

# **BOLD FUTURES - EARLY CAREER RESEARCH GRANT GUIDELINES & FAQs**

## **Program Overview**

The aim of the Jack Brockhoff Early Career Medical Research Grants Program is to further strengthen world class research capability in Victoria by helping establish the careers of talented emerging scientists.

The Foundation seeks to help support early-career researchers to demonstrate their scientific originality and their capacity to complete, relatively independently, a discrete study for publication in scientific literature. The Foundation intends these grants to assist talented emerging researchers to **build a CV that enables them later to compete successfully for research positions and research grants**, and to establish the foundation of a career in research.

Grants of up to **\$75,000 per year for one or two years** are available.

Applications for the Jack Brockhoff Foundation Early Career Medical Research Grant program will only be considered from research scientists with less than 3 research-active years after successfully completing their PhD examination. ('Research active' means time engaged in full-time research)

## **Important Dates**

The dates for the FY26 Grant Round are as follows:

**Grant round opens:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025

**Grant round closes:** 12pm (midday) Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Outcome Notification by mid September 2025.**

The online grant application form is required to be completed by all applicants. An acknowledgement email will be sent on receipt of the application online. All applicants will be notified of their success or otherwise by mid September 2025.

## **Payment of Grants**

If your application is successful, you will be contacted by the Foundation and asked to supply the banking details of your host Institution so that the grant awarded can be electronically transferred to the account provided.

## **Grants to applicants working in large institutions**

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation will not support applications from individuals working in institutions that apply an additional impost on the recipient of a grant, either by way of a portion of the grant sum being removed for institutional administration purposes, or by the levying of additional institutional costs to the recipient because of them receiving a grant from the Foundation.

## **Post-Grant Survey**

Every few years the Jack Brockhoff Foundation surveys its alumni of the Early Career Medical Research grant program to assess the impact of the program long term and how it has contributed (if at all) to your successful research career. It is expected that grant recipients will keep the foundation updated with their contact details should they move on from the host institution they completed the funded research with, and that they participate by completing the survey when requested.

We ask that all interested researchers contact the Foundation through their institution's **Advancement Office, Philanthropy team, or designated Grants Manager**.

If you have any questions regarding this grant round, please contact the Foundation office at [foundation@jackbrockhoff.org.au](mailto:foundation@jackbrockhoff.org.au)

## **The Jack Brockhoff Foundation Early Career Research Grants - FAQs**

### **Are applicants required to be either Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents?**

At the time of **applying** and for the duration of a grant, the grant recipient must be **one** of the following:

- 1) an Australian citizen;
- 2) a permanent resident of Australia ; or
- 3) a New Zealand citizen with Special Category Visa status and a resident in Victoria.

*Please note that researchers who are currently in an open application process for permanent residency or Special Category Visa, but have not yet been granted the Visa or permanent residency status, are not eligible to apply.*

### **How many applications per institution?**

Host institutions may submit up to two applications.

### **How is an eligible 'institution' defined?**

Eligible institutions must be [NHMRC Approved institutions](#), as is the case for independent medical research institutes and most Universities in Victoria. Institutes must also be based in Victoria.

### **Who should complete the Host Institution Declaration?**

For the purposes of this granting program, the entity with which the Foundation will deal is deemed to be the Faculty wherein the medical and health sciences are found. Hence, it will be the Dean of that Faculty who will identify the (maximum of two) applications to be submitted to the Foundation and complete the Host Institution Declaration. Relevant applications from more than one faculty in a university **may** be considered, but **only if** the applications offered by that university are endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor.

The head of the institution must declare in writing to the Foundation via email

[foundation@jackbrockhoff.org.au](mailto:foundation@jackbrockhoff.org.au) stating the following:

- 1) that the application(s) is/are submitted with the CEO or equivalent head's approval;
- 2) that the applicant(s) salary is guaranteed for the duration of the grant period; and
- 3) that applicants can dedicate at least 2.5 days per week to the research project unless a case can be made as to how results can be achieved with a reduced time fraction.

This must be done no later than the grant round closure date of 12pm (midday) Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July.

### **What does 3 years' post-doctoral experience mean?**

Applicant researchers need to have passed their PhD no earlier than **31 July 2022**. The Foundation will take account of legitimate interruptions such as parental leave or significant illness, which would have to be supported with documentation. In such cases PhD could have been passed earlier.

If an applicant would like special consideration in this regard, they must contact the Foundation in writing (to [foundation@jackbrockhoff.org.au](mailto:foundation@jackbrockhoff.org.au)) and receive formal approval of eligibility by the Foundation **prior** to submitting an application by the closing date.

Please note that working in industry is not considered a legitimate disruption in this context.

### **Must the research align with the Foundation's strategic priorities?**

The Foundation's purpose is to support initiatives that provide enduring benefits to the health and wellbeing of Victorians. The research must align with this purpose.

### **Are one- and two-year grant applications equally likely to succeed?**

All else being equal, the answer is 'yes'. However, applicants should understand that the Foundation will take account of the grant's efficiency in producing research outcomes. So, one-year grant applications that promise to deliver strong outcomes are likely to be highly competitive.

As well, there may be good reasons to choose to apply for a shorter grant, such as guaranteed salary support for the applicant not extending as far out as two years.

### **Are there particular disciplines or fields of research that are preferred?**

'No', so long as the project is within the scope of the scheme as stated in the Foundation's website: *Research relevant to understanding the causation, prevention, detection, treatment and palliation of conditions affecting the health and well-being of populations or population groups.*

All else being equal, the Foundation may, however, choose to spread grants across several discipline or disease areas.

### **How is 'Early Career' defined?**

In addition to the timebound guideline of the applicant being within three years of completing their PhD, the scheme aims to provide researchers with an early opportunity to demonstrate they can conceive and manage an original scientific study, and thereby fast track their research careers. The committee will evaluate the potential impact of the award on the applicant's career with preference given to those in whom this will be most significant. Applicants who are already in a relatively senior well-supported research position are not usually considered to be 'early career'.

### **Can clinicians apply?**

Yes. Clinician-researchers are encouraged to apply but the condition applies requiring that their salary is covered from another source AND The applicant is able to dedicate at least 2.5 days per week to the research project, unless a case can be made as to how results can be achieved with a reduced time fraction. Applications from clinician researchers will be assessed on the same basis as non-clinicians i.e., that the grant will assist a talented young researcher to build a CV that enables them later to compete successfully for research positions and research grants, and to establish the foundation of a career in research.

### **Who will be responsible for grants that involve work in more than one institution?**

The applicant will need to choose a primary host institution to receive and manage the grant.

### **Who should be the Scientific Referee?**

Applicants must arrange for an (unconflicted) confidential scientific reference to be sent to the Foundation before applications close. A reference from a leading scientist in the relevant field who offers a strong scientific rationale explaining the significance of the project is particularly helpful in the assessment. Applicants need not be known personally to their scientific referees. (A reference that simply summarises the applicant's CV is not helpful.)

A referee **must not** be:

- a previous supervisor, collaborator, or colleague
- a member of department of the Host Institution
- A family member or someone standing to gain personally or financially from the application being supported.

For more information please refer to the National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines on conflict of interest [here](#).

**Will the applications be sent out for peer review?**

No. However, the Foundation may choose to seek advice from independent experts to assist in its decisions. Past experience suggests this is unlikely to be considered necessary.

**Are there restrictions on the source of salary support for the candidates?**

No. Most likely salaries will be guaranteed by the host institution from its own budget or by the applicant holding a research fellowship from another agency such as the NHMRC. However, other possibilities for salary support will be considered on their merits. In all cases, "buy-in" by the host institution, as outlined in the host institution declaration form, is essential. In no cases will a grant from the Foundation be made towards salary support of the applicant.

**Are there restrictions on what can be included in the project budget?**

Yes.

As per the guidelines of the scheme, the salary of the primary researcher must be guaranteed by the host institution and therefore cannot be included in the project budget request. Travel costs for any activity that is not critical to the completion of the research (such as to conferences for example) is also excluded.