



Austin Medical Research Foundation

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2026

For Funding Commencing in 2027

The AMRF has been supporting researchers at the Austin Health precinct for over 50 years. Whilst the amount of money awarded is small in comparison to other schemes, the impact of AMRF funding had been immense in terms of future success for many applicants.

The grants awarded by the Austin Medical Research Foundation aim to strengthen research at the Austin Health precinct. Grants are for a one-year period, with applications encouraged from all institutions based on the precinct.

All applications are reviewed by the AMRF Research Committee. The prime considerations in the award of research grants are innovation and the scientific merit of the project.

The maximum amount to be awarded has increased to \$50,000.

The following rules apply:

ELIGIBILITY

- Independent investigators with a research higher degree (PhD) are eligible to apply.
- Investigators with a research higher degree employed on a grant (i.e. NHMRC, MRFF) may apply, but this should be on a topic distinct from that on which they are already funded/employed.
- Current funding salary source of the applicant must be provided, as well as full details of any overlap with their funded research and the research proposed in this application.

INELIGIBILITY

- Master's degree, PhD students, MD students, Research Assistants are not eligible to apply.
- Researchers with Honorary appointments are not eligible to apply.

APPLICATION

- One application only will be accepted from a research group. Multiple applications will prejudice all investigator's grant applications.
- The Principal Investigator must be located at an Austin Health campus. The research must be carried out at an Austin Health campus.
- Applications must be submitted on the official AMRF form and adhere to the guidelines on acceptable font and maximum characters.
- The application should include a short lay summary indicating the nature, significance and innovation of the work that may be used in a report for general distribution.
- If an application has been submitted to an outside granting body for a similar or the same project, applicants must clearly identify what is different from other grant applications or attach their other submission as back-up evidence.
- Electronic applications must be in the format of one complete PDF named **SURNAME_AMRF Grant in Aid for Medical Research Application**. File sizes should not exceed 2Mb.
- The electronic file must be submitted by email to austinMRF@austin.org.au by the **closing date of Friday, 2nd of October 2026**.
- Late applications will not be accepted.

ETHICS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

- Ethics clearance is not required at the time of submission of the application.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- In assessing applications for funding, the AMRF Research Committee primarily takes into consideration innovation and scientific merit.
- Additional objectives include:
 - i) Provision of "seed funding" to encourage research into novel areas.
 - ii) Support for applicants with an established track record who have been unsuccessful in applications to major bodies. This would apply to applications in the borderline area for funding (i.e. near misses).
- AMRF may seek the advice of expert assessors in evaluating an application.

FINAL and PROGRESS REPORTS for AMRF-funded projects

- Both final reports (2y after completion of an AMRF-funded project, i.e. funded in 2024) or Progress reports (i.e. funded in 2025) MUST be included with the application.
- **If such reports are not included with the application, the grant will be removed from consideration.**
 - All reports must include information on whether AMRF support was acknowledged in publications and presentations.

NOTIFICATION

- The outcome of applications will be notified to the Principal Investigator.
- The AMRF Research Committee applies a rigorous and impartial selection process, and its decision is final.
- If an investigator has submitted an application to an outside granting body (i.e. MRFF, NHMRC etc.) for a similar or the same project and are successful, they must notify the AMRF of the result and describe how this influences their request for AMRF funds. If there is overlap between grants, a final decision will be made by the AMRF Research Committee as to whether the AMRF grant will be awarded.

EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS – **please note new conditions compared to previous years**

- Grants are for one year only and access to funds depends on approval by the relevant Ethics Committee(s).
- AMRF stipulates the following as conditions in respect of every grant it awards:
 - All funds must be expended on the project within 12 months. After 12 months, the entitlement to the award will lapse. If unforeseen circumstances interfere with the conduct of research within the stipulated timeframe, a variation can be raised to seek an extension. The grant may be extended for 6 months under exceptional circumstances. Beyond 6 months, extension of time will not be granted except in extraordinary circumstances after applying in writing to the AMRF Research Committee.
 - The funds must only be utilised for the research described in the application and in accordance with the submitted budget.
 - Funds are only to be used for projects conducted at an Austin Health precinct. Should the grantee relocate or resign from Austin Health or one of its affiliated organisations, the outstanding funds will be returned to the Foundation. Grants are not transferable.
 - Grants will be provided on expense-payment basis or reimbursement basis. Upfront lump sum payment for the total grant will not be given. Any overseas payment will be on reimbursement basis only.