

MENZIES EARLY CAREER NETWORK



CONNECTING FUTURE LEADERS TO MENZIES LEGACY

MECN is a program designed by the Robert Menzies Institute to identify, nurture, and build a new generation of future leaders with a keen understanding of Australia's national story.

Led by Fellow Dr Damien Freeman, the program invites professors, parliamentarians, and supporters of the Institute to nominate a current university student with a curiosity for Australia's past and ambition for its future.

Under the mentorship of Dr Freeman and Dr Zachary Gorman (the Institute's Historian and Research Manager), the nominated students will identify and research a specific aspect of Menzies's era and its impact on Australia's economic, social, and political life – and write a publishable essay based on their findings.

How To Apply

By 31 May, submit a CV and abstract for a proposed research project to Dr Freeman at damien@robertmenziesinstitute.org.au

Acceptance

The program will also be conditional upon a commitment to:

- attend a Sydney workshop, three online seminars, including a Melbourne event, and Canberra book launch
- revise chapter to publishable standard
- record a podcast about your research

Three Streams

Participants will be grouped into three streams with an expert mentor for each.

Possible streams might be:

- Foreign affairs
- Law
- Social and political thought

Publish Your Research

The twelve seminar papers are to be revised and then edited for publication in a book to be released by the Jeparit Press Publication in early 2026.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF MECN 2024

- All 13 MECN scholars appeared on the Robert Menzies Institute's Australian political history podcast ***Afternoon Light*** to discuss their research with host Georgina Downer.
- All MECN scholars had their essays published in a book, ***Finding Menzies: A new generation's inspiration for foreign affairs, social policy and political thought***.
- The book was launched in Parliament House, Canberra, by **Senator James Patterson** and includes a foreword by **The Hon Tony Abbot AC**.



Maya Khurana, Bachelor of Arts and Advanced Studies student at the University of Sydney

"Participating provided a rare opportunity to publish and present my work in a rigorous yet supportive environment. Furthermore, it deepened my historical understanding of Australian politics and sharpened the way I engage with contemporary debates."



Josh Woodward, Phd student at Australian National University

"MECN offered me a unique opportunity to hone my writing and public speaking skills. The Menzies Institute's network is unsurpassed as a supportive environment for academics seeking to publish a positive telling of the Australia's history, while still engaging critically with the nation's past."