

Queensland Cardiovascular Research Network (QCVRN)

PhD Development Grant

Guidelines for applicants

Last reviewed: June 2026

The Grant

The QCVRN PhD Development Grant is designed to support eligible QCVRN members to build their research capability and strengthen their career track records. This Grant will provide \$5,000, in addition to their university scholarship, to three (3) recipient PhD students at any stage of their candidature. This one-off grant must be used within a period of 12-months from the start date of the grant agreement.

Eligibility

PhD students must be studying within disciplines closely related to cardiovascular biology or disease. This includes prevention, diagnosis, management, and related conditions (e.g. stroke, diabetes, kidney disease). The QCVRN supports broad research areas across biomedical, clinical, bioengineering, health services, or public health research, with the intention of ensuring funding is distributed across these research areas over multiple grant rounds.

To be eligible to apply you must:

1. Be admitted to a Queensland-based NHMRC Administering Institution as a PhD student; AND
2. Be a current QCVRN member, AND
3. Be no further than three (3) years FTE into your PhD; AND
4. Hold a primary scholarship (for example, a Research Training Program scholarship or other primary scholarship of similar value); AND
5. Have a university supervisor who is willing and able to supervise you; AND
6. Conduct research activities primarily in Queensland.

Applicants can only apply once per funding round.

Conflicts of interest must be declared during the review process if applicants are a member of the QCVRN Emerging Leaders Sub-Committee or their supervisor is a member of the QCVRN Steering Committee.

As part of addressing the QCVRN goal of building Queensland cardiovascular researcher capacity, there is a preference for PhD candidates who will be supported by an EMCR co-supervisors or associate supervisor. This is not required for an application to be submitted but will be considered by the review committee.

Awarding

Applications will be reviewed by QCVRN Committee members, subject to conflict-of-interest assessment and management, and/or members of other state CVRN committees as needed.

Funding will be allocated to the applications that score the highest against the selection criteria which considers:

- The impact of funding on the applicant career and research outcomes
- The feasibility of the proposed project
- Activities likely to address priority areas in cardiovascular research.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome and the decision reached by the QCVRN is final.

Three (3) PhD Development Grants will be offered to commence in the following January. Once recipients have accepted the offer, the QCVRN may announce grant recipients via communication channels.

Delivery of funds:

- Funding will be provided to the administering institution of the applicant.
- The institution must issue an invoice to the Heart Foundation to enable payment.
- The institution will be responsible for distributing the funds.



- Funding must be spent within 12 months from the start date of the grant agreement.

Use of funding

The grant funding may be used for or towards activities which will significantly contribute to and advance the recipient's career and/or research capability. The grant must be expended within 12 months of the start date of the grant agreement regardless of the recipient's FTE.

Funds can be used for a combination of activities.

Uses of the funding include:

- Registration fees to attend national or international scientific conferences, workshops, or meetings relevant to cardiovascular research.
- Course fees to attend a specialist career development or professional skills workshop such as grant writing, leadership or methods training.
- Lived experience and community consultation-related costs, including participant remuneration and venue hire.
- Travel and accommodation associated with training, conference attendance, lab visits or relevant in-person cardiovascular events.
- Professional and specialist services such as grant editing, graphic design or mentoring.
- Subscription fees to research or dissemination tools or platforms.
- Journal publication fees where institutional coverage is not available.

Excluded uses of the funding:

- Funding should not be used for any activity already covered or will be covered by another grant or award.
- The grant funding cannot be used for salary or salary oncosts.

Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement of QCVRN funding must be included in publications, conference presentations, and media statements, where relevant, including the grant identification number. Examples of appropriate wording for acknowledgements include:

- '[Title] [Surname] was supported by a PhD Development Grant (2026) from the Queensland Cardiovascular Research Network (QCVRN).'
- 'This work was supported by a PhD Development Grant (2026) from the Queensland Cardiovascular Research Network (QCVRN).'

Reporting

Grant recipients will be required to provide a brief post-award report outlining how the funded activity contributed to their career development and/or research impact.

The report is to be submitted within 13 months of the start date of the grant agreement.

Recipients will be invited to speak at the QCVRN Research Showcase in the year that their funding is provided to share their progress and support professional development.

All applicants may be invited to provide feedback and contribute to the evaluation of this funding initiative.

FAQs

How can I apply for the PhD Development Grant?

- Applicants can submit an application form via the Heart Foundation website after speaking with their supervisor. They will need to prepare a CV and Research Proposal (both max 2 pages in 12pt Arial font inclusive of references) to upload with their application.



I haven't started my PhD yet; can I still apply?

- If you are enrolled with an NHMRC institution and expected to start your PhD before the funding term would begin, you can apply for the PhD Development Grant.

I'm in the last year of my PhD; can I still apply?

- If you will be less than 3 years (FTE) into your PhD from the date applications open and will still be undertaking your PhD for at least 6 months from when the funding term begins, you can still apply for the PhD Development Grant. You will need to outline in your application how you will use the funding before you finish your PhD as any unspent funds would need to be returned.

Can the funding be used to pay for part of an activity?

- Yes, you can use this funding to pay for part of the cost of an activity.

Can I defer/change the start date of the funding if awarded?

- All funding must be expended within the 12 months from the start date of the grant agreement. If the activity cannot be paid within those 12 months, the funding must be used for a different activity, or funds must be returned to the Heart Foundation.

Can I apply for a QCVRN grant if I have already received funding for part of my career development activity?

- Yes, you can apply for a QCVRN grant, but you must clearly outline which parts of the activity are already funded and ensure that you are not requesting funding for those same costs in your application to the QCVRN.

If I applied for a QCVRN PhD scheme in the past, can I apply again?

- If you were unsuccessful, you are welcome to apply for the QCVRN PhD Development Grant. Past recipients of QCVRN funding for PhD students are not eligible to apply again to ensure the benefit of the funding is provided to as many QCVRN members as possible.



**Queensland
Cardiovascular
Research Network**

Any further questions should be directed to:

qcvrn@heartfoundation.org.au