



**The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation
Emerging Researcher Grant Guidelines 2026**

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 Rebekah Engel, Research Manager (research@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. Successful applicants must remain within or associated with their nominated research group for the duration of the grant. Any change in circumstances must be discussed with TPCH Foundation. The Foundation reserves the right to review the applicant's grant in view of these changes and terminate the funding if deemed appropriate.

Eligibility

1. To be eligible for an Emerging Researcher Grant, applicants must:
 - have been awarded a PhD prior to submission
 - nominate a suitable mentor
 - not have been named as a Chief Investigator on a grant awarded more than \$100,000 at time of application
 - not have been awarded a Fellowship or any other salary support grant over \$100,000 at time of application
 - not have any outstanding TPCH Foundation progress reports

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.

2. Emerging Researcher Grants are awarded to the applicant and are not transferrable. The maximum amount that can be requested is \$25,000. The grant may be used for any related research expense, such as salary costs (including on-costs), consumables or other reasonable research requirements. It cannot be used to fund basic computer equipment, such as personal laptops, or institutional overheads.
3. Conference costs up to \$2,000 (restrictions apply, please contact the Research Manager for more information on the Foundation's travel policy) and publication costs up to \$2,000 are allowed but must be fully justified within the application. Open access publication cost justification must include why the applicant is not able to publish in a relevant journal with which their affiliated University has a Read and Publish agreement.

4. Grant funds will remain with TPCH Foundation and be paid in arrears by tax invoice to the nominated administering institution. Grant funds will not be transferred in full to another institution.
5. Applicants will only be considered if the work is being undertaken at, or in significant association with TPCH. However, it is not necessary to be employed by Queensland Health or Metro North Health and Hospital Service.
6. 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 ([External Researchers 006903 | Safety and Quality | Metro North HHS \(health.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/external-researchers-006903-safety-and-quality)).
7. Proposals that address one of the Foundation's priority areas - heart, lung, mental health, and ageing - will be highly regarded. At the same time, we strongly encourage high-quality applications in other areas of health that support the Foundation's mission to "help people live healthier for longer".
8. Any relevant ethics and site-specific approvals must be obtained prior to the commencement of the research project. Approval is not required prior to submitting your application, however it is the responsibility of the investigator to ensure approvals are obtained in a timely manner.

Guidelines for application submission

1. Applications will only be accepted online through <https://tpchfoundation.smartgrants.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 prior to submission.
3. The project must be described in the Research Plan, clearly outlining the aims and hypothesis, background and relevant literature, study design and methodology, expected outcomes, and feasibility. Applicants should provide sufficient detail across each of these areas to enable thorough assessment of the proposed research.
4. The budget must clearly outline the intended use of the funds and be well justified.

Expectations of the Mentor

Nomination of a mentor is a requirement for all Emerging Researcher applicants. 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 values strong mentoring to help ensure projects are conducted to a high standard, on time, and that applicants gain excellent research training. Mentors play an important role both in preparing the application and, if successful, throughout the grant. As part of the application, a mentor statement should describe the importance of the project, why the nominated mentor is well-suited to support the research, why the mentor has chosen to support the applicant and how the mentor will provide high-quality research training. Clear, thoughtful mentor statements help demonstrate that the project is well-supported and that the applicant will receive meaningful

guidance. Applicants and mentors are encouraged to work together to ensure the application is complete, clear, and well-presented.

Assessment

Emerging Researcher grants will be assessed by an independent panel convened by TPCH Foundation. TPCH Foundation will review applications for eligibility 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%)

Obligations of awardees

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

The ability of TPCH Foundation to support research is dependent on our ability to engage with potential donors. It is a condition of accepting the grant that recipients will include TPCH Foundation in any publicity surrounding the research. TPCH Foundation 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 result in the applicant being ineligible for future funding from TPCH Foundation.

Conditions of application

Applicants authorise TPCHF to make any enquiries it considers necessary in relation to the proposed research project.

Key Dates

Emerging Researcher Grants open	2 February 2026
Emerging Researcher Grants close	13 March 2026
Applicants notified of outcome	April 2026