

The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation Emerging Researcher Grant Guidelines 2024

This document provides advice about the application process, eligibility, and conditions to apply for a TPCH Foundation Emerging Researcher Grant. Further information can be obtained from Dr Megan Grace, Research Manager (Megan.Grace@tpchfoundation.org.au).

General information

1. TPCH Foundation Emerging Researcher Grants provide an opportunity for post-doctoral researchers to develop their skills and experience, while building research capacity at TPCH.
2. Projects are expected to be small, standalone studies that can be completed within 1-2 years, extensions must be approved by TPCH Foundation.
3. Emerging Researcher grants will be awarded based on the idea, significance, expected outcomes and relevance of the research area to TPCH, not on the track record of the applicant. However, the applicant must demonstrate that they can perform the research outlined in the proposal, and that they have appropriate mentorship to ensure the research is feasible.
4. Emerging Researcher Grants are awarded to the applicant and are not transferrable. Successful applicants must also remain within or associated with their nominated research group for the duration of the grant. Any changes to circumstances must be discussed with TPCH Foundation who reserves the right to review the grant award, and to terminate it if deemed appropriate.

Eligibility

1. Applicants must:
 - Have been awarded a PhD prior to submission
 - Nominate a mentor
 - Not have been named as a Chief Investigator on a grant awarded more than \$50,000
 - Not have been awarded a Fellowship or any other salary support grant over \$50,000
 - Not have any outstanding TPCH Foundation progress reports
2. Equipment and travel grants are not viewed as project grants for eligibility. Having been awarded an equipment or travel grant, to any value, does not deem an applicant ineligible.
3. The maximum amount that can be requested is \$25,000. Funding may be used to provide salary support, purchase consumables and other research-related expenses. It cannot be used to fund basic computer equipment such as personal laptops, or institutional overheads.
4. Applicants will only be considered if the work is being undertaken at, or in significant association with, TPCH and/or in association with a TPCH community-based service. However, it is not necessary to be employed by Queensland Health or Metro North Health and Hospital Service.

5. If the research is to be undertaken on-campus at TPCH and/or another Metro North facility, the applicant must either be employed by Metro North Health as a recognised health professional, or obtain approval permission as an External Researcher prior to starting their project (<https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/006903.pdf>).

6. Applications addressing one or more of the Foundation's priority areas of heart, lung, mental health and ageing will be highly regarded. However, high-quality applications addressing other health issues relevant to the Foundation's mission to "help people live healthier for longer" will also be considered for funding.

Application submission

1. Applications will only be accepted online through <https://tpchfoundation.smartygrants.com.au/> and must be submitted by 1pm on the due date. Late applications will not be accepted.

2. Signatures must be obtained from the applicant and mentor

3. Applicants must nominate an administering institution, who will manage the funding. The applicant must have an appointment or affiliation with the administering institute.

4. The administering institution must be notified prior to lodging the application and any relevant approvals obtained

5. The project should be described in the Research Plan, and clearly outline the aims and hypothesis, background/literature review, study design and methodology, and expected outcomes. Applicants are encouraged to ensure the research plan covers all these areas and gives enough detail for the reviewer to understand the need for the research, the methodology to be used and what the expected outcomes are.

6. The budget must clearly outline the intended use of the funds, and be well justified

Expectations of the Mentor

To be eligible, the Mentor:

- Must have research qualifications i.e. PhD or equivalent
- Must have a proven research track record, with a minimum of two years' post-doctoral research experience
- Must not have any outstanding TPCH Foundation Progress Reports

TPCH Foundation recognises the importance of good mentoring. The application includes the requirement for a mentor statement which forms part of the assessment. It is expected that the mentor supports the applicant during the entirety of the grant, however, the research project must be undertaken by the applicant. The mentor statement should convey: the importance of the project, why the mentor has chosen to support the applicant, that the applicant has the skills to undertake the research, and how the mentor will ensure the applicant receives appropriate support to complete the project. Applications deemed to have a lack of mentoring and/or poorly written mentor statements will not be funded. It is the responsibility of both the applicant and mentor to ensure the application is well written.

Assessment

Emerging Researcher grants will be assessed by an independent panel convened by TPCH Foundation. TPCH Foundation will review applications for eligibility, completeness, and alignment to TPCH. Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be assessed further.

Applications will be assessed on:

- Relevance of the project to TPCH (15%)
- The research plan (50%), including:
 - Clearly stated aims and hypotheses
 - Significance
 - Study design
 - Expected outcomes and impact
- Feasibility and project benefits (15%)
- An appropriate and well justified budget (10%)
- The mentor statement (10%)

Administering Institution

An Emerging Researcher Grant may be administered through TPCH or a University, however grant funds will fully remain within The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation and will not be transferred in full to another institution. Funds will only be transferred in arrears upon invoice.

Obligations of awardees

Grant recipients are expected to disseminate their results through the normal scientific channels. The support of TPCH Foundation must be acknowledged in any publication, media or presentation arising from the research. Any publications or media releases should be sent to TPCH Foundation.

The ability of TPCH Foundation to support research is dependent on our ability to raise funds through donations. Therefore, the ability to engage with potential donors is critical to our success, and it is a condition of accepting the grant that recipients will include TPCH Foundation in any publicity surrounding the research. In addition, TPCH grant recipients will be expected to provide regular research updates and may be called upon to participate in promotional activities.

Reporting requirements

Grant recipients will be required to submit six-monthly progress reports, due in April and October each year. It is the responsibility of the grant holder to submit these in a timely manner. Failure to submit a progress report will render the applicant ineligible for future funding from TPCH Foundation.

Key Dates

Emerging Researcher Grants open	04 October 2024
Emerging Researcher Grants close	01 November 2024
Applicants notified of outcome	December 2024