

BrightSpark Research Collaboration Awards

In 2018, the BrightSpark/Raine Alliance Committee, having agreed to allocate a sum of money to support the advancement of early-career researchers in the field of child health research, established the BrightSpark Research Collaboration Awards.

Guidelines and Conditions

1. Purpose

The purpose of these Awards is:

- (1) to encourage early-career researchers in Western Australia to establish and develop research collaborations, both nationally and internationally, to seek a better understanding of the cause and treatment of childhood disease and illness; and
- (2) to facilitate cross-institutional ties in child health research, with increased opportunities for collaborative publications, joint grant submissions, the sharing and advancement of research/clinical skills, and industry linkages.

2. Definitions

- (1) 'The Awards' refers to the BrightSpark Research Collaboration Awards.
- (2) The 'Research Committee' is the BrightSpark/Raine Alliance Research Committee, and may include specialist representatives.
- (3) 'Medical researcher' refers to a qualified professional who contributes to research that investigates the cause and treatment of childhood disease and illness.
- (4) 'Clinician researcher' refers to a medically trained doctor who contributes to research that investigates the cause and treatment of childhood disease and illness.
- (5) 'Early-career researcher' refers to a medical researcher or clinician researcher who satisfies the requirements listed below (whichever is completed first) and is within seven years of additional research experience:
 - (a) PhD degree; or
 - (b) University medical degree plus at least three years research experience.
- (6) 'Career disruption' includes pregnancy, major illness/injury, carer responsibilities including parental leave, and clinician specialty training. This must involve a continuous absence from work for 28 days or more, or return to work on a part-time basis. "Career disruption" does not include employment outside of the research sector including time spent working in industry; clinical, administrative or teaching workload; relocation of an applicant and his/her research laboratory or clinical practice setting or other similar circumstances that impact upon research productivity.
- (7) 'Organisation(s)' include industrial organisations, public agencies and the corporate sector.

3. Eligibility

- (1) The applicant shall be an early-career researcher who:
 - (a) has completed their PhD degree; or
 - (b) is a University medical graduate who satisfies the requirements listed below (whichever is completed first):
 - (i) has completed their PhD degree; or
 - (ii) has at least three years' research experience; and
 - (c) at 30 June in the year of application be within seven years of the requirements outlined in Clause 3.(1)(a) or (b) (subject to career disruption) based on the date of the letter advising that their PhD degree has been passed, or the date their medical degree plus three years research experience has concluded.
- (2) Applicants shall be involved in research that investigates the cause and treatment of childhood disease and illness.
- (3) Applicants shall be employed by a Western Australian University or affiliated medical research institution in Western Australia at the time of application and for the duration of the Award.
- (4) Collaborations shall involve participants from any institution or organisation located outside of Western Australia. *Collaborations with participants from institutions or organisations located in rural centres in Western Australia may be considered.
- (5) Applicants may submit up to two applications in any round.

4. Assessment Criteria

- (1) The assessment criteria for an Award shall be based upon:
 - (a) *Applicant track record* – taking into consideration any career disruption *(40%);
 - (b) *Collaborative research potential* – the proposal shall outline strategies for building productive, sustainable, long-term research collaborations in child health, linking the host institution with top national and international academic institutions or organisations *(50%); and
 - (c) *Outputs* – expected outcomes and demonstrable results of the collaboration, as identified in the proposal. This may include, for example, potential to influence policy and practice, the pathway of translation into public benefit, joint research projects, co-authored scientific publications, combined funding applications, or the advancement of research skills and techniques *(10%).
- (2) The Research Committee shall assess and determine the Awards on a competitive basis, and reserves the right not to make an award.

5. Funding

- (1) A maximum of \$30,000 shall be available for each Award.
- (2) Funding may be requested for costs directly associated in developing the collaboration, such as travel, accommodation, and workshops.

*Pending ratification by the Research Committee.

- (a) Minor funding for project and publishing costs may be considered.
 - (b) Funding will not be provided for teaching, salaries, scholarships or computers.
 - (c) Economy-class travel only will be considered and quotations shall accompany the application.
- (3) Projects already partly funded from other sources shall clearly indicate the value of funds received and their contribution to research expenses.
- (4) Applicants can only be awarded one successful application in a round.
- (5) Any variation in budget or timeline shall be subject to approval by the Research Committee. Any variation that has not previously been approved by the Research Committee may result in a recoup of funds to the Raine Foundation.

6. Guidelines

(1) Application Form

Applicants are asked to register and submit their online application via the link on the Raine Foundation website: <http://rainefoundation.org.au/funding/brightspark-research-collaboration-awards/>. Applications cannot be amended after the closing date/time and late applications will not be accepted. Applications that do not comply with formatting requirements may be deemed ineligible.

(2) Collaborating Partner(s)

Please include details of all collaborating partners. Do not include the applicants' details in this section. Select 'Add More' in the online form if there is more than one collaborating partner.

(3) Career Disruption

Applicants are invited to summarise any career disruption since the award of their PhD degree or University medical degree that may have affected research productivity. Please refer to Clause 2.(6) for a definition of 'Career Disruption'. Evidence should include the dates of absence or commencement of part-time work.

(4) Track Record

The applicants' *curriculum vitae* should be uploaded in PDF format, consisting of no more than four pages. Minimum acceptable font size is 10 point, with 1.5 line spacing and margins of at least 2 cm. The document shall not exceed 5 MB and shall be labelled as shown in the relevant section of the Application Form.

(5) Proposal

This should be a succinct description of the proposed research activity, including the scope of the research, the potential benefits of the collaboration, and plans to sustain the collaboration long term. Briefly outline the role of each partner, and any contribution to be made by the collaborating institution(s). Cited references should be included in this document, using [Vancouver referencing style](#). Include at least five references from the collaborating group (where possible) which you consider key to the proposed research collaboration. Mark these references with an asterisk (*).

Please limit to no more than two pages. Minimum acceptable font size is 10 point, with 1.5 line spacing (references can be single spaced) and margins of at least 2 cm. This should be uploaded in PDF format (not exceeding 5 MB) and labelled as shown in the relevant section of the Application Form.

(6) Expected Outcomes

Please define the anticipated outcomes of the proposed research activity, which may include the potential to influence policy and practice, the pathway for the translation of this research into public benefit, joint publications (list target journals), external funding proposals, cross-institutional ties, research training opportunities, and the advancement of skills and technological development.

(7) Budget Details

Please show the itemised cost associated with each proposed research activity (exclusive of GST). Please indicate whether your Institution (or other source, including collaborating institution/organisation(s)) will make a cash contribution toward the collaboration.

Applicants are asked to please note that it is important to calculate budgets accurately, as requests for additional funding will not be approved. Requests of up to \$30,000 total will be considered. Funding may be requested for costs directly associated in developing the collaboration, such as travel, accommodation, and workshops. Please refer to Clause 5. for full funding details. A quote for economy-class travel shall be uploaded in PDF format (not exceeding 5 MB) and labelled as shown in the relevant section of the Application Form.

Please provide justification for each item in terms of need and cost, and detail and cash and in-kind partner contributions.

(8) Research Governance Approvals

Please list any Research Governance requirements relevant to this proposal. Approvals (eg. ethics, biosafety, Defence Trade Controls, site authorisation) shall be listed including details of the relevant committee(s), sites and dates of approval (if already approved). Details of approvals to be sought, pending successful award, should also be listed. Funding will not be distributed until copies of approvals are provided to the Raine Management Office.

Approvals shall be uploaded in PDF format (if available) or sent separately to the [Raine Management Office](#) before commencement of the Award. Uploaded documents shall not exceed 5 MB and shall be labelled as shown in the relevant section of the Application Form.

(9) Letter of Support

A Letter of Support from each collaborating institution or organisation, outlining their willingness and capacity to contribute to the research, as well as details of any cash or in-kind contribution. This may be written by the Head of School or Chief Executive Officer (or appropriate representative).

If the collaborating group is from an industrial organisation, public agency or the corporate sector, please upload the following Supporting Documents:

- (a) a brief profile of the organisation; and
- (b) a statement outlining their expertise in relation to the proposed research activity.

(10) Certification Form

The Certification Form should be downloaded from the [Raine Foundation website](#). Signatures of the Applicant and the Head of School/Centre/Institution (or appropriate representative) are mandatory and must be submitted in the online application by the closing date and time. Electronic signatures are acceptable in the fillable PDF form. Applications that are submitted without all signatures on the Certification Form will not be considered. The form should be uploaded in PDF format and labelled as outlined in the relevant section of the Application Form.

7. Management of Awards

- (1) Awards may not normally be deferred to a later year.
- (2) Award recipients are required to comply with the financial obligations set down in these Conditions, including the responsibility to:
 - (a) manage and be accountable for the expenditure of funds awarded;
 - (b) maintain a high standard of governance; and
 - (c) obtain prior approval from the Research Committee for any proposed deviation from the approved budget, or to the completion date of Award.
- (3) Award funding that is:
 - (a) used for purposes other than that for which it was awarded, shall be recoverable by the Research Committee.
 - (b) unspent by the end of the first quarter following the 12-month Award period, will be recouped by the Raine Management Office, unless prior approval to carry forward the funds has been obtained from the Research Committee.

8. Reporting

- (1) Award recipients are required to submit a report and acquittal statement within one month of completion of the Award. Report and acquittal statement templates are available on the [Raine Foundation website](#).
- (2) Reports shall detail all activities undertaken with the Award funding and shall identify key outcomes, such as:
 - (a) dissemination of knowledge into child health research and expertise gained from the collaboration;
 - (b) joint publications (with Journal Impact Factor and citations to date, where available);
 - (c) external funding proposals and awarded grants (planned and submitted);
 - (d) research training and advancement of skills and technical knowledge in the field of child health research; and
 - (e) an indication of the project's ongoing impact and sustainability over the long-term.

9. Intellectual Property

Award recipients are required to comply with the Intellectual Property requirements as described in the [Raine Priming Grant Conditions](#), at Clause 9.

10. Acknowledgement

Publications arising from research facilitated by the Awards shall acknowledge the support provided by the BrightSpark/Raine Alliance and host facility.

Successful recipients may be asked to present their research outcomes in an annual showcase of research supported by the BrightSpark/Raine Alliance.