

Avant *Early Career Research Program*

2022

Terms and Conditions



Terms and Conditions

The Avant Early Career Research Program 2022, is a program run by Avant offering 29 research based awards, including research grants ("grants"), research coaching (as part of the microgrant) and access to skills development courses ("skills development program") (together, the "awards").

If there are insufficient numbers or quality of applications for a particular award, grant category, grant type or research area, Avant reserves the right to vary the number, grant type and research area of grant recipients, and/or the number of grants awarded in each category.

In 2022, the structure for grants is based on career stage and includes two categories:

1. Accredited trainee category

To be eligible you must hold an accredited training position with one of the Australian specialty colleges.

There will be:

- 2 x full time grants – \$50,000 each;
- 4 x part time grants – \$25,000 each;
- 2 x short term grants – \$12,500 each; and
- 5 x microgrants – \$5,000 each.

2. Pre-vocational category

To be eligible you must be an intern, resident medical officer or early career researcher who does not hold an accredited training position with one of the specialty colleges.

There will be:

- 1 x full time grants– \$50,000 each;
- 3 x part time grants– \$25,000 each;
- 2 x short term grants – \$12,500 each; and
- 10 x microgrants – \$5,000 each.

Eligibility

The Avant Early Career Research 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 grant you must:

- hold (at the time of application and throughout the period of the award) 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 award period and that the majority of the research will 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 a 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 supervisor, with the research project commencing on or before Friday 31 March 2023;
- be either:
 - pre-fellowship, that is, have not yet received a college fellowship and remain in a general category according to AHPRA; or
 - a fellow of an overseas medical college and on an Australian fellowship pathway, with the period remaining in your fellowship pathway greater than the length of the scholarship or grant period (i.e. 12 months); and
- 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. Grants are awarded on an individual basis and co-authors are not eligible to receive any part of the grant.

Previous Avant scholarship or grant recipients are only eligible to apply if their previous scholarship or grant has been completed and they are:

- applying for a grant in a different research area; or
- applying for a grant for the same research area if it is of higher value than the previous one awarded.

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 periods

For full time, part time and short term grants, applications open at 12pm (AEST) on Monday 2 May 2022 and close at midnight (AEST) on Tuesday 2 August 2022 (application period). Applications for these categories received after the close of the application period will not be considered.

For microgrants and skills development courses, applications open at 12pm (AEDT) on Monday 2 May 2022 and close at midnight (AEST) on Monday 4 July 2022 (application period). Applications for these categories received after the close of the application period will not be considered.

How to apply

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

Applicants must specify the category and grant type for which they are applying. Applicants cannot apply for more than one grant type or research area.

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

Changes in research prior to award of grants

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

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

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

Evaluation is based on the following information:

- personal details
- education
- previous work experience
- past research
- research project
- research team and supervisor.

Avant reserves the right to:

- award grants at its absolute discretion;
- decrease the number of grants which may be awarded, or determine that no grants will be awarded;
- increase or decrease the funding allocated to a research category; and
- increase or decrease the funding allocated to a grant type (full time, part time, short term grant) under a research category.

If an application is not selected for award under the grant 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 awards

The evaluation process for full time, part time and short term grants consists of two stages. Applicants in these categories whose submission does not proceed to the second stage will be notified in September 2022. Applicants whose submission does proceed to the second stage will be asked to submit a short video recording to support their application.

Successful applicants in these categories will be notified by telephone by mid November 2022. Successful applicants for microgrants and the skills development courses will be notified in July 2022.

All remaining, unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by email by the end of November 2022. Unfortunately, beyond notification of outcome, we cannot provide feedback on individual applications.

Conditions for successful recipients

Grant period

For full time and part time grants, the expectation is that the grant 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 sole discretion, extend the grant period to a maximum of two years.

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

For microgrants, the expectation is that the grant period will be one to six months from the date of commencement as specified by the applicant in their application. Under exceptional circumstances, Avant may, at its sole discretion, extend the microgrant period to a maximum of one year.

For the skills development program the expectation is that the enrollment period will be no more than 12 months from the date of commencement as specified by Avant.

Funding Agreement

Before receiving the grant, all grant recipients will be required to execute a Funding Agreement, in a form determined by Avant.

Employment restrictions

Full time grants – the recipient will not be able to work full time while undertaking their research. They will be allowed to do locum clinical work (such as emergency department shifts) or tutoring/teaching.

For all other awards there are no work restrictions.

Evidence of approvals

Where applicable, evidence of ethics committee approval must be supplied. Ethics approval must be secured within six months of award of grant and the grant 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 National Health and Medical Research Guidelines, Ethical Considerations in Quality Assurance and Evaluation Activities.

Receipt of other grants or scholarships

Avant must receive information on existing research grants awarded to the grant recipient.

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

Payment of Avant grants

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

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

All other 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 the end of February 2023.

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. Should the research institute or university invoice Avant there is no GST component applicable.

Repayment of Avant scholarships or grants

Awards must be repaid in full within four weeks of being notified if the grant recipient:

- receives payment made in error or an overpayment;
- was ineligible to apply for the grant;
- received an offer of a 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;
- abandons or fails to complete their research within a two-year period commencing on the date the grant is first awarded, unless there is pre-arranged approval to extend beyond that timeframe; or
- breaches any of the terms and conditions stated herein or otherwise advised by Avant.

The award of a grant is based on information provided by the applicant to Avant. An award 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.

Grant recipients must hold a professional indemnity insurance policy with Avant Insurance Limited under the Practitioner, 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 grant period to be extended, the recipient must immediately notify Avant in writing, qualifying the reasons for the additional time needed and seeking written approval to extend the grant period.

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

Scope

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

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

Reporting requirements

Grant recipients must provide formal progress reports every six months, or as otherwise determined by Avant throughout the grant 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 grant period must be formally made in the form required by Avant. Where the grant period is extended, Avant, at its sole 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

Recipients will, if required, work with Avant's editorial team to enable Avant to publish the results or progress of their research in relevant publications 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 prominently state that the work has been supported by the Avant Early Career Research Program.

Upon request, recipients must present their findings at a 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.

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 Early Career Research Program now or in the future.

Intellectual property

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

If the intellectual property does belong to the administering institution, grant 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; and
- 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 Early Career Research 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 Early Career Research 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 can obtain a copy of Avant's privacy policy from avant.org.au/Privacy-Policy

Avant Early Career Research Scholarship Program 2022

Supporting you in making a difference

Apply today at avant.org.au/scholarships

Applications close midnight (AEST) Tuesday 2 August 2022



avant.org.au/scholarships
scholarship@avant.org.au
1800 128 268

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 Product Disclosure Statement, which is available at avant.org.au or by contacting us on 1800 128 268. MJN-916 06/22 (DT-2360)