

## Leukaemia Foundation PhD Scholarship

The Leukaemia Foundation's PhD Scholarship Program supports the next generation of blood cancer researchers by attracting and retaining talented early career scientists and health professionals at critical stages of their careers. As one of Australia's largest supporters of early career researchers in blood cancer, the Leukaemia Foundation plays a vital role in building research capacity and translating discoveries into meaningful improvements for people living with blood cancer.

### The Scholarship aims to:

- Support talented PhD candidates to undertake high-quality, impactful research that advances the understanding, prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship of blood cancer.
- Help build national research capacity by developing a strong pipeline of skilled scientists, clinician-researchers, and allied health researchers equipped to address current and emerging challenges in blood cancer care.
- Foster long-term careers in blood cancer research by providing dedicated funding, mentorship, and training at critical early stages of professional development.
- Enable innovative, priority-driven projects aligned with the Leukaemia Foundation's research priority areas.

### Eligibility

#### Projects must:

- Align with at least one of Leukaemia Foundation's strategic investment priority areas:
  - Implementation Science
  - Prevention, early detection, and diagnostics
  - Therapies and treatment
- Demonstrate potential for meaningful impact, including benefits to patients, health services, or the broader blood cancer research community.
- Be achievable within the scholarship funding period and clearly outline milestones, outputs, and expected outcomes.
- Include appropriate consumer or stakeholder involvement
- Comply with all institutional ethics, governance, and regulatory requirements.

#### Applicants must:

- Be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia
- Be able to begin their PhD mid 2026 or early 2027 at an eligible Australian university or research institute, thereby fulfilling admission criteria of the eligible institution
- Be supported by a suitably qualified primary supervisor and supervisory team with demonstrated expertise
- Be able to commit the required time to the PhD project (full-time).

*Applicants with a background in health and medical science, clinical care, pharmacy, nursing, allied health, and public health are encouraged to apply.*

## Applications

Applications are required to include:

- Applicant and project details
- Summary of proposed project
- Statement of how the proposed research project directly aligns with Leukaemia Foundation research priorities
- Research proposal – including project timeline and budget
- Applicant curriculum vitae (CV)
- Written reference from a referee
- Letter of support from primary supervisor to confirm laboratory/research support for proposed project
- Primary research supervisor CV

An application form is available to download from the relevant grant opportunity webpage on the [Leukaemia Foundation website](#).

## Submitting an application

Applications must be submitted using the Leukaemia Foundation PhD Scholarship form and emailed to [research@leukaemia.org.au](mailto:research@leukaemia.org.au) before the closing deadline. The subject line of the email should clearly state the PhD Scholarship round and applicant name (e.g. PhD Scholarship 2026 application\_Name of the applicant). Application open and closing dates are published on the [Leukaemia Foundation website](#).

## Assessment Process

Proposals will firstly be reviewed for eligibility by the Leukaemia Foundation and then assessed by an external expert review panel who will score proposals against the selection criteria. Final funding decisions are made by the Leukaemia Foundation Board.

### Scoring Criteria

For health and medical science focussed research, projects will be scored against the following criteria:

- Project merit and research environment
- Research significance and relevance to Leukaemia Foundation priorities
- Track record relative to opportunity

For implementation science focussed research, project selection criteria are largely based on the INSPECT framework (ImplemeNtation and Improvement Science Proposals Evaluation CriTeria) which includes:

- The care, quality, or community gap/need
- Alignment to an Implementation Science framework, rationale and research design
- Stakeholder engagement strategy
- Sustainability and system impact

## Budget and Financial Management

The Leukaemia Foundation PhD Scholarship will provide total funding of no more than \$150,000 over 3 years. If required, up to two six-month no cost extensions at the discretion of the selection panel may be granted. The Leukaemia Foundation will enter into a funding agreement with the administering institution of the successful applicant using the standard Leukaemia Foundation Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

The Leukaemia Foundation PhD Scholarship is not to be held in conjunction with any other scholarship, with the exception of tuition fee exemption. If the applicant accepts another PhD scholarship to run concurrently, then the Leukaemia Foundation Scholarship will be discontinued.

The recipient and administering institution must agree to the specific conditions outlined in the MoA, including but not limited to:

- Publication of the successful applicant, institution and project title on websites, publications, media releases and other reports/publications by the Leukaemia Foundation.
- Participation in media and stakeholder activities
- Acknowledgement of Leukaemia Foundation funding in any publication or presentations arising from the funded work.

Grant funds must be spent solely on the approved research project. Funding will not cover any institutional overhead costs. Examples of costs that will be funded:

- Salary support for research assistants, support officers/managers, or consultants for research-related activity
- Costs associated with consumer reimbursement and remuneration
- Direct research costs

Examples of costs that will not be funded:

- Publication fees
- Professional memberships/subscriptions
- Travel costs
- Indirect research or infrastructure costs

## Reporting process

Annual reporting of progress is required. For a 3-year project, this includes:

- First year progress report
- Second year progress report
- Final report at project completion.

These progress reports are also required to be accompanied by an annual income and expenditure statement certified by a Finance Officer.

For any further questions, please contact our research team via email at [research@leukaemia.org.au](mailto:research@leukaemia.org.au)