



Suicide Prevention
Australia

Application Guidelines 2020 PhD Scholarship

*The Suicide Prevention Research Fund
is proudly supported by*



Australian Government
Department of Health

About the PhD Scholarship

The PhD Scholarship provides funding for successful applicants to attain a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

The PhD Scholarship is a funding agreement between Suicide Prevention Australia and the applicant's Administering Institution (a University in Australia).

The PhD Scholarship aims to support outstanding graduates who are at the early part of their research career. The Scholarship supports research relevant to all aspects of suicide prevention and to develop a capacity for original independent research within Australia.

Objectives

The PhD Scholarship aims to:

1. Support excellent clinical and applied research for those undertaking research in the suicide prevention field;
2. Advance promising early career researchers and promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways;
3. Enable research and research training in high quality and supportive environments;
4. Expand Australia's knowledge base and research capability; and
5. Enhance the scale and focus of research relevant to the Suicide Prevention Research Fund priorities.

Who should apply?

Applicants who wish to attain a research focussed PhD in suicide prevention.

Award value

The total Scholarship value is up to \$105,000 over three to five years.

Key dates

Application period	Open 27 January 2020	Close 20 March 2020
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How to apply

Applications can be made via [this link](#).

Selection Criteria

- 1. Proposed Quality and Innovation** **30%**
 - Does the research directly address suicide and its prevention?
 - Is the conceptual/theoretical framework innovative and original?
 - Will the aims, concepts, methods and results advance knowledge?
 - What is the potential for the research to contribute to the agreed [Suicide Prevention Research Fund priorities](#)?
- 2. Feasibility** **20%**
 - Do the project's design, leadership and budget provide confidence in the timely and successful completion of the research?
 - Demonstrated ability of the Administering Institution to provide a supportive research environment including existing relevant research program(s) and infrastructure
 - Provision of adequate academic, senior-level supervision of the researcher and associated research
 - Where a Partner Organisation is involved, clear evidence of the support by the Partner Organisation to the research, will be required
- 3. Benefit and Collaboration** **30%**
 - Will the completed project produce significant new knowledge and/or innovative social and/or cultural benefit to the Australian community?
 - To what extent will the applicant build collaborations across research organisations and/or with other disciplines?
 - Will the proposed research be cost-effective and value for money?
- 4. Applicant** **20%**
 - Evidence of past academic performance
 - Time and capacity to undertake the proposed research

Review panel

The Review panel consists of experienced researchers, those with lived experience and service provision expertise who assist at various stages of assessment of the grant applications and are appointed through the [Research Advisory Committee](#).

Application Process

Stage	Actions
1	Applications submitted to Suicide Prevention Australia (by closing date)
2	Applications assessed by Reviewers using a standardised process
3	Assessed applications shortlisted by Reviewers using a standardised process
4	Shortlisted applications considered by Research Advisory Committee for recommendation to Suicide Prevention Australia Board
5	Suicide Prevention Australia Board considers final recommendations

Feedback/Appeals Process

The decision of the Board is final and any appeals about the merits of a decision will only be considered in terms of whether due process was followed. Complaints about administrative process must be made in writing, signed by the complainant, and addressed to the Chair, Research Advisory Committee, specifying the nature of and grounds for the complaint.

Funding requirements

Commencement

The funding commencement date for scholarship recipients must occur within 3 months of execution of funding agreement.

Duration

The funding is for a three year full-time equivalent position with provision for up to five years for career disruption.

Career disruption

A career disruption is defined as a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work due to pregnancy, major illness/injury and/or carer responsibilities.

An applicant is able to provide a brief explanation of any career disruptions that may be relevant to their most recent five-year research career history. This will ensure that their track record, and the scientific quality and significance and/or innovativeness of the application, are assessed objectively taking all relevant factors into account.

The Scholarship is a three year full-time equivalent position. In the case of career disruption, Suicide Prevention Australia allows for five years to accommodate flexible working arrangements. This would require prior agreement with Suicide Prevention Australia.

Limits on proposals

The Scholarship is for those not currently funded in a Scholarship or about to commence a Scholarship.

Applicant requirements

Institutional support

Institutions listed by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as Administering Institutions are eligible to participate in this scheme.

Applications must be submitted to Suicide Prevention Australia by the due date. Prior to submitting the application the applicant should advise the Administering Institution's Research Grants Office of their intent to apply and ensure that they follow the requirements of the Administering Institution.

Partner Organisation

Applicants for this grant may wish to partner with an Organisation for the duration of the research project. In this instance, details should be provided in the application form.

Researchers working in, or alongside, Organisations are eligible to participate when collaborating with Administering Institutions.

Researcher eligibility

PhD Scholarships are open to Australian graduate researchers undertaking research related to any aspect across the spectrum of suicide prevention.

Applications can be made by those currently engaged in Bachelor Honors or Masters by Research who intend to enrol in a PhD.

To be eligible for funding, successful applicants must be enrolled at their chosen Administering Institution. Those with pending applications are eligible, however successful enrollment is a condition of funding being awarded.

Applicants must notify Suicide Prevention Australia of the outcome of current studies and as soon as enrollment in a PhD is confirmed. Applicants are advised to speak with the Research Grants Office at their Administering Institution about the Institution's enrollment process.

The recipient must be based at the Administering Institution for the duration of the PhD Scholarship period.

The research must be conducted in Australia for the benefit of Australians. If the applicant is not an Australian citizen they are required to obtain a legal right to work and reside in Australia prior to the commencement of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

Incorporating Lived Experience

Applications for funding through the Suicide Prevention Research Fund seeks the incorporation of lived experience and as a result the inclusion of new knowledge that is co-created with lived experience.

Information is provided to assist the applicant with this process and can be found [here](#).

Different projects have different needs and as such assessment for this section is overall and not for the most number selected.

Primary Area of Research

Applicants are required to indicate the primary area which their research will focus upon. The categories have been developed in reference to the World Health Organisation report - Preventing suicide: A global imperative, 2014¹ and Public Health Models.

Resumes

The applicant's resume and resumes on behalf of supervisor(s) must be submitted at the time of application as per the template provided.

References

One written reference for the applicant must be submitted at the time of application, and may include:

- The current position of the referee;
- How the referee knows the applicant and for how long;
- How the applicant is qualified to work on the project and their contribution;
- Personal characteristics and specific skills of the applicant;
- Any additional information the referee believes to be relevant.

Ethics approvals

Applicants should be aware of any ethics approvals required for the commencement of their research.

Consent to provide information to International Assessors

In some situations, applications may be provided to overseas assessors for peer review.

In the case under Commonwealth privacy laws, Suicide Prevention Australia will require permission from the applicant to disclose any information contained in the application.

Grant conditions**Funding agreement**

The successful applicant's Administering Institution will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Suicide Prevention Australia.

The funding agreement will be prepared by Suicide Prevention Australia and is not open to negotiation.

Research reporting

Grant recipients will be required to provide Suicide Prevention Australia with progress reports and a final report on the research and the findings, as agreed.

Communication and promotion

By submitting an application, consent is being given for contact for (but not limited to) operational feedback, public relations opportunities (such as commentary and interviews) and for inclusion on websites, social media, media releases and mentions in Ministerial announcements.

Communication of the findings of the research through conferences, forums and communication with Suicide Prevention Australia Members will be expected (as appropriate).

¹ https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/131056/9789241564779_eng.pdf

Wherever possible, academic journal publications of the research should be on an open access basis.

Availability of recipients for future peer reviewer opportunities

By submitting an application consent is being given to being contacted for future peer review opportunities.

Support from Administering Institution

The application should include a Letter of Support from the researcher's Academic Supervisor. This is a minimum requirement. Applicants are also able to include a letter from Head of School or Department.

The Letter of Support should include:

1. The supportive elements of the research environment provided by the Administering Institution;
2. Knowledge of the researcher and their academic record;
3. Assessment of the viability of the research proposal;
4. Commitment to providing support to the researcher and their research.

Involvement of Partner Organisation(s)

The application should include a Letter of Involvement if there will be a partnership with an Organisation(s) for the duration of the research project. This should be signed by the Chief Executive Officer or relevant Director of the Organisation.

The Letter of Involvement should include:

1. Support for the research project, timelines and proposed involvement;
2. Commitment to providing support to the Lead Investigator and their research project;
3. A summary of the Organisations's purpose, strategic goals, activities, organisational structure and key financials.

Enquiries

If you have enquiries regarding the research grant program please contact Suicide Prevention Australia on +61 (2) 9262 1130 or email sprf@suicidepreventionaust.org