

## GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

### THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ARE

- To support specific research projects into arthritis and other musculoskeletal disorders
- To support and foster the career development of scientists and clinical investigators committed to research into arthritis and allied disorders

### THERE ARE THREE CATEGORIES

- **Fellowships**
- **Scholarships**
- **Project Grants and Grants-in-Aid**

Please state which category you wish to apply for on the specific application form by selecting the appropriate box. There is no need to make simultaneous applications. The Grants Assessment Committee reserves the right to re-categorise applications and will determine if for instance a 'Project Grant' application can be awarded with partial funding as a 'Grant-in-aid' instead. They may also consider applications across various categories e.g. scholarships and fellowships. There are separate application forms for the various categories. Please be mindful of information required for specific grants and make sure that all information is included in your application.

### HOW TO APPLY FOR A RESEARCH AWARD

1. Download and read this document - Guidelines and Instructions
2. Download and read the Grant Assessment Committee Terms of Reference
3. Download and read the Frequently Asked Questions document
4. Download and complete the appropriate Application Form
5. Submit your completed application as an email attachment to:  
[researchgrants@arthritisaustralia.com.au](mailto:researchgrants@arthritisaustralia.com.au)
6. Post original copy of the **signed certification page only** to:

**Arthritis Australia Research Program Applications**  
**PO Box 550**  
**Broadway NSW 2007**

***\*Note:** this page can be posted at a later date (within two weeks of application submission closing date)*

7. Please check your application details before submission

If you need any assistance, please contact Arthritis Australia at: [researchgrants@arthritisaustralia.com.au](mailto:researchgrants@arthritisaustralia.com.au)

## GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS FELLOWSHIPS

Research fellowships are available for post-doctoral work or following recently completed rheumatology advanced training and are available for research programs both overseas and in Australia.

**\*NOTE** In view of limited amounts of funding available, our priority is to encourage new researchers who are then subsequently in a stronger position to apply for an award from other agencies, such as NHMRC. As success in the NHMRC funding program is one of the goals of Arthritis Australia's research strategy, applicants submitting a research proposal which is subsequently awarded NHMRC funding in the same calendar year, will no longer be eligible to receive funds from Arthritis Australia for this proposal. Similarly, recipients cannot hold more than one fellowship in any given year and will no longer be eligible to receive funds from Arthritis Australia should they be successful at receiving another fellowship e.g. from the RACP.

The **Arthritis Australia ARA Fellowship** is available for post-doctoral research programs both overseas and in Australia. Preferentially, it is available for members of the Australian Rheumatology Association (ARA) or applicants working with a member of the ARA. This is for one year only and there will be no renewals, except in rare circumstances e.g. part-time research (preference for research overseas but Australian-based research will be considered).

The **Victorian ARA Fellowship** is designed to support expansive self-development of trainee/rheumatologists within Victoria. The purpose of the award is to encourage rheumatologists to develop expertise in a clinical or research discipline in rheumatology and to use that expertise in and for the betterment of rheumatology in Victoria. ARA members who are advanced trainees or within five years of FRACP are eligible to apply, in support of higher degree studies, post-higher degree research, or specialized clinical training.

The **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fellowship** will be offered for health research in the field of arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. The fellowship will be awarded to a researcher who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or who has a team member who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The researcher must be undertaking post- doctoral work or following recently completed Rheumatology advanced training. This is a 12 month research fellowship offered through Arthritis Australia's National Research Program in 2021, to be taken up in 2023.

Application forms for the **ARA Fellowship, Victorian ARA Fellowship, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Fellowship** can be downloaded [here](#).

**NOTE: Please use specific application form for each of the following award.**

The **Ken Muirden Overseas Training Fellowship** is designed to give a rheumatologist who is about to or has completed advanced training in Rheumatology within the last two years an opportunity to undertake further clinical or research training overseas in an approved institution in any country. This fellowship is funded by the Australian Rheumatology Association Research Trust.

**(please check our "on offer in 2023" section for final details)**

### *Ken Muirden Overseas Training Fellowship guidelines*

1. The recipient must be a member of the Australian Rheumatology Association.
2. The recipient must be in the last year of Advanced Training in Rheumatology in the year the award is taken up or have completed their training in the previous two years.
3. The grant will be stipend to cover all costs related to travel and training overseas for a period of 12 months.
4. Applicants need to provide a detailed plan of the training program including a letter of support from the head of the relevant department in the intended overseas institution. This documentation needs to accompany the application form, along with the applicant's curriculum vitae.

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5. The successful applicant will normally be expected to take up the training position within one calendar year of the application.
6. Within three months of completion of the training year the successful applicant will be required to submit a written report in laymen's terms about the project (for publication) as well as a full scientific report to Arthritis Australia and to the Australian Rheumatology Association. We also require copies of any publications resulting from this work as these help in promoting our fundraising efforts.

Application form for the **Ken Muirden Overseas Training Fellowship** can be downloaded [here](#).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Arthritis Australia offers scholarships for young science and medical graduates to undertake thesis studies into arthritis and related disorders at recognised universities. These scholarships provide research training to doctorate or masters level and are designed to develop the intellectual and technical expertise required for a career involving laboratory and clinical investigation. Scholarships are intended, in general, to support basic and clinical research training within Australian research units and as a precursor to more advanced study in Australia and overseas. Scholarships are for one year and are renewable for three years, depending on progress and funding priorities.

Application form for a **Scholarship** can be downloaded [here](#).

## PROJECT GRANTS and GRANTS IN AID

Project Grants and Grants in Aid are typically for short-term projects with well-defined aims and budgets which can be achieved in a 12 month period. Grants in Aid (each grant valued up to maximum \$15,000) will be available only for new investigators\* or allied health researchers, excluding physiotherapists unless they meet the criteria of a 'New investigator'. A small number of Project Grants (each grant valued up to maximum \$50,000) will be available for musculoskeletal research including grants focusing on rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

*\*(defined as within six years of receiving their PhD)*

Application form for a **Project Grant and Grant-in- Aid** can be downloaded [here](#).

## ARA -PRIVATE PRACTICE GRANT

The lead investigator must be a financial ARA member who wishes to conduct a research program in private practice. The applicant must be employed in private practice for more than 60% of work time (applicant must provide statement in section 4). The applicant must have an academic mentor who is an ARA member. The investigator must be based and conduct the research project in Australia. The research is to be conducted within a 12 month period.

Application form for a Project Grant and Grant-in- Aid & Private Practice Grant can be downloaded [here](#).