



The Institute

basil hetzel institute for translational health research



The Hospital Research  
Foundation Group

# The Hospital Research Foundation Group Top-Up Scholarships

*Support for current HDR students located at the Basil Hetzel  
Institute for Translational Health Research (BHI), The Queen  
Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH)*

## Funding Guidelines v1.0

2026

# Table of Contents

1. About The Hospital Research Foundation Group.....	3
2. About THRF Group Research Scholarships.....	3
3. Top-Up Scholarships for Current HDR Students.....	3
3.1 Eligibility Requirements for Applicants.....	3
4. Terms and Conditions for Funding.....	4
5. Referee Reports .....	4
6. Selection Process.....	5
7. How to Apply .....	6
8. Key Dates.....	6

## 1. About The Hospital Research Foundation Group

The Hospital Research Foundation (THRF) Group exists to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. Our purpose is simple:

*“Together, fight for better health and wellbeing for our community through life-changing medical research and improved healthcare.”*

THRF Group is a profit-for-purpose organisation which raises funds through community donations, corporate support and proceeds from The Hospital Research Foundation Home Lottery program. These proceeds enable us to fund and facilitate medical research and patient care services across more than 50 areas of disease and illness, from birth to end of life.

THRF Group consists of 11 charities which work together to maximise health and wellbeing, and allow supporters to choose an area of healthcare that matters most to them. Through our Group structure, we are committed to delivering a progressive research and grants program that is sustainable, promotes collaboration and delivers impact for the community.

## 2. About THRF Group Research Scholarships

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH) precinct supports a vibrant research community through the co-location of researchers from the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) and South Australian universities. Research at the site is united by a mission to improve clinical care in South Australia through clinical research, therapeutic development, and translation of research outcomes into better patient care. The research activity at TQEH precinct is organised under the umbrella of the Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Health Research (BHI).

Through teaching and research affiliations with all South Australian universities, the BHI provides valuable discovery science and clinical research training opportunities.

With funding support from THRF Group, the BHI offers a number of competitive scholarships to support high-calibre students within the BHI to undertake high-quality research at the BHI/TQEH precinct via a competitive, application-based process.

## 3. Top-Up Scholarships for Current HDR Students

The objective of this competitive top-up scholarship round is to recognise and promote excellence by current Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students based at the BHI/TQEH precinct.

In this round, top-up scholarships are on offer for eligible **current** BHI/TQEH-based HDR students who hold a **competitive ‘base’** HDR scholarship, such as an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (RTPS) or similarly competitive university-funded equivalent (see exclusions overleaf).

Awarded top-up scholarships will provide additional funding of up to \$8,000 for up to one year (i.e. the period 1 January 2026 – 31 December 2026) for full-time candidature, with the amount to be provided pro-rata for fractional candidature and for candidates concluding studies within that period.

### 3.1 Eligibility Requirements for Applicants

At the time of application and for the duration of the top-up scholarship, applicants must:

- be enrolled in an HDR program (Masters by Research or Doctor of Philosophy) AND hold a competitive ‘base’ HDR Scholarship administered by a university in South Australia during 2026;
- undertake most (no less than 70%) of their HDR candidature at TQEH precinct; and

- be supervised in their HDR candidature by at least one BHI-affiliated research supervisor.

Applicants are **ineligible** if they are in receipt of any other supplementary stipend/support funding in addition to a “base” competitive HDR scholarship, including (but not limited to) an existing BHI Top-up scholarship, via the CALHN Clinician PhD Pathway, Westpac Scholarship or other supplementary scholarship. If in doubt, please seek advice about your eligibility prior to application.

For the avoidance of doubt, applicants can hold funds from other sources for travel, fieldwork or equipment, and receive minor prizes/awards, government allowances, or income derived from limited part-time work undertaken within the guidelines set by their university in relation to their degree program.

Only ONE (1) application will be considered for each applicant.

## 4. Terms and Conditions for Funding

All THRF Group-funded scholars agree to:

- attend at least two-thirds of the research seminars at the BHI
- provide progress reports to THRF Group upon request
- submit an abstract for presentation at the annual TQEH Research Expo
- acknowledge THRF Group funding support in all presentations and papers etc.
- provide updates about their research to BHI and THRF Group Communications and Marketing teams upon request
- participate in media opportunities coordinated by THRF Group where necessary, including radio and local and national media announcements. Relevant media advice and preparation will be available via THRF Group’s Communications team
- ensure THRF Group is consulted regarding any media opportunities led by the recipient’s university, SA Health or other organisation.

Please note that all other policies, processes and requirements relating to student enrolment, candidature and scholarship administration, are the responsibility of the enrolling institution. In the event of any changes or queries regarding these matters, THRF Group-funded scholars are advised to contact the relevant student administration branch at their enrolling institution in the first instance.

A recipient of a THRF Group Research Scholarship should seek their own taxation advice from the Australian Taxation Office or their own personal taxation advisor on the status of income derived from a scholarship.

## 5. Referee Reports

All applications must be accompanied by a [Primary Supervisor statement](#) and an [Academic Referee report](#) from someone other than the Primary Supervisor in order to be considered complete.

All statements/reports are to be provided on the required templates (download available from the links above or those provided in the application form) and must be submitted, in confidence, to THRF Group’s Research Office at [grants@hospitalresearch.org.au](mailto:grants@hospitalresearch.org.au) by the round deadline.

Applicants should ensure the chosen referees are able to provide the required statement by the deadline and are strongly advised to seek confirmation of referee statement submission from referees prior to the deadline to avoid being ruled in eligible due to an incomplete application.

## 6. Selection Process

Applicants and their research excellence will be scored by BHI Scholarship Selection Committee members against the assessment criteria below based on quality of outputs, research impact and active participation in the BHI and TQEH community. Assessment will be made relative to opportunity, including the elapsed duration of candidature.

Weighting	Criteria
40%	Relative to opportunity, the applicant has a demonstrated track record of high-quality research outputs. Outputs may include such things as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publications and peer-reviewed abstracts.</li> <li>- Applications for funding, prizes or awards.</li> <li>- Presenting at peer-reviewed conferences.</li> </ul>
20%	Relative to opportunity, the applicant demonstrates impact from their research. This impact may be demonstrated by such things as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Citations from published work.</li> <li>- Examples of public knowledge dissemination i.e., media attention, lay presentations to the community, participation in the 3MT Competition and/or BHI Research Expo.</li> <li>- Contributions to the conduct and carrying out of relevant local, national or international research activities e.g., symposia, professional societies, research networks, activities.</li> <li>- Research collaborations with people external to BHI</li> </ul>
40%	Relative to opportunity, the applicant contributes to enhancing the BHI community. This may be via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting a collegiate, respectful and positive research environment including following BHI policies and procedures.</li> <li>- Supporting the BHI community e.g., through committee service, volunteering at events.</li> <li>- Participating in the BHI Seminar Series.</li> <li>- Fostering a collaborative research environment including any research collaborations within the BHI.</li> <li>- Running or initiating activities/initiatives that benefit others at BHI.</li> </ul>

Applicant responses against these criteria will be scored using the rubric outlined below.

Score	Description
5	<b>Outstanding:</b> Of the highest quality - no issues, queries, or concerns.
4	<b>Excellent:</b> high quality – a limited number of minor issues, queries, or concerns
3	<b>Good:</b> solid - with some issues, queries, or concerns
2	<b>Reasonable:</b> OK but with several issues, queries, or concerns
1	<b>Uncompetitive:</b> Poorly described - with many significant issues, queries, or concerns

THRF Group and the BHI Scholarship Selection Committee reserve the right to request additional information if deemed necessary for evaluation.

The BHI Scholarship Selection Committee will make funding recommendations to THRF Group's CEO. The final funding decision will be made by THRF Group, informed by reviewer assessments, and

determined by funding availability. This decision will be final, and no further negotiations will be entered into.

Successful applicants and their university will be notified by THRF Group, and THRF Group will prepare a funding agreement for the nominated university.

Please note that THRF Group may vary the available funding under this scheme at its sole discretion. THRF Group reserves the right not to fund any application for any reason, including where the relevant project personnel and/or Administering Institution have not fulfilled their obligations under previous THRF Group funding agreement/s, including but not limited to reporting, financial acquittal, and acknowledgement requirements.

## 7. How to Apply

Applications **must** be completed and submitted online through THRF Group's SmartyGrants platform **by the deadline indicated below**. No extensions will be granted.

Only electronic submission through the SmartyGrants system will be accepted.

Applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt of the application by email following submission to the SmartyGrants platform. If the email is not received (after checking junk/spam folders), applicants should assume that the submission has not been received and re-attempt submission.

Once the round closes, the submitted application cannot be amended. Incomplete, incorrectly submitted, or late applications will not be considered.

Unless otherwise specified in the application form, all uploaded files should be provided in PDF format. File names should include a short description of the item followed by the applicant's family name, for example "Transcript\_Smith.pdf".

**Apply at:**

<https://hospitalresearch.smartygrants.com.au/2026-BHI-Round2>

**Applications close: Friday 12 June 2026 at 4:00 PM (ACST)**

All queries should be directed to [grants@hospitalresearch.org.au](mailto:grants@hospitalresearch.org.au)

Incomplete, late or incorrectly submitted applications will not be considered

## 8. Key Dates

<b>Round opens</b>	Monday 11 May 2026 at 12:00pm (ACST)
<b>Applications close</b>	Friday 12 June 2026 at 4:00pm (ACST)
<b>Applicants advised of outcome</b>	Indicatively 4 weeks after close of applications**

\*\*Please note that the date for outcome release above is indicative only and subject to change. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission once assessment has been completed. We appreciate your patience during this time.