

2026 Higher Degree Research (HDR) top-up Scholarships Guidelines

Conditions of award

The objective of the Lowitja Institute Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Degree Research (HDR) top-up scholarship is to offer supplementary financial support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR candidates who are currently enrolled in an Australian HDR program.

This document sets out the eligibility requirements and conditions that apply to awardees of the scholarship.

Eligibility criteria

- Scholarships are available to applicants who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR students.
- Students must be in receipt of an Australian government research training program stipend, or other stipend, for which the basis is to provide an allowance while undertaking the HDR program.
- Students will be required to demonstrate that their area of research is related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing as it aligns with Lowitja Institute's research agenda and principles.
- Students must have passed the Confirmation of Candidature milestone.

Application requirements


- Submission of a fully completed application form with required evidence.
- Confirmation that the enrolled university supports the application for a top-up scholarship and the research office, or their delegate, agrees to administer the scholarship.
- Provide confirmation of Aboriginality or Torres Strait Islander descent.
 - This must include the common seal and be signed by the chairperson of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land council or an incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation in whose area the person lives or has previously lived.

- Provide proof of current funding or scholarships.
- Provide proof of current enrolment in an HDR program.
- Provide proof of completion of Confirmation of Candidature by providing a copy of your confirmation document (i.e. research proposal) and evidence of passing the milestone.
- Describe how the research benefits Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.
- Outline the significance of the research for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.
- Describe how Lowitja Institute scholarship funding will support completion of the HDR program and impact of the research.
- Describe how the research project considers knowledge translation throughout the course of the project.
- Outline any ethics approval obtained for the research project.
- Describe how the research project relates to one Lowitja Institute research agenda theme: www.lowitja.org.au/research/lowitja-institute-research-agenda-2024-2026
- Outline any background intellectual property that will be brought to the research project.

Assessment criteria

Applications are assessed against the following criteria:

Assessment criteria	What is Lowitja Institute looking for?
Research quality and design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong research design supported by a justified rationale. ▪ Articulates the use of appropriate research methodologies, including Indigenous methodologies. ▪ Articulates an understanding of an incorporation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research ethical principles, including use of specific state-based ethics approvals. ▪ Demonstrates capacity to incorporate knowledge translation activities throughout the research design



	that are appropriate, including a plan for community feedback and research dissemination.
Research benefit and significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrates research benefit and impact for the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. ▪ Key priority research area identified for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing, with clear benefit and significance for community throughout the project design.
Impact of scholarship for student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Articulates how the scholarship funding will directly benefit the student to complete their studies and proposed research. ▪ Describes how the scholarship will positively impact personal and professional endeavours.
Alignment with Lowitja Institute's research agenda and principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Articulates how the research project will address an area of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing of critical importance. ▪ Demonstrates how the project aligns with one of Lowitja Institute's research agenda themes.
Feasibility of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research proposal demonstrates appropriate scope of work, timeline and resources for proposed completion of the studies.

Scholarship value, duration and requirements

- The top-up scholarship value is up to \$10,000 per annum for a maximum period of three years.
 - Amount awarded will be assessed against criteria including, but not limited to, research significance, adherence to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander principles of ethical research, impact and alignment with Lowitja Institute's research agenda and principles.
- The top-up travel and knowledge translation allowance value are up to \$10,000 (\$5,000 each respectively).

- Amount awarded will be assessed against criteria including, but not limited to, length remaining in HDR program and impact of research activities, including knowledge translation.
 - The travel allowance can only be used for travel within Australia and the maximum period is for the duration of the total scholarship offer.
- Acceptance of the scholarship is subject to the awardee, Lowitja Institute and the administering institution accepting and agreeing to all conditions set out in the HDR top-up scholarship agreement.
- Continuation of receipt of the top-up scholarship during the tenure of the award is dependent on the awardee maintaining satisfactory progress in the HDR program in which they are enrolled and meeting key deliverables stipulated in the HDR top-up scholarship agreement, including completion of progress reports.

www.lowitja.org.au

ABN: 70 138 780 695

71 Oxford St,
Collingwood VIC 3066
Australia

PO Box 1524
Collingwood VIC 3066
Australia

t: +61 3 8421 5555
f: +61 3 8341 5599
e: admin@lowitja.org.au