

The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation 2025 PhD Scholarship Guidelines

This document provides information about the application process, eligibility, and conditions of applying for The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) Foundation PhD Scholarships.

Further information can be obtained from the Foundation Research Manager, Dr Rebekah Engel: research@tpchfoundation.org.au

General information

1. TPCH Foundation PhD Scholarships have been developed to support educational academic research and high-quality research training at, or in significant partnership with, TPCH or Caboolture, Kilcoy, Woodford (CKW) Directorate and their associated community programs.
2. If the research is to be undertaken on-campus at TPCH/CKW 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.
3. Only universities can confer PhD degrees. TPCH Foundation is not awarding a degree. TPCH Foundation's PhD scholarship award is for financial assistance to support an individual undertaking a PhD degree at a recognised Australian University.
4. Applicants may apply for a TPCH Foundation PhD Scholarship before or any time during their candidature. If the student is already enrolled, the length of the scholarship will be determined based on the time the student has already completed.
5. Scholarships are available to students enrolled full-time or part-time. Part-time students must demonstrate that they meet all requirements for enrolment with their nominated academic institution.
6. The PhD Scholarship will be provided for a maximum of 3 years full time, or the equivalent pro-rata if part-time. Extension requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Continuation of the PhD Scholarship is dependent on the student remaining enrolled with their administering institution, and successfully completing milestones as set out by the awarding university.
7. Access to scholarship funds will not be provided until all Institutional approvals, including PhD enrolment, have been received.

8. Applicants must adhere to the higher research degree program and any alterations, including extended leave, must be requested in writing and approved by the Foundation. The Foundation must be notified of any changes to degree enrolment or other circumstances, particularly if this will affect the applicant being able to complete their PhD. The Foundation reserves the right to review the applicant's scholarship in view of these changes and terminate the scholarship if this is deemed appropriate.
9. Applications addressing one or more of the Foundation's priority areas of heart, lung, mental health, and ageing will be highly regarded, as will those with a primary focus on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health or multicultural populations. 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.
10. The scholarship will be valued at \$34,752 per annum (full time 2025 stipend rate), or the equivalent pro-rata rate, indexed to CPI.

Eligibility

1. Projects will be considered only if the work is being undertaken at, or in significant association with, TPCH/CKW campus or a TPCH/CKW community-based service.
2. The applicant must be enrolled, or soon to be enrolled, in a PhD program at an Australian university.
3. The applicant must be assessed by the graduate school of the administering university as meeting all the criteria for admission to a research higher degree PhD program.
4. TPCH Foundation reserves the right to make the final judgement as to whether an applicant is considered eligible.

Application submission

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

Application assessment

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

PhD Scholarship applications will be assessed on:

- Relevance to TPCH or CKW: clearly stated link between academic research and health or medical benefit in a specialist area relevant to the work of TPCH or CKW (10%)
- Research project: clearly stated hypothesis, aims, objectives and potential outcomes, project design, feasibility (40%)
- Demonstration of academic ability (30%)
- Research environment and opportunities: quality of the mentoring and support provided, and collaboration opportunities (20%)

Obligations of awardees

It is a condition of accepting the grant that recipients will include TPCH Foundation in any publicity surrounding the research. In addition, TPCH Foundation grant recipients will be expected to provide regular research updates and may be called upon to participate in promotional activities.

PhD Scholarship holders are expected to disseminate their results through the normal scientific channels and the support of TPCH Foundation must be acknowledged in any publications, media, or presentations.

Reporting requirements

PhD Scholarship holders are required to submit six-monthly progress reports to the Foundation, in which the recipient will be asked to outline recent achievements and provide confirmation of milestone attainment. It is the responsibility of the scholarship holder to submit these in a timely manner. Failure to submit progress reports will result in the applicant being ineligible for future funding from TPCH Foundation and may result in relinquishment of the scholarship.

Conditions of application

1. Applicants authorise The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation to make any enquiries it considers necessary in relation to the application and proposed research project.
2. The applicant agrees to abide by The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation policies and procedures.

Key Dates

PhD Scholarship applications open	18 th August 2025
PhD Scholarship applications close	29 th September 2025
Notification of outcomes	November 2025