intention was to provide funding to promising young designers, who might expect in due course to practice in South Australia, to support an independent study tour or formal program of post graduate education, most likely overseas.

Applicants must be recent graduates from one of the recognised architecture programs in South Australia.

Academic merit, while relevant, is not to be the sole criterion for selection. Applicants will submit a folio of design work which may include advanced student projects and work undertaken in practice. The potential of the applicants to increase their understanding and skill in architecture and design through travel and experience is fundamental to the aims of the Fellowship.

The Fellowship is administered by a committee of three members working in association with Institute staff. The three current committee members are the Chapter President, immediate past president and a third distinguished member as appointed by the Council of the SA Chapter of the Institute.

The Fellowship may not necessarily be awarded annually and is affected by the quality of applications and available funds. The value of each Fellowship, within an upper limit determined from time to time after considering inflation and earnings of the fund, will be agreed on by the Committee, having regard for the proposed project and likely cost to the Applicant.

It is recognised that for some Applicants, work and/or family commitments may preclude extended absence from their employment and that modern travel and communications permit useful professional experience projects of short duration.

A longer period involving overseas work experience with periods of travel could be considered. Others may have gained entry into a post graduate university program of one or more years.

On completion of the Fellowship the Recipient will be expected to disseminate the outcomes through a Journal and a lecture to Institute members.



RULES & CONDITIONS

1. Applicants must be graduates in architecture from the University of South Australia, University of Adelaide or Adelaide University of up to five years standing. For the 2026 Fellowship, this means persons who completed their architecture degree at the end of 2020 or later.
2. Applicants do not need to be currently resident in South Australia, but if short listed, may be required to be interviewed by teleconference.
3. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in architectural design in South Australia and how they might ultimately engage in future practice.
4. Applicants must be Australian citizens.
5. Applicants are to propose a program of study with estimated total expenses and amount of support requested from the Fund up to the value of the Fellowship as determined each year.
6. Applicants are to nominate an Institute member to act as a Mentor for the period of the Fellowship.
7. The Fellowship will be awarded by the Committee or their nominees. The Committee will short list applicants and may choose to interview short listed candidates. The decision of the Committee is final.
8. Following the awarding of the Fellowship, the successful Applicant will prepare a firm timetable and apply to the Committee through the Chapter Manager for release of portion of the funds to cover expenses. Part of the Fellowship funds will be withheld until all obligations have been fulfilled.
9. At the end of the term of the Fellowship, the recipient will prepare a paper for publication and deliver a lecture to Institute members.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The applicant must submit the following:

1. Application form

2. Curriculum Vitae

3. Personal Statement

Submit a 350-word statement which describes your current career and personal situation, and interest in current and future design practice in South Australia. Indicate the importance of the Fellowship to your aspirations as an architect. Comment as appropriate on any leadership roles you have taken in the profession and community.

4. Project abstract

In 100 words or less provide a summary of your project including the anticipated outcomes.



5. Project Proposal

In 750 words or less describe your research proposal in broad terms. Indicate how undertaking a systematic program of research and travel might enhance your skills as a designer and professional in practice. Describe how these might be of significance to development in South Australia.

6. Budget

Include estimates of airfares and local travel, subsistence, and any tuition fees. Indicate a value of the Fellowship up to \$15,000 that you are applying for, a proposed schedule of payments from the Fund and how any shortfall may be met.

7. Indicative Timetable and Itinerary

Give a general indication of the proposed timing – commencement, duration, and anticipated completion of the report. The Fellowship is normally expected to commence within six months following the announcement of the winner.

8. Portfolio

Applicants are required to submit a portfolio of their work. This may be supplemented by digital files.

9. Mentor Nomination

A completed Mentor Nomination Form must be submitted with your application. The Mentor may be an individual or group of individuals from a firm or academic institution and need not be an architect but must be an Institute member.

10. Confidential References

Two confidential references should be sent directly to the Institute SA Chapter by the closing date and marked Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship. Alternatively, they may be submitted in a sealed envelope together with the application.

11. Closing Date & Announcement of Winner

The closing date for submissions in 2026 – 9 Oct 2026.

Australian Institute of Architects - SA chapter

Digital Format Only!

USB's can be delivered to:
SA Chapter
Australian Institute of Architects
Level 2, 15 Leigh Street
Adelaide SA 5000



Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship in Architecture

Guideline on Release of Funds

Following the announcement of the Fellowship the successful applicant may apply for release of funds according to the proposed schedule as a series of progress payments.

As an example:

1. After reviewing the schedule proposed in the application in consultation with the Mentor, and at a time to take advantage of discounted airfares: an amount to cover economy airfares for the Fellow only.
2. For Fellows undertaking a course of formal study, any tuition fees that are required in advance.
3. Payment to cover estimated accommodation and local travel, to be paid not less than one month prior to departure.
4. An amount of 10% to be retained by the Institute to be paid when the recipient has fulfilled their obligations to deliver the lecture and submit the paper for publication.



Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship in Architecture 2026

Application Form

PERSONAL DETAILS	PROJECT PROPOSAL
Family name _____	Title _____
Given names _____	_____
Date of birth ____/____/____	_____
ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS	Duration _____
Date conferred ____/____/____	Budget _____
University _____	CHECKLIST
UNDERTAKING	• Application form • Portfolio • Curriculum vitae • Personal statement • Project abstract • Project proposal • Indicative itinerary & timetable • Mentor nomination • Confidential references (2)
I hereby undertake to comply with the conditions of the Fellowship if I am awarded the 2025 Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship in Architecture. I declare that the details given in this application are true and correct.	Send digital file to sa@architecture.com.au
Signature _____	Submissions open from 1 April 2026.
Print name _____	Applicants will be notified of key days after submission.
Date ____/____/____	



Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship in Architecture 2026

Mentor Nomination Form

FELLOWSHIP CANDIDATE 	NOTE <i>This form must be completed by the person agreeing to act as a mentor to an applicant for the Jack Hobbs McConnell travelling Fellowship.</i> <i>The role of mentor is to give general advice to an applicant on formulating their proposal and if successful, to be available to the Fellow to give general advice on the research and writing of the report.</i> <i>The completed form must be sent together with the applicant's submission.</i>
NOMINATED MENTOR 	
Position/title 	
Organisation 	
Address 	
Day phone number 	
How you know applicant (please tick appropriate box) ☐ Past student ☐ Employee ☐ Supervisor ☐ Colleague	
UNDERTAKING In accepting this nomination to act as a mentor to the above candidate, I understand that I will be available to consult with the applicant in the formulation of the research project, the study or research during the term of the fellowship and submission of the report. Signature 	
Date 	



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The successful applicant will be required to complete the below.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY WAIVER

Between

_____ (the releasor)

and

The Australian Institute of Architects (the releasee)

Liability Event

Under the terms of this Release of Liability Waiver, the Releasor releases the Releasee of liability for any costs incurred while undertaking travel in connection with the Jack Hobbs McConnell Travelling Fellowship, excepting those stated in the Budget provided by the Releasor (attached) to a maximum amount of \$13,500.00 AUD.

This includes, but is not limited to, costs for additional accommodation or transit required to comply with quarantine or travel restrictions that come into effect during the time that travel is being undertaken, and medical costs that are not covered by travel insurance.

Governing Law

This Waiver shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of South Australia.

RELEASOR	RELEASEE
Signature	Signature
Name and Title	Name and Title
Date	Date