



Avant Early Career Research Program 2023 Information pack



Dr Tess Evans
Intensive Care
Trainee Registrar
and 2022 recipient

Supporting
you in *making*
a difference.

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About the program

Now in its 12th year, the Avant Early Career Research Program (formerly known as the Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program) has supported life-changing research to promote better patient outcomes and advance the careers of some of Australia's promising medical researchers.

Started in response to the difficulties early career doctors face in securing research funding, the program has so far awarded 176 scholarships worth over \$4.3 million. These scholarships have supported research across a wide range of topics, including organ transplantation, epidemiology, hepatology, oncology, obstetrics, cardiology and general surgery.

The program aims to inspire confidence and empower early career researchers by providing support through research funding, coaching and skills development and to be the leading research partner in Australia for early career doctors.

In 2023, Avant will offer up to \$450,000 in funding across a total of 29 different grants designed to support early career doctors at different stages of their research careers.



Full-time grants

Full-time grants (\$50,000) must be conducted on a full-time basis, usually over a 12-month period.



Part-time grants

Part-time grants (\$25,000), usually conducted over a 12-month period.



Short-term grants

Short-term grants providing financial assistance (\$12,500) for short-term research projects.



Microgrants

Small grants (\$5,000) to support pre-clinical trial work such as a literature or systematic review or a small pilot piece of research to test a concept. Microgrant recipients will also receive coaching from previous Avant grant recipients.



Skills Development courses

These courses aim to provide the skill sets essential to evaluating evidence, understanding biostatistics, and beginning clinical research careers.

Key dates

All grants	
Applications open	12pm (AEDT) on Wednesday 1 March 2023
Applications close	11.59pm (AEST) on Wednesday 7 June 2023
Review of applications	June - September 2023
Applicants of microgrants and skills development grants notified of outcomes	August 2023
Applicants of part-time, full-time and short-term grants notified of outcomes	September 2023



Dr Al-Rahim Habib
2021 grant recipient

Award categories

Award categories		
Category		
Research Grants	Full-time grants	Pre-vocational Pre-vocational doctors at any career stage who are not enrolled in a specialty training program
	Part-time grants	Accredited trainees Trainees who are currently enrolled in an accredited specialty training program with an Australian college
	Short-term grants	Pre-vocational Pre-vocational doctors at any career stage who are not enrolled in a specialty training program
	Microgrant	Accredited trainees Trainees who are currently enrolled in an accredited specialty training program with an Australian college
	One-on-one research-based coaching	Coaching forms part of the microgrant award and is only available in conjunction with the microgrant
Skills Development Program	Access to online medical statistics skills course	Access subject to application (up to 25 available)
Fields	Advancement of medicine	Research which contributes to developing improved health and medical practices e.g. diagnostics, drug therapies, biological processes, quality of life and health promotions
	Quality, safety and professionalism in medicine	Projects designed to improve quality in healthcare that must be site specific (i.e. ward or clinic) and relate to a domain of quality, or related to medical professionalism
	Social research in medicine	Research that focuses on social factors relating to medicine and that contributes specifically to policy or practice at a local, national or global level
	Technology in medicine	Research specifically into technologies that can transform healthcare diagnosis, prevention, treatment or management
Criteria		<i>Full-time grants</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be working full-time in a clinical capacity • Can do locum or shift work • Can do teaching or tutoring
		<i>Part-time, Short-term, Microgrant and Skills development courses</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No work restriction

Who can apply?

Applicants for research grants must be:

- an Avant member with one of the following professional indemnity insurance policies with Avant Insurance Limited:
 - Intern
 - Resident Medical Officer
 - Doctor in Training
- an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of Australia
- registered with the Medical Board of Australia
- enrolled in:
 - a specialist research training program recognised and approved by a relevant Australian/Australasian college and accredited by the Australian Medical Council (specialist in training), or
 - a research program with a recognised academic institution working towards a post-graduate degree such as a masters or PhD, or

- a formal research program with at least one appropriately qualified research supervisor, with research commencing on or before 31 March 2024.

Applicants for skills development courses only need to be an Avant member.

For all eligibility requirements, see the terms and conditions at avantdifference.org.au/early-career-research-program

Non-members

Non-members are not eligible for this program but if you join Avant before the application close date, you will be immediately eligible. Check which category is best for you and join online at avant.org.au/join. Once your membership is confirmed you can then complete a grant application.

Application process

Applications must be made through the online form at avantdifference.org.au/early-career-research-program

Please ensure the information provided is detailed and complete. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Selection is based on the following information:

- personal details
- education
- previous work experience
- past research
- research project
- research team and supervisor
- adherence to specific project evaluation criteria (eg social impact and technology).

You will need to indicate your research category and type, and whether you are applying for a grant or skills development course. There is a word limit for each section.



Dr Kevin Jang
Radiation Oncology
Advanced Trainee
and 2022 Early Career
Research Program
grant recipient

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The Avant Early Career Research awards have been vital for my growth as a clinician and an individual, as they have allowed me to just focus on research. Avant has provided me with support, expertise and mentorship, and I love that the Early Career Research Program helps translate research from benchtop to bedside. It reminds you of the true purpose of clinical research, to impact the lives of the communities we serve!”

Dr Vinayak Smith, judging panel member
and recipient of an Early Career Research
Program Award



Further information

Judging

An independent panel of leading medical practitioners will review all the information provided on your application form. An interview may also be requested.

The criteria for evaluation varies based on the type of award but generally considers your personal information and curriculum vitae including previous research outputs, leadership experience, the research team in which you are working and the proposed research itself, including the experimental design, its significance, expected outcomes and translatability.

View the full evaluation criteria for the different awards at avantdifference.org.au/early-career-research-program

Successful recipients for the Microgrants and Skills Development courses will be advised via phone in August 2023, followed by written confirmation.

Successful recipients for the full-time, part-time and short-term grants will be advised via phone in October 2023, followed by written confirmation.

Presentation dinner

All grant recipients will be invited to attend a presentation dinner and should agree to be photographed and be included in articles for marketing and promotional purposes.

Payment of awards

All grant recipients will be expected to comply with the terms and conditions of the program, which set out what you need to do to receive payments. You can read them online at avantdifference.org.au/early-career-research-program

Payment of full and part-time grants may be made in three instalments, subject to satisfactory progress:

- first instalment of 50% paid on commencement of the research
- second instalment of 25% paid midway through the research
- third instalment of 25% paid on completion of the research.

Payment of short-term and microgrants will be in two instalments, subject to satisfactory progress:

- first instalment of 50% paid on commencement of the research
- second instalment of 50% paid on completion of the research.

Enrolment fees for the skills development courses will be paid directly to the course provider.

All grants close at 11.59pm (AEST)
on Wednesday 7 June 2023

For full details, see the terms and conditions at
avantdifference.org.au/early-career-research-program



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To be awarded this competitive, independent, national research grant from Avant is really the highest praise for my project. As the project's Principal Investigator and an early career researcher, I am bursting with gratitude.

On a practical level, it delivers a sample size of suitable power for my research questions and simultaneously moves my project on to bigger and better things.

Dr Tess Evans

Intensive Care Trainee Registrar and 2022 recipient



Avant Early Career Research Program 2023

Supporting you in making a difference

Apply today at avantdifference.org.au/early-career-research-program
Refer to page 5 for application deadlines



avantdifference.org.au/early-career-research-program
avantgrants@avant.org.au
1800 128 268

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