



RBWH Research Services

# 2026 RBWH Research Fellowship Grants

Application Guidelines



Metro North Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which we live, work and walk, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

Published by the State of Queensland (Metro North Hospital and Health Service), April 2025



This document is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence.  
To view a copy of this licence, visit [creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au)

© State of Queensland (Metro North Hospital and Health Service) 2025

You are free to copy, communicate and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the State of Queensland (Metro North Hospital and Health Service).

For more information, contact:

RBWH Research Services, Metro North Hospital and Health Service, Block 7, Level 8, Herston QLD 4029, email [RBWH\\_Grants@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:RBWH_Grants@health.qld.gov.au), phone (07) 3647 1079 for RBWH Research Services.

An electronic version of this document is available at  
<https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/rbwh/research/grants/apply/rbwhgrants>

Disclaimer:

The content presented in this publication is distributed by the Queensland Government as an information source only. The State of Queensland makes no statements, representations or warranties about the accuracy, completeness or reliability of any information contained in this publication. The State of Queensland disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation for liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way, and for any reason reliance was placed on such information.

Contents

Eligibility criteria ..... 4

Terms of Funding..... 4

Assessment Criteria ..... 5

Instructions for Submission ..... 5

The 2026 Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Research Fellowship Grants aim to support research capacity building by funding dedicated research or backfill time for an individual to undertake research activities that align with hospital priorities. The 2026 RBWH Research Fellowship Grant scheme has been made possible by the RBWH Study Education and Research Trust Account (SERTA) Advisory Committee.

In 2026, Research Fellowships Grants will be awarded in two categories:

1. **Early career researcher (ECR) fellowships.** Six 1-year ECR Fellowships (up to \$40,000) are on offer with up to three being awarded for 2 years (up to \$80,000 in total). For this scheme, an ECR is defined as: (a) an individual within three years of completing a research higher degree (MPhil, PhD or equivalent), or (b) an individual who has not commenced or completed a research higher degree and is within 10 years of commencing active research as indicated by grants and publications. Note: for assessment, track record comparisons will be made within groups, not between groups ("a" and "b").
2. **Research higher degree (RHD) scholarships.** Six 2-3 year RHD Scholarships (up to \$40,000 per year) are on offer with the possibility of 2 years of funding for undertaking an MPhil (or equivalent) or 3 years of funding for undertaking a PhD (or equivalent). Successful applicants must be enrolled in a RHD (MPhil, PhD or equivalent) for the duration of the scholarship.

Track record will have a relatively smaller weighting (10%) and consideration of career disruptions and "relative to opportunity" will be given.

## Eligibility criteria

RBWH staff (individual applicants) are eligible to apply for an ECR Fellowship or RHD Scholarship, which are both referred to below by the terms "Research Fellowship" or "fellowship" (or "fellow" for a successful applicant). To be considered eligible for a Research Fellowship, applicants must:

- Be temporary or permanent employees of Metro North Health and based at RBWH for a minimum of 0.2 FTE during the fellowship.
- Nominate at least one appropriately qualified research supervisor or mentor.
- Provide a proposal to develop and undertake a body of research aligned with RBWH priorities and/or directly involving RBWH patients, staff or community.
- Not be the recipient of a Metro North Health or Queensland Health Clinician Research Fellowship (or similar fellowship) during the RBWH Research Fellowship.

## Terms of Funding

- The fellowship must commence in 2026 and will extend for a maximum of 12, 24 or 36 months, respectively, from the date of commencement (unless otherwise agreed).
- Fellowships will be awarded at the level of the applicant's substantive appointment.
- Fellows must be employed by Metro North Health and, unless otherwise requested and approved in writing, undertake a minimum of 0.2 FTE within their substantive appointment at RBWH. **Potential applicants must discuss and obtain support from their line manager/s about the proposed substantive/fellowship (FTE) model prior to applying.**
- The RBWH Research Fellowship can be used to fund dedicated research FTE or enable backfill for dedicated research FTE. The total Metro North Health appointment for any applicant must not exceed 1.0 FTE. **Applicants must liaise with the relevant Business Manager to confirm accurate salary costings are included in the budget prior to submission.**
- It is the responsibility of successful applicants to: (1) ensure human research ethics committee (HREC) approval and site authorisation (SSA approval) is received for all research undertaken during the Fellowship, and (2) submit an annual progress report/s and final report (maximum 200 words) on milestones and outcomes associated with the Fellowship.
- A condition of entry is that successful applicants agree to have information related to the Fellowship (including application details, progress reports and associated photos) used in promotional materials by RBWH / Metro North Health, except for confidential information specifically advised by the applicant.



## Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed by peer reviewers and a Research Fellowship Panel containing representatives from the RBWH Research Grants Advisory Committee. Assessments will be made using the following criteria:

Criteria	Weight
Research program proposal – quality, feasibility and significance, including relevant consumer engagement and appropriate program milestones	50%
Research capacity building – for the individual, department, service line, RBWH and/or Metro North	20%
Research environment – including evidence of the necessary infrastructure, resources, collaborations and supervision/mentorship for the fellowship	20%
Track record (relative to opportunity) in research and other relevant experience	10%

## Instructions for Submission

1. Complete all sections of the application form via the link to SmartyGrants on the RBWH Research Grants website [Apply for Funding - Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital \(health.qld.gov.au\)](https://health.qld.gov.au/apply-for-funding-royal-brisbane-and-womens-hospital)
2. Obtain the necessary signatures (or email confirming support).
3. Scan the signed application form, including any relevant attachments.

**Applications open:** Wednesday, 10 September 2025

**Applications close:** Sunday, 2 November 2025

**Incomplete applications will not be accepted. The successful applicant/s are expected to be announced by late December 2025.**

If you have any queries about the 2026 Research Fellowship Grant, please contact Sue Taylor, Research Services Manager, on 3647 1079 (or [Susan.Taylor7@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Susan.Taylor7@health.qld.gov.au)) or Dr Joel Dulhunty, Director of Research ([Joel.Dulhunty@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Joel.Dulhunty@health.qld.gov.au)).