

NeuroSurgical Research Foundation

2023 The Strong Enough To Live Research PhD SCHOLARSHIPS

Application Guidelines

Objectives

The Strong Enough To Live Research PhD Scholarships (being the equivalent funding to the current Research Training Program (RTP) base scholarship; currently \$28,854 p.a

The RTP (formerly Australian Postgraduate Awards);

- provides flexible funding arrangements to support the training of students undertaking HDRs (Higher Degree by Research which is a Research Doctorate or Research Masters Course) at Australian HEPs (Higher Education Provider),
- deliver graduates with the skills required to build careers in academia and other sectors of the labour market,
- support collaboration between HEPs and industry and other research end-users.

Eligibility

Applicants must be Australian citizens or have permanent resident status and be currently residing in Australia. Evidence is to be submitted at the time of application.

This scholarship will be awarded to medical graduates eligible for registration in South Australia or to appropriately qualified science graduates or health professionals for the purpose of receiving training in research methods leading to a higher degree at the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia or Flinders University.

Research Areas

Scholarships are available in the area of brain tumour research.

The principal supervisor must be a member of Brain Tumour Research SA (BTRSA).

Current BTRSA members and potential PhD projects are listed on the BTRSA website:

<https://www.nrf.com.au/btrsa>

Conditions of award

- Term of the scholarship is up to 3 years. Scholars are encouraged to apply for other external funding during their first year of scholarship. A six month extension of the term of the scholarship may be permitted if delays in progress of the project occur that are outside the control of the student.
- Successful applicants must satisfy the university enrolment conditions and be enrolled full-time in an appropriate course of study at the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia or Flinders University (priority will be given to applicants enrolled in a PhD degree). Documentary evidence must be produced to verify that this is the case before the scholarship can commence.
- The principal supervisor must be a member of the Brain Tumour Research SA (BTRSA). In the event that there is a change of Supervisor, the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation must be notified.
- Attention is also drawn to the regulations of the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia or Flinders University which govern studies for higher degrees. If the principal supervisor does not hold an appointment allowing the supervision of graduate students then it will be necessary to arrange for a second supervisor ("internal supervisor") within the appropriate University department.
- The NeuroSurgical Research Foundation reserves the right to recommend that no award be made if in its opinion applicants are not suitably qualified.

- The project must be based on the study of tumours of the brain and central nervous system.
- This scholarship is awarded on the basis of available funding through the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation and may be withdrawn at any time should insufficient annual funding be made available for this fellowship. .
- Scholarships will commence as soon as possible following the award, but no later than 30th June 2023.
- On award of the Scholarship the recipient must contact their University Graduate Centre who will be administering this grant. All future correspondence should be directed through the University Graduate Centre and in accordance with the University's regulations, including employment restrictions.
- Successful applicants may be eligible to undertake other paid duties for a maximum of up to 8 hours per week, provided the University and the scholar's supervisor(s) are satisfied that this will not interfere with the progress of the research project and with the approval of the University.
- This scholarship is not transferrable and no other fellowship or scholarship may be held concurrently (when awarded a "Full" scholarship). Applicants who are subsequently awarded another scholarship are expected to take up that scholarship and relinquish the balance of the full NeuroSurgical Research Foundation. If another scholarship is accepted at any other stage during the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation award, application for part of any balance of the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation award may be applied as top-up funding to supplement the other scholarship to a maximum scholarship award, subject to the approval of the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation.
- In the event that a recipient has already commenced a higher degree, any time that the recipient has already spent enrolled in the degree prior to this award will be deducted from the maximum three year term of the scholarship, and the award will be adjusted accordingly with the University Graduate Centre.
- Continuation of the scholarship beyond the first year is subject to satisfactory annual progress report from the recipient's supervisor.
- Successful applicants must submit an **annual progress report, due 1 March** following the first and second year of the scholarship and a **final report** must be provided **within in 3 months of completion of the scholarship period** to the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation. The successful applicant may be required to present findings if requested by the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation.
- The award may be considered by the Australian Taxation Office to be taxable income and the recipient is advised to seek professional taxation advice.
- Successful recipients should notify the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation of any changes of circumstance or interruptions that may impact the progress of their candidature. If the work of the recipient of the award is interrupted for a period of time the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation may grant an intermission to tenure of the award. Stipend payments will be withheld during the period of intermission. The award has no provisions to grant paid maternity or parental leave.
- Leave periods which extend the end date of the project must be reported to the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation. Leave without Pay (LWOP) periods will not be funded (thus not extend the funding period), but will push out the end date of the candidature and the project.
- Leave entitlements included in the stipend include the following:
 - o 20 working days paid annual leave per year, calculated on a pro-rata basis (accruable). Leave must be taken during the tenure of the award, intermission of candidature is not necessary. Any annual leave that is not taken during tenure will be forfeited.
 - o 10 working days paid sick leave per year (accruable), and this does not extend the period of the award.
- In the event that the tenure of the scholarship cannot be completed for whatever reason, any funding remaining against this award will cease, and any balance of funds will be forfeited.
- In addition to University policies, the recipient agrees to accept responsibility for the performance of the study in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research including any updates or replacements. <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/r39>
- **Compliance Approvals:** Ethics approvals are required before commencement of the project.

Scholarship payments may commence prior to finalising ethics approvals, however, evidence of approvals must be provided within 6 months for the commencement of the Scholarship period to avoid funding being withheld, until these have been submitted.
Please contact: Ginta.orchard@nrf.com.au for further advice.

- Before and during the tenure of this award the recipient agrees to inform the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation in writing of any situation whereby they may not or may no longer be able to abide by these terms and conditions, and agree this information may be used by the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation to reassess continued eligibility for this scholarship.
- This scholarship is awarded on the basis of available funding through the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation, and may be withdrawn at any time should insufficient annual funding be made available for this scholarship

Application Guidelines

- **Please use the 2023 Application Form provided** with these guidelines.
- Applications that exceed specified limits will be discarded. Please do not send hard copies.
- The Application Form must be submitted as a searchable **pdf** document.
- The applicant must provide:
 - Doc A CV-** A full **CV** with current details: full name, title, position, current employer, department, address, telephone and e-mail. Include qualifications, awards and prizes, professional experience (not exceeding three pages), start and end date PhD and specialised training program.
 - Doc B 2023 NRF Application Form**
 - Doc C Letter Head of Dept** - A signed **letter of certification** from the **Head of Department/Division** certifying that appropriate general facilities will be available to the investigator if successful, and that the project will be carried out strictly in accordance with NHMRC Ethical and Scientific Practice Guidelines and,
 - Doc D Proposed Supervisors Report Form plus A signed letter of approval** and assessment from the nominated supervisor(s) indicating their willingness to carry out such supervision.
 - Doc E Honours Result** - The applicant must provide the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation with their **Honours result** immediately as soon as it is available.
 - Doc F Honours Supervisors Report Form** - The applicant's **Honours supervisor** should complete the assessment form provided and forward to the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation by the closing date.

Submitting the Application

- Applications to be submitted by email to ginta.orchard@nrf.com.au
- The application may be submitted either as one "Application" document with all relevant documents within the one pdf or as separate documents. If submitting the application documents separately, all documents must be pdf's and appropriately labelled.

Eg: Surname_2023NRF_application.pdf | Surname_2023NRF_CertificationLetter.pdf | Surname_2023NRF_CV.pdf | Surname_2022NRF_HonorsSupervisor.pdf | Surname_2023NRF_ProposedSupervisor.pdf....etc

- The email must include all relevant documents (attached) and include the applicants surname and name of award applying for in the subject heading: eg **Subject:** Smith | 2023NRF (Full and/or Top-up) Scholarship Application

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 4PM Monday 31st October 2022

For more information Research Services

T: (08) 8371 0771

E: ginta.orchard@nrf.com.au