

# **Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program 2021**

Terms and conditions

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## Prior to award of scholarships and grants

The Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program 2021 is a scholarship program run by Avant Mutual Group Limited (Avant) offering 19 research scholarships (Avant Scholarships) under three categories based on career stage.

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.

In 2021, the structure will continue to be based on career stage and include three categories:

### 1. Fellows category

Designed to support new fellows who are completing research as part of a post fellowship sub-specialty training or research year. To be eligible you must be working as a salaried fellow in a fellowship position approved by one of the specialty colleges. You must be in your first year post completing a specialty fellowship. You cannot be working in private practice.

There are 4 x \$12,500 grants available for this group.

### 2. Accredited trainee category

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

There will be:

- 2 x full-time – \$50,000
- 3 x part-time – \$25,000
- 4 x grants – \$12,500 available.

### 3. Pre-vocational category

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

There will be:

- 2 x full-time – \$50,000
- 2 x part-time – \$25,000
- 2 x grants – \$12,500 available.

## Definitions

**Fellows** – First year after completing specialty training.

**Accredited trainees** – Trainees who are currently enrolled in an accredited specialty training program with an Australian College.

**Pre-vocational doctors** – Doctors at any level who are not enrolled in a specialty training program, regardless of their post graduate year level.

## Eligibility

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

## Fellows category

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

- hold an Avant professional indemnity insurance policy in a specialty category of practice however, you must be employed in an accredited research or sub-specialty fellowship role and be conducting post-fellowship research. You must be in your first year post completing your specialty fellowship and be eligible for specialist registration with AHPRA
- 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 will be conducted in Australia)
- be a medical practitioner registered with the Medical Board of Australia
- 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.

## Accredited training program and pre-vocational categories

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 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 Thursday 31 March 2022

- 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 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 their previous scholarship has been completed 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:
  - they were previously awarded a grant and are now applying for a full-time or part-time scholarship, or
  - 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 (AEDT) on Monday 1 March 2021 and close at 5pm (AEST) on Monday 31 May 2021 (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](http://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.

Applicants cannot apply for more than one scholarship category, type or, if applicable, research area.

Applications will only be accepted when any requested 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, if there is a substantive change to the research scope the applicant must immediately notify the proposed change to Avant in writing.

## Assessment of applications

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.

The following weighting will be applied when assessing the application form:

<b>Personal information and curriculum vitae consisting of:</b>		<b>30%</b>
Esteem		15%
Previous project/research outputs		15%
<b>Research consisting of:</b>		<b>60%</b>
Project/research plan and design		20%
Significance and expected outcomes		20%
Relative importance		10%
Translatability of research		10%
<b>Supervisor</b>		<b>10%</b>

Avant reserves the right to:

- award the Avant scholarships and grants at 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, and
- increase or decrease the funding allocated to a scholarship type (full-time, part-time, grant) under a research 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 late September 2021, with written confirmation by email by the end of September 2021.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by email by the end of September 2021. 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 one to 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 a form required by Avant.

### Employment restrictions

Full-time scholarships – the scholarship recipient will not be able to work full-time. They will be allowed to do locum clinical work (such as emergency department shifts) or tutoring/teaching.

Part-time scholarships – there are no work restrictions.

Grants – there are no work restrictions for accredited and pre-vocational recipients.

### Evidence of approvals

Where applicable, evidence of ethics committee approval must be supplied. Ethics approval must be secured within six 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 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.

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 the end of February 2021.

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 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
- abandons or fails to complete their research within a two year period commencing on the date the scholarship or 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 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 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 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 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 prominently state 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, 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 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 can obtain a copy of Avant's privacy policy from [avant.org.au/Privacy-Policy](http://avant.org.au/Privacy-Policy)

# Avant Doctor in Training Research Scholarship Program 2021

Supporting you in making a difference

Apply today at  
**avant.org.au/scholarships**

Applications close 5pm (AEST) Monday 31 May 2021

📞 1800 128 268 ⌐ [avant.org.au/scholarships](http://avant.org.au/scholarships)

✉️ [scholarship@avant.org.au](mailto:scholarship@avant.org.au)

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