

The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation

FY27 PhD Scholarship Guidelines

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

Further information can be obtained by emailing Dr Rebekah Engel, Research and Impact Manager (research@tpchfoundation.org.au) or on our [Researcher Hub](#) website.

General information

1. TPOCH Foundation PhD Scholarships have been developed to support educational academic research and high-quality research training at, or in significant partnership with, TPOCH or Caboolture Hospital.
2. If the research is to be undertaken on-campus at TPOCH/Caboolture Hospital 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. TPOCH Foundation is not awarding a degree. TPOCH 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 TPOCH 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 3.5 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, ageing or paediatrics 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 \$37,500 per annum (full-time 2026 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 the TPCH/Caboolture campuses.
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.
5. Applicants who have outstanding TPCH Foundation progress reports are not eligible to apply. Applications will be considered ineligible and not assessed further.
6. 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.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Applications

Non-generative AI tools

Applicants may use non-generative AI tools, such as grammar checkers, spell checkers, and style editors, to assist in preparing their application.

Generative AI tools

Generative AI tools, including large language models (e.g. ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and Copilot), may only be used for administrative assistance or editorial support (for example, formatting, proofreading, or improving clarity of applicant-generated text).

Generative AI must not be used to generate substantive application content, including research aims, hypotheses, methodology, or other scientific material.

Applicant declaration

By submitting an application, applicants declare that any use of generative AI complied with these guidelines and that all information provided is accurate and complete. Applicants remain fully responsible for the content of their application.

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 TPCF Foundation. TPCF 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 TPCF or Caboolture Hospital: clearly stated link between academic research and health or medical benefit in a specialist area relevant to the work of TPCF or Caboolture Hospital (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 TPCF Foundation in any publicity surrounding the research. In addition, TPCF 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 TPCF 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 TPCF 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	17 th August 2026
PhD Scholarship applications close	2 nd October 2026
Notification of outcomes	November 2026