

MWA STUDENT POLICY

Version 1.0 (Gaensler), approved by the MWA Board on 30 Jun 2010

Version 2.1 (Bowman), approved by the MWA Board on 22 June 2012

Amendment 1 – Project Scientist replaces role of Science Council

Amendment 2 – Enumeration of rights granted to projects

Amendment 3 – Added finite duration of project

Version 2.2 (Gaensler), approved by the MWA Board on 2 December 2012

Amendment 1 - Reverse order of steps in clause 2

Version 2.3 (Bowman), approved by MWA Board on 15 May 2013

Amendment 1 – Replaced notification email address

Version 3.0 (Heald), approved by the MWA Board on 2019 December 13

- Updated for consistency with Phase II Collaboration Agreement

Version 3.1 (Chico)- replaced the pronouns ‘his/her’ with ‘the student’ and ‘their’, approved by the Board on 29 August 2024

We here present the policy for recognition of student projects within the Murchison Widefield Array (MWA) Collaboration.

1. The MWA Collaboration encourages participation in the MWA project by undergraduate and postgraduate students.
2. An undergraduate or postgraduate student whose degree requirements depend on MWA data, hardware, and/or software must first apply to be an **Individual Member** of the MWA Collaboration as per the conditions and procedures defined in the *MWA Individual Membership Policy* and then must obtain formal recognition of their research project as an **MWA Student Project**.
3. An **MWA Student Project** is a well-defined research project that depends on MWA data, hardware, and/or software, and that will be conducted primarily by an undergraduate or postgraduate student in pursuit of the student’s degree.
4. The procedure for obtaining formal recognition of a research project as an MWA Student Project is as follows:
 - a. Any individual member of the MWA Collaboration (as defined in the *MWA Individual Membership Policy*) who is not themselves a student can nominate a student project to be recognized as an MWA Student Project;
 - b. Nominations for MWA Student Projects must be sent to the entire MWA Collaboration (via email to members@lists.mwatelescope.org), and must include a brief description of the project, the names of the project supervisor(s), the name of the student, the

degree which the student is undertaking, the institute(s) with which the student is affiliated, and the likely start and finish dates for the student's participation in MWA activities;

- c. Individual members of the MWA Collaboration who have concerns or disputes regarding such a nomination should communicate these issues to the Principal Scientist within two weeks of receiving the nomination;
 - d. Within four weeks of receiving the nomination, the Principal Scientist will either adjudicate on the nomination, or will refer the matter to the MWA Board for their decision;
 - e. If a nomination is approved, the Principal Scientist will announce this decision to the entire MWA Collaboration (via email to members@lists.mwatelescope.org), and will add this project to the list of active MWA Student Projects published on the internal MWA WWW page. The list on the WWW will reproduce the information provided in item 4(b) above, with appropriate modifications developed by consensus between the nominator and the Principal Scientist.
5. Designation as an MWA Student Project is granted for a limited term.
- a. MWA Student Projects are valid for a term of three (3) years beginning on the date of the written formal approval by the Principal Scientist.
 - b. At the end of the three-year term, or upon discontinuation of the project, all rights and privileges cease.
 - c. In the event that a student discontinues their contributions to an MWA Student Project before the end of the term—either because the student changes research topics or advisors, or changes degree programs, or is no longer enrolled at the host organization, or for any other reason—a notice of discontinuation must be sent by the student or by the original nominator of the project to the Principal Scientist. The notice must give the name of the student and it must state that the research project has been discontinued. Upon receipt of this notice, any rights and privileges granted to the project will cease.
 - d. In order to extend an unfinished project at the end of the three-year term, a new MWA Student Project request must be submitted in accordance with the procedures in item 4 above.
 - e. If a project is deemed by the Principal Scientist to be discontinued without notice, the Principal Scientist will notify the student and the original nominator. In order to continue the project, the student and/or nominator must demonstrate that the

project is active within two weeks of receiving the notice. At the end of two weeks, the Principal Scientist will either make a final determination on the status of the project, or will refer the matter to the MWA Board for their decision. Upon a decision by the Principal Scientist or the MWA Board that a project has been discontinued, any rights and privileges granted to the project will cease.

6. MWA Student Projects are granted the following rights:
 - a. The project is reserved for the student to pursue without competition. Other members of the MWA Collaboration are restricted from undertaking overlapping research without the written approval of 1) the student and 2) the original nominator of the project.
7. The progress of the student remains the responsibility of the student's supervisor(s).
8. MWA Student Projects are subject to all conditions and policies of the MWA Collaboration, the Science Working Group to which the project belongs (if any), and all other applicable policies.
9. In the event of a dispute over any aspect of student projects or student participation, the Principal Scientist will make a recommendation to the MWA Board, whose decision on the issue will be final.