

Avant
Doctor in Training
Research Scholarship
Program 2018

Terms and conditions

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Prior to award of scholarships and grants

The Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program 2018 is a scholarship program run by Avant Mutual Group Limited ("Avant") offering 19 research scholarships ("Avant Scholarships") under two research categories.

If there are insufficient numbers or quality of applications for a particular scholarship category, type or research area, Avant reserves the right to vary the number, type and research area of scholarship recipients, and the number of scholarships granted in each category.

Advancement of medicine category

Advancement of medicine incorporates any research which contributes to developing improved health and medical practices throughout Australia. Examples include but are not limited to: diagnostics, drug therapies, biological processes, quality of life and health promotions.

On offer are:

- Four full-time \$50,000 scholarships, consisting of two for emerging researchers and two for experienced researchers
- Three part-time \$25,000 scholarships, consisting of two for emerging researchers and one for experienced researchers
- Four \$12,500 grants, one each allocated to four broad research areas:
 - surgery and anaesthesia (including obstetrics and gynaecology)
 - medicine (including paediatrics, radiology and pathology)
 - general practice, community, rural and remote medicine
 - mental health

Quality in medicine category

Quality care is defined by the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care, First National Report on Patient Safety (2001) as "the extent to which a healthcare service or product produces a desired outcome". Projects designed to improve quality should focus on the continuous improvement of all processes and the products and services that are the outcomes of those processes and that are consistent with patient centred care.

On offer are:

- Two part-time \$25,000 scholarships
- Six \$12,500 grants, allocated as follows:
 - Three for doctors in training PGY3 and above
 - Two for intern/RMO level
 - One specifically allocated for doctor's wellbeing

Definitions

Emerging researcher – minimal previous published work (three or less published papers), minimal previous presentations (three or less presentations) and no previous funding for research.

Experienced researcher – previous published work (more than three published papers) and minimum of two papers as 1st author. Previous presentations (three or more presentations) and may have previous funding for research.

Grant – financial assistance to support short-term periods of research. Research is expected to be less than 12 months with a maximum period of 12 months.

Eligibility

The Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program is available to interns, resident medical officers and doctors in training, to assist in meeting the costs of approved research training programs.

To apply for and be awarded a research scholarship or grant you must:

- hold (at the time of application and throughout the period of the scholarship) a professional indemnity insurance policy with Avant Insurance Limited under the "Intern", "Resident Medical Officer" or "Doctor in Training" Category of Practice
- be an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of Australia (applicants do not have to be based in Australia to apply, however, if successful, it is expected that applicants will be based in Australia for the majority of the scholarship period and that the majority of the research be conducted in Australia)
- be a medical practitioner registered with the Medical Board of Australia
- be enrolled in a:
 - specialist research training program recognised and approved by the relevant Australian/Australasian college and accredited by the Australian Medical Council (Specialist in Training) or
 - research program with a recognised academic institution working towards a post-graduate degree such as a masters or PhD or
 - formal research program with at least one appropriately qualified research supervisors, with the research project commencing on or before Friday 30th March 2018
- be either:
 - pre-fellowship (post-fellowship research is ineligible), that is, have not yet received a college fellowship and remain in a general category according to AHPRA; or

- have completed an overseas fellowship and on an Australian fellowship pathway, with the period remaining in their fellowship pathway greater than the length of the scholarship or grant period (i.e. 12 months).
- Be the primary researcher, meaning the project leader with responsibility for the design, execution and management of the research project. If the research project involves co-authors you must confirm with your co-authors that they have consented to you being the primary researcher. Scholarships are awarded on an individual basis and co-authors are not eligible to receive any part of the scholarship.

Previous Avant scholarship or grant recipients are only eligible to apply if the previous scholarship period is complete and they are:

- Applying for a scholarship or grant for a different research area, or
- Applying for a scholarship or grant for the same research area if
 - i) They were previously awarded a grant and are now applying for a full time or part time scholarship, or
 - ii) They were previously awarded a part-time scholarship and are now applying for a full-time scholarship

Where applicable, research must have ethics committee approval (see 'Evidence of approvals' on the next page). Directors, management and employees of Avant and its associated entities and committees, and their immediate families are ineligible to apply.

Application period

Applications open at 12pm (AEDST) on Thursday 1 February 2018, and close at 5pm (AEST) on Thursday 31 May 2018 ("application period"). Applications received after the close of the application period will not be considered.

How to apply

To apply for an Avant scholarship or grant you must complete the application form and submit it during the application period, along with any additional information requested by Avant, via the online application portal (avant.org.au/scholarships).

Applicants must specify the category for which they are applying. Applicants must also specify if they are applying for a full-time scholarship, part-time scholarship or grant. If applying for a grant, applicants must select their area of research. Applicants cannot apply for more than one scholarship category, type or, if applicable, research area.

Applications will only be accepted when all supporting documentation is complete and attached. Avant will not include incomplete applications in the review process.

Changes in research prior to award of scholarships and grants

If, prior to award of scholarships and grants, there is a substantive change to the research timeline that would require the scholarship period to be extended, the applicant must immediately notify Avant in writing, qualifying the reasons for the additional time needed.

Similarly, there is a substantive change to the research scope the applicant must immediately notify the proposed change to Avant in writing.

Assessment of applications

The following weighting will be applied when assessing the Application Form:

Avant Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on the information in the application form and where considered necessary, interview. Avant reserves the right to request verification of information provided by the applicant.

Personal information and curriculum vitae consisting of:	35%
Higher degree	5%
Esteem	15%
Previous project/research outputs	15%
Research consisting of:	50%
Project/research plan and design	20%
Significance and expected outcomes	20%
Relative importance	10%
Supervisor	15%

Avant reserves the right to:

- award the Avant scholarships and grants in its absolute discretion
- decrease the number of Avant scholarships or grants which may be awarded, or determine that no Avant scholarships or grants will be awarded
- increase or decrease the funding allocated to a research category
- increase or decrease the funding allocated to a scholarship type (full-time, part-time, grant) under a research category
- increase or decrease the number of research areas for which grants will be awarded under the "Advancement in medicine" category.

If an application is not selected for award under the scholarship type and, where applicable, research area, selected by the applicant, Avant may at its absolute discretion choose to consider the research project for a different scholarship type or research area under the same category.

Notification of scholarships and grants

Avant scholarship and grant recipients will be notified by telephone by mid-September 2018, with written confirmation by email by end of September 2018.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by email by end of September 2018. Unfortunately, beyond notification of outcome, we cannot provide feedback on individual applications.

Conditions for successful recipients

Scholarship period

For full-time and part-time scholarships the expectation is that the scholarship period will be 12 months from the date of commencement as specified by the applicant in their application. Under exceptional circumstances, Avant may, at its discretion, extend the scholarship period to a maximum of two years.

For grants the expectation is that the scholarship period will be 1-12 months from the date of commencement as specified by the applicant in their application. Under exceptional circumstances, Avant may, at its discretion, extend the scholarship period to a maximum of two years.

Avant Scholarship Agreement

Before receiving the scholarship, Avant Scholarship recipients will be required to execute a Scholarship Agreement, in the form required by Avant.

Employment restrictions

Full-time scholarships must be conducted on a full-time basis – the scholarship recipient should not be in other paid employment.

Part-time scholarships – the scholarship recipient should not be in paid employment of more than 0.6 full-time equivalent.

Grants do not carry any employment restriction.

Evidence of approvals

Within 14 days of notification of being a successful applicant Avant must receive documentary evidence confirming that the proposed research meets one or more of the following organisations' requirements:

- National Health & Medical Research Council's National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research
- Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes
- Institutional Bio-Safety Committees approval on the genetic manipulation of organisms or the use of radioactive/ carcinogenic toxic chemicals.

Where applicable, evidence of ethics committee approval must also be supplied. Ethics approval must be secured within 6 months of award of scholarship or grant and the scholarship period cannot commence until approval is supplied.

In the case where ethics approval is not required, Avant must receive documentary evidence confirming that the proposed research does not require ethics approval as outlined in the NHMRC guidelines, Ethical Considerations in Quality Assurance and Evaluation Activities.

Receipt of other grants or scholarships

Avant must receive information on existing research grants awarded.

If any other grants or scholarships are received during the scholarship period, Avant must be notified within one month.

Payment of Avant scholarships and grants

To be eligible for payment, Avant scholarship and grant recipients must undertake the research project as approved by Avant, and within the scholarship period approved by Avant, for the purposes of the award.

Full-time and part-time scholarships will be paid in three instalments (50% upon commencement, 25% midway through the scholarship period and 25% upon completion).

Grants will be paid in two instalments (50% upon commencement, 50% upon completion).

Payments are subject to satisfactory progress, and continued compliance with these terms and conditions, including the reporting milestone requirements that are mutually agreed by the recipient and Avant. Satisfactory progress is defined as having adhered to the research timeline provided in the recipient's application.

Payments will be made by direct deposit into the recipient's nominated Australian bank account. To facilitate this payment, recipients will be required to supply their nominated bank account details and to confirm their research start date by end of September 2018.

Payments can only be made to a third party such as a research institute or university when written authorisation is provided by the successful recipient.

Repayment of Avant scholarships or grants

Scholarship or grant funds must be repaid in full within four (4) weeks if the recipient:

- receives payment made in error or an overpayment
- was ineligible to apply for the scholarship or grant
- received an offer of a scholarship or grant in error
- is found guilty of professional misconduct by the Medical Board of Australia
- is subject to disciplinary procedures with their university
- causes reputational harm to Avant in any form
- breaches any of the terms and conditions stated herein or otherwise advised by Avant.

The award of a scholarship or grant is based on information provided by the applicant to Avant. A scholarship or grant may be withdrawn at any stage if incorrect information was provided or relevant information was withheld during the application process. If any part of an application is found to have been made fraudulently, immediate and full repayment will be required.

Avant scholarship and grant recipients must hold a professional indemnity insurance policy with Avant Insurance Limited under the "Intern", "Resident Medical Officer" or "Doctor in Training" Category of Practice. If a recipient fails to hold a policy at any time throughout the scholarship period, Avant may require the recipient to immediately repay all amounts already received. Recipients must immediately comply with such a request, and will also be ineligible to receive any further payments.

Changes in timeline or scope

Timeline

If there is a substantive change to the research timeline that would require the scholarship period to be extended, the applicant must immediately notify Avant in writing, qualifying the reasons for the additional time needed and seeking written approval to extend the scholarship period.

Avant may, at its sole discretion, elect to continue to pay scholarship instalments or cease to fund the remainder of the scholarship. If the recipient fails to notify Avant of a substantive change in the research timeline, Avant may require the recipient to repay the scholarship in full.

Scope

If there is a substantive change to the research scope during the scholarship period, the recipient must immediately report the proposed change to Avant in writing. Avant may, at its sole discretion, elect to continue to pay scholarship instalments, or cease to fund the remainder of the scholarship.

If the recipient fails to notify Avant of a substantive change in the research scope, Avant may require the recipient to repay the scholarship in full.

Reporting requirements

Avant scholarship and grant recipients must provide formal progress reports every six months, or as otherwise determined by Avant throughout the scholarship period, in the form required by Avant. These must be accompanied by a statement of progress from the research supervisor.

Request for extensions to the scholarship period must be formally made in the form required by Avant. Where the scholarship period is extended, Avant, at its absolute discretion, may request additional reports.

Recipients will take all action required to enable Avant to publish these reports, or extracts from them, in any Avant materials or publications (including on the Avant website).

Promotion and media

Scholarship recipients will, if required, work with Avant's editorial team so as to enable Avant to publish the results or progress of their research in nominated peer reviewed journals or magazines in Australia.

All reports, articles, publications, relevant correspondence, and materials relating to the research and/or findings pertaining to the subject of the funded research must state prominently that the work has been supported by an Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship.

Upon request, Avant scholarship or grant recipients must present their findings at an Avant event.

If a recipient wishes to submit an article for publication reporting on the research and/or findings of their research, Avant must receive a copy of the final manuscript before publication.

Avant scholarship and grant recipients agree, at Avant's request, to participate in any and all promotional activity (such as publicity and photography), and consent to Avant using their name, likeness, image and/or voice (including photograph, film and/or recording of the same) in any media for an unlimited period without remuneration for the purpose of promoting the Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program now or in the future and for promoting any products and services issued and/or supplied by Avant and its related bodies corporate.

Intellectual property

Avant acknowledges that intellectual property resulting from funded research may belong to the administering institution. If the intellectual property resulting from the scholarship or grant does not belong to the administering institution, it will be the joint property of Avant and the recipient.

If the intellectual property does belong to the administering institution recipients must:

- notify Avant of any patentable discoveries, inventions, processes or improvements arising from the research
- disclose any revenue derived from any commercial exploitation of material or results arising from the research
- acknowledge Avant in all commercial activities arising from the use of material or results arising from the research.

Privacy

Applications remain the property of Avant. Details from applications may be collected and used for the purposes of conducting the Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program (which may include disclosure to third parties for assessment and verification purposes) and, in the case of recipients, for the purposes of promotion of the Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program and similar Avant programs in subsequent years.

By submitting an application, applicants consent to the use of their information as described. Applicants may access, change, and/or update their personal information by contacting Avant on **1800 128 268**. Applicants may obtain a copy of Avant's privacy policy from avant.org.au/Privacy-Policy.

Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program 2018

Supporting you in making a difference

Apply today at
avant.org.au/scholarships

 1800 128 268  scholarship@avant.org.au

Applications close 5pm (AEST) Thursday 31 May 2018

IMPORTANT: Professional indemnity insurance products are issued by Avant Insurance Limited, ABN 82 003 707 471, AFSL 238 765. The information provided here is general advice only. You should consider the appropriateness of the advice having regard to your own objectives, financial situation and needs before deciding to purchase or continuing to hold a policy with us. For full details including the terms, conditions, and exclusions that apply, please read and consider the policy wording and PDS, which is available at avant.org.au or by contacting us on 1800 128 268. 2247.1 12/17 (0978-2)