Queensland Health

Genomics Research Grant 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

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Queensland Health Genomics Research Grant 2026 – Frequently Asked Questions

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1 Eligibility

1.1 I have applied for a permanent residency visa, but a decision has not been made on my application as yet. Can I still apply for a Genomics Research Grant?

At the time the Grant commences (upon execution of the Funding Agreement) and for the duration of the Grant, awardees are required to be Australian Citizens or Permanent residents or hold a Special Category Visa, or a visa that allows the Grant awardee to reside and work full time in Australia.

1.2 Does research undertaken during my PHD count as research participation years?

The research undertaken during a PhD or research higher degree normally would not be considered as part of research career. However, an individual case could be made if for example the applicant had a prior track record of previous clinical research and the research undertaken for their HDR was clinical and a continuation of this previous research or similar.

1.3 Would a higher degree research candidate be eligible for the Genomics Research Grant?

Yes, PhD candidates can apply for the Genomics Research Grant.

1.4 What is considered a salaried appointment with Queensland Health or other publicly funded healthcare facility?

A salaried appointment is defined as holding a payroll number with, and being paid directly by, Queensland Health or other publicly funded healthcare facility. Applicants who hold formal conjoint appointments between a Queensland HHS and a Queensland research institution or university, including those where the academic partner is the employer, are eligible. Such applicants need to provide confirmation in the relevant HHS letter of support confirming the HHS's financial contribution to the conjoint appointment and the clinical elements of the role. These criteria must be met at the time of application and applies for the duration of the Grant.

1.5 Can my research project involve more than one Queensland Health HHS?

Yes. Applicants must demonstrate a collaboration with another Queensland Health HHS, publicly funded healthcare facility, or Queensland-based research organisation. Multi-site and multi-organisation collaborations are encouraged where they strengthen the project and support the Grant objectives.

1.6 What are examples of publicly funded healthcare facilities?

Publicly funded healthcare facilities include Queensland Health Hospital and Health Services and other publicly funded healthcare providers, providing public healthcare, for example Mater Hospital Brisbane.

1.7 I hold a joint appointment between a University and Queensland Health. Queensland Health pays a portion of my salary to the University, and then the University pays me. Am I eligible to apply?

A salaried appointment is defined as holding a payroll number with, and being paid directly by, Queensland Health or other publicly funded healthcare facility. Applicants who hold formal conjoint appointments between a Queensland HHS and a Queensland research institution or university, including those where the academic partner is the employer, are eligible. Such applicants need to provide confirmation in the relevant HHS letter of support confirming the HHS's financial contribution to the

conjoint appointment and the clinical elements of the role. These criteria must be met at the time of application and applies for the duration of the grant.

1.8 Does my employing Queensland Health HHS (or other publicly funded healthcare facility) need to be included in the application?

Yes, your employing HHS (or other publicly funded healthcare facility) must be either the administering organisation or partner organisation and support the application.

1.9 Should I put my employing Queensland Health HHS (or other publicly funded healthcare facility) down as my administering organisation, or should they be a partner organisation?

The Department cannot advise on whether participating organisations should assume the role of administering or partner organisation. Please have discussions directly with your participating organisations to determine the best arrangements for your application and circumstances.

1.10 What are examples of Queensland-based research organisations?

These are research organisations external to Queensland Health and can include Queensland universities or medical research institutes, not-for-profit entities and/or industry partners. A research organisation can assume the role of administering organisation **or** partner organisation. A University that is incorporated interstate but has a campus in Queensland is not considered a Queensland-based research organisation for the purposes of Genomics Research Grant.

1.11 Can I have more than one partner organisation and must they all be based in Queensland?

Yes, you can have more than one partner organisation. While not all partner organisations must be based in Queensland, we ask that applicants consider the objectives of the Genomics Research Grant when choosing partners.

1.12 Who can I speak to regarding queries I have about my eligibility?

Please discuss your eligibility with the research office or equivalent at your administering organisation. The administering organisation can contact the Department on your behalf to clarify aspects of the Funding Rules.

2 Conditions of funding

2.1 How does ‘active research participation of 0.2FTE differ from the appointment requirement of 0.2FTE?

The 0.2FTE appointment is the minimum salaried appointment that an applicant must hold at Queensland Health or another publicly funded healthcare facility to be eligible to apply. ‘Active research participation’ refers to the time an awardee will spend on the Genomics Research Grant, rather than on non-grant commitments. The expectation is that the level of active research participation by awardees is at least 0.2FTE averaged over the duration of the Grant. Please note that the Department cannot advise how this should be arranged between the applicant and employer/administering organisation.

2.2 I currently hold a fellowship/grant and want to finish it first before I start the Genomics Research Grant. Is this, ok?

The Grant must commence by 30 June 2027. If you anticipate being unable to commence the research project by this date (particularly considering your current contractual obligations with another funder), you may need to instead consider applying for a future round.

2.3 I have applied for funding elsewhere for the same project. What if both applications are successful?

Applicants and awardee's may apply or hold other grants outside of the Genomics Research Grant. However other grants must not:

- duplicate funding for the successful Genomics Research Grant. The funded research project must be significantly different from other funded research being undertaken by the successful applicant during the project period;
- duplicate funding for salaries, personnel costs or other project costs already funded through the Genomics Research Grant; or
- impact the awardee's time commitment to the Genomics Research Grant. The awardee must commit a minimum of 0.2 FTE to the funded research, averaged over the Grant duration, and progress the research in line with the agreed milestones.

2.4 Is ethics approval required before I apply?

No. Ethics approval and Research Governance authorisation are not required at the time of application. However, successful applicants are expected to obtain these approvals within three months, and no later than six months, after execution of the Funding Agreement.

2.5 My supervisor is located interstate. Is this an issue?

Given the Grant objectives and the active management and guidance expected of a nominated supervisor, the primary supervisor must be based in Queensland. However, additional/secondary nominated supervisors can be based outside of Queensland.

3 Funding use

3.1 Can I use the funding for salary to cover for additional hours worked on the research project beyond the FTE I am employed for by the HHS/publicly funded healthcare facility?

No. Genomics Research Grant funding may be used to support the grant awardee's salary. However, the awardee's total salary from all sources must not exceed the salary they would have received in their substantive clinical position for the equivalent FTE. Grant funding cannot therefore be used as a stipend or salary top-up that increases the awardee's salary above their substantive clinical salary rate. For example, if an applicant is employed by a Queensland Health hospital at 0.4 FTE and uses their remaining time to undertake a PhD, Grant funding may be used to support up to 0.4 FTE.

3.2 Is the travel expense limit of $8,000, or $10,000 for applicants based at regional, rural or remote health facilities, available per year or for the full Grant period?

The travel expense limit applies to the total Grant duration, not per year. An applicant may request up to $8,000 in total, or up to $10,000 in total where they are based at a regional, rural or remote health facility.

3.3 Can Grant funding be used to employ research staff?

Yes. Funding may be used for salary costs of dedicated research or technical staff supporting the project, including postdoctoral research staff, where the costs are directly related to the funded research

3.4 Can I request travel costs for my research team, or for collaborators to travel to visit me?

No. Travel costs can be requested for the awardee only and must be essential to the project.

4 Mentorship supplement

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for the Mentorship Supplement?

The Mentorship Supplement is available to applicants who:

- Identify as an Aboriginal person and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and/or
- are based at a regional, rural or remote Queensland health facility or service.

An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicant does not need to be based at a regional, rural or remote health facility or service to be eligible.

4.2 What are the features of a successful mentorship?

The mentoring relationship is between a more experienced researcher and a researcher early in their career. The Mentor may be the eligible researcher's supervisor, or another nominated person with the relevant experience to provide mentoring support. Key functions of the mentoring relationship are the provision of

- Personal and career development – in the form of a responsive, supportive professional relationship, active career guidance, critical reflection, review of progress toward goals, and realisation of professional aspirations.
- Skills development – building research competencies through education and tutoring, academic and professional support, and role modelling.
- Networking - in the form of sponsorship, through public acknowledgement, facilitation of connections and advocacy for the mentee.

4.3 Can the mentorship supplement be used for project costs, such as supporting the salary of my project team?

No. The supplement funding must directly support the goals of the proposed mentorship for the benefit of the eligible researcher's research capability and career. Eligible researchers and their chosen mentor should work together to develop a mentorship agreement suited to their needs. Application process

4.4 Could you advise who my authorised delegate is at my administering organisation and what they need to sign?

The Department cannot advise who the authorised delegate is at your administering organisation. However, the administering organisation's research office or equivalent should be able to assist you. The authorised delegate must sign the Administering Organisation Certification in the application form as part of the application. They must have the authority to do so on behalf of the administering organisation.

4.5 Can I include a list of references as part of my application?

Yes, a reference list can be included at the end of the application.

5 Outcomes and commencement

5.1 When will outcomes be announced?

We anticipate outcomes will be communicated in April/May 2027.

5.2 My application was unsuccessful. Am I able to request feedback?

Feedback can be provided to applicants who request this in writing from QH_Fellowships@health.qld.gov.au. Feedback can only be provided if the written request is received within three months of applicants being advised of their outcomes.

5.3 If my Grant application is successful, what are the next steps?

You can commence your project once a fully executed Funding Agreement is in place. Shortly after issuing your award letter, our Office will contact your administering organisation's research office or equivalent to reconfirm the proposed project budget and milestones. Our Office will then finalise the Agreement and will ask for the Agreement Schedules to be checked.

Once the Schedules are confirmed by the administering organisation as being correct, Departmental execution (i.e. signing by the authorised delegate) will be arranged followed by execution by the Grant awardee and the administering organisation. The Agreement will then be considered fully executed and the project can commence.

5.4 When can I start my research project?

The Grant commences once the Funding Agreement is fully executed. The Grant research activities and expenditure cannot commence before this date. Please note that outcomes are expected to be communicated in April/May 2027. In the weeks after announcement, the Department will work with successful Grant awardees and administering organisations to confirm Schedules and execute the Agreement. It is expected agreements will be fully executed by June 2027. If you anticipate being unable to commence the project at that time, you may need to reconsider applying in this round.

5.5 What deliverables will be required once I start my project?

You must meet project deliverables by the deadlines specified in the executed Agreement. This will involve providing yearly Progress Reports and a Final Report. The Progress Reports will require details concerning the progress of your project and whether milestones have been met. Financial reporting and provision of a financial statement by the finance department at the administering organisation is also a key component of the reporting process.

5.6 Can I make a change to my project after I've started?

Changes are only allowed in exceptional circumstances. If you anticipate a change to your project (such as timeframe, funding use, scope, or Administration Organisation), you must advise the research office (or equivalent) at your Administering Organisation and submit a detailed request in writing to the Department. Significant changes will be formalised through a variation, effective once signed by both the

Department and the Administering Organisation. Delays in advising the Department may result in suspension or termination of your Grant.