

Avant *Early Career Research Program*

2023

Terms and Conditions



Terms and Conditions

The Avant Early Career Research Program 2023, is a program run by Avant offering 29 research based Awards, including research grants, research coaching and skills development courses.

If there are insufficient numbers or quality of applications for a particular Award, Avant reserves the right to vary the number of award recipients, and/or the number of awards granted in each category.

In 2023, the structure for awards 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;

Please note, for full-time, part-time and short-term grants, if you have previously received and completed a microgrant, you will receive a 10% increase to your score for "Previous project outputs and supervision" in the Advancement of Medicine, Quality in Medicine and Social Impact in Medicine categories or the "Personal and team experience and supervision" element in the Technology in Medicine evaluation criteria.

- 5 x microgrants - \$5,000 each. Each microgrant is offered alongside a compulsory coaching and professional development program over approximately four months;
- 25 x skills development courses - The Medical Statistics Program with Stanford Online. Applicants must agree to having their name and email address provided to Stanford Online for enrollment.

2. Pre-vocational category

To be eligible you must be an early career researcher who does not hold an accredited training position with one of the specialty Colleges and who has not previously completed specialty training.

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;

Please note, for full-time, part-time and short-term grants, if you have previously received and completed a microgrant, you will receive a 10% increase to your score for "Previous project outputs and supervision" in the Advancement of Medicine, Quality in Medicine and Social Impact in Medicine categories or the "Personal and team experience and supervision" element in the Technology in Medicine evaluation criteria.

- 10 x microgrants - \$5,000 each. Each microgrant is offered alongside a compulsory coaching and professional development program over approximately four months;
- 25 x skills development courses - The Medical Statistics Program with Stanford Online. Applicants must agree to having their name and email address given to Stanford Online for enrollment.

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 2024;
- 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 or entities at which the researchers are based 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, or employees of Avant or any of its associated entities and committees, or their immediate families are ineligible to apply.

Application periods

For all grants, applications open at 12pm (AEDT) on Wednesday 1 March 2023 and close 11.59pm (AEST) on Wednesday 7 June 2023 (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 (avantdifference.org.au/early-career-research-program).

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.

Selection process

Grant recipients will be selected on the basis of information provided to Avant in the application form and in response to further requests by Avant.

Applicants who are short-listed after submitting their application may be required to submit a video presentation to supplement the information contained in the application. Avant reserves the right to request an interview and verification by the applicant of any information provided in support of the application.

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).

Avant reserves the right to:

- grant awards at its absolute discretion;
- decrease the number of awards which may be granted, or determine that no awards will be granted;
- increase or decrease the funding allocated to a research category; and
- increase or decrease the funding allocated to an award 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, with the applicant's consent and, at its absolute discretion, choose to consider the research project for a different scholarship type or research area under the same category.

Notification of outcomes

The selection 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 August 2023. 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 September 2023. Successful applicants for microgrants and the skills development courses will be notified by August 2023.

All remaining, unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by email by the end of September 2023. 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 Award, all recipients will be required to email their banking details and project dates (if applicable to your Award), execute a Funding conditions, 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 for full-time, part-time, short-term grants and microgrants, 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 from a supervisor, 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 funding

An applicant who has received or applied for funding from another source for the project submitted in their application must notify Avant immediately, either in the application form or, if received or applied for after applying to Avant, by written notice.

After a funding agreement is signed with Avant, the grant recipient must give Avant written notice within one month. This will be a condition of the funding agreement. Avant may, in its discretion, discontinue ongoing funding of the grant recipient's project.

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 of the project, 25% midway through the grant period and 25% upon completion). All other grants will be paid in two instalments (50% upon commencement of the project, 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. For microgrant recipients, satisfactory completion of milestones also includes participation in the coaching program.

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.

Repayment of Awards

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

- receives payment made in error or an overpayment;
- was ineligible to apply for the Award;
- received an offer of an Award in error;
- is found guilty of professional misconduct by the Medical Board of Australia;
- is subject to disciplinary procedures with their university or learning institution;
- by their conduct 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 Award is first granted, unless there is prior written approval to extend beyond the grant period; or
- breaches any of the terms of the funding agreement.

An Award is based on information provided by the applicant to Avant. An Award may be withdrawn by Avant 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, or with an intention to mislead or deceive, 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 at the time of applying for an Award and at all times during the grant period. If a recipient fails to hold a policy at any relevant time, 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 from Avant.

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 may be asked to work with Avant's editorial team 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.

No use of the Avant logo, brand, mark or other intellectual property of Avant will be permitted other than by express written licence. An Award recipient may request such a licence from Avant at any time. Avant may, in its absolute discretion, withhold the grant of such a licence and for any reason.

Upon request, recipients may be required to present their findings at an Avant event.

Recipients agree, at Avant's request, to participate in any 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 recipients institution. If the intellectual property resulting from the Award does not belong to the recipients institution, it will be the joint property of Avant and the grant recipient.

If the intellectual property does belong to the recipients institution, Award 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

By submitting an application, applicants consent to the use of their information as described in accordance with this document and Avant's Privacy Policy. 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

Applications remain the property of Avant. All personal information in the 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.

Avant Early Career Research Program 2023

Supporting you in making a difference

Apply today at avantdifference.org.au/early-career-research-program
Applications close 11.59pm (AEST) on Wednesday 7 June 2023



avantdifference.org.au/early-career-research-program
avantgrants@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-1062 02/23 (DT-2917)