



What is the Leo Mahony Bursary?

The Leo Mahony Bursary is awarded annually to a masters (by research) or doctoral scholar **studying in the field of national security and defence** at an ACT-based university.

The Bursary commemorates the memory and service of founding National Secretary of RUSI-A and long-time USI member and Councillor, Mr Leo Mahony

The Bursary comprises a one-off payment of \$5000. Recipients are also offered Honorary Membership of the Institute for 12 months. The Bursary and certificate of Honorary Membership are traditionally presented at a function held by the ACT which is well attended by USI ACT membership and guests.

Who is eligible?

Australian citizens who:

- are studying at an ACT university;
- are enrolled in a Masters (by research) or PhD program that leads to a thesis;
- have an approved research proposal for their program; and
- have not previously won the Leo Mahony Bursary.

How is the bursary winner selected?

- **Relevance.** The research must contribute to the body of national security or defence knowledge.
- **Innovation.** The research should address a new or under-examined area. Historical papers are welcomed, but must demonstrate explicit relevance to contemporary or future national security or defence issues.
- **Academic merit.** The research must have an appropriate standard of academic merit.

How to apply?

Submit a single page (400 words) application explaining how your research meets the selection criteria.

Further information

Please see the United Services Institute ACT homepage and follow the link to the bursary.

<https://www.rusi-act.com>

LEO MAHONY

Leo Mahoney was the founding National Secretary of the Royal United Services Institute Australia.

He was a long-term Defence public servant starting in Defence Signals Directorate and then moving to various other senior Defence Department roles.

He had studied arts, majoring in political science and respected the value of education and study in areas of national security.

He proposed that various state United Service Institutes come under a national body and worked tirelessly to achieve this.