



EARLY CAREER RESEARCH GRANT GUIDELINES & FAQs

Program Overview

The aim of the Jack Brockhoff Early Career Medical Research Grants Program is to strengthen research capability in Victoria to conduct world-class research in health and well-being by helping establish the careers of talented young 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 young 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 a year for one or two years** are available.

Applications for the Jack Brockhoff Foundation Early Career Medical Research Grants 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 2022 Grant Round are as follows:

Grant round opens: Monday 6th June 2022

Grant round closes: 12pm on Tuesday 26th July 2022.

Notification in September 2022.

An online Grant Application form is required to be completed by all applicants. Note that there is a different online application form for each of the three Foundation funding areas. You must complete the form relevant to your application. An acknowledgement email will be sent on receipt of the application online. All applicants will be notified of their success or otherwise shortly following the September Board meeting.

Payment of Grants

If your application is successful, you will be contacted by the Foundation and asked to supply the banking details of the 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.

If you have any questions regarding this grant round please contact the Foundation office at 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.

How many applications per institution?

Host institutions may submit up to TWO applications. The head of the institution must **separately** communicate with the Foundation at applications@jackbrockhoff.org.au stating the following:

- 1) that the application(s) is/are submitted with the head's approval;
- 2) that the applicant (s) salary is guaranteed for the duration of the grant period; and
- 3) that applicants have the capacity to spend at least 50% of their full-time employment working on the project applied for.

This must be done no later than **12pm on Tuesday 26th July 2022.**

How is an eligible "institution" defined?

First, it must be an NHMRC Approved institution, as is the case for independent medical research institutes and most Universities in Victoria. Second, for the purposes of this JBF scheme, the entity with which JBF 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. 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.

What does 3 years' post-doctoral experience mean?

Applicant researchers need to have passed their PhD no earlier than **31 July 2019** if working full time. The Foundation will take account of legitimate interruptions such as maternity leave and illness, which would have to be supported with documentation. In such cases PhD could have been passed earlier. Please note that working in industry is not considered a legitimate disruption in this context.

Are applications with a focus on children more likely to be funded?

All else being equal, and given the Foundation's preference, the answer is 'yes'.

Must the research projects have a focus on children?

No.

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

All else being equal, the answer is 'yes'. However, applicants should understand that JBF 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.

Can clinicians apply?

Yes. Clinician-researchers are encouraged to apply but the condition applies requiring that their salary is covered from another source AND they have 50% of their time available to work on the JBF-funded research. 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 responsible for grants that involve work in more than one institution?

The host institution of the person to whom the grant is awarded.

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 summarizes the applicant's CV is not helpful.)

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 Application Form, is essential. In no cases, will a grant from JBF be made towards salary support of the applicant. The applicant must confirm that they have the capacity to spend at least 50% of their full-time employment working on the project applied for.