



Raine Priming Grants

Raine Research Grants are provided by the Arnold Yeldham and Mary Raine Medical Research Foundation to support research towards the seeking, diagnosing and investigating the nature, origin and cause of diseases in human beings, and the prevention, cure, alleviation and combating of such diseases.

Guidelines and Conditions

1. Purpose

The Raine Research Committee wishes to provide Raine Priming Grants for biomedical scientists and clinicians at an early stage in their career, to assist them to become more competitive for national and international peer-reviewed grants. This program is intended particularly for those who are progressing towards an independent research career.

2. Definitions

- (a) The “Raine Foundation” is the Raine Medical Research Foundation.
- (b) The “Grants” refer to Raine Priming Grants.
- (c) The “Research Committee” is the Raine Medical Research Foundation Research Committee, and may include specialist representatives.
- (d) “Medical researcher” refers to a qualified professional who contributes to research towards the seeking, diagnosing and investigating the nature, origin and cause of diseases in human beings, and the prevention, cure, alleviation and combating of such diseases.
- (e) “Clinician researcher” refers to a medically trained doctor who contributes to research towards the seeking, diagnosing and investigating the nature, origin and cause of diseases in human beings, and the prevention, cure, alleviation and combating of such diseases.
- (f) “Early-career researcher” refers to a medical researcher or clinician researcher who satisfies the tertiary requirements listed below (whichever is completed first) and is within seven years’ of additional research experience:
 - (i) PhD degree; or
 - (ii) University medical degree plus at least three years’ research experience.
- (g) “Career disruption” includes pregnancy, major illness/injury, carer responsibilities including parental leave, and clinician 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.
- (h) “Associate Investigators” are senior researchers who are directly involved in the proposed research project.

- (i) “Mentor” is a senior researcher who can advise the applicant on matters relating to research career progression and conduct, and the development of grant applications and publications.

3. Eligibility Criteria

- (a) The Applicant shall be an early career researcher who:
 - (i) is a medical scientist who has completed their PhD degree; or
 - (ii) is a University medical graduate who satisfies the requirements listed below (whichever is completed first):
 - a. has completed their PhD degree; or
 - b. has at least three years’ research experience; and
 - (iii) at 30 June in the year of application be within seven years of the requirements outlined in Clause 3.(a)(i) or (ii) (subject to career disruption), based on the date of the letter advising that their PhD has been passed, or the date their medical degree plus three years (full-time equivalent) research experience has concluded.
- (b) Applicants shall be employed by a Western Australian University or affiliated institution in Western Australia and be based in Western Australia for the term of the grant.
- (c) Applicants shall not, at the time of award or in the past, be first-named Investigator on any successful local, national or international project grant(s) with an overall total value of \$200,000 or more. *This includes Research Support Packages that accompany Fellowships, but does not include funding that has been awarded solely to support the first-named investigator’s salary.
- (d) Applicants shall, at the time of application, be Australian citizens, or show evidence of Australian Permanent Residency status, or New Zealand citizens holding a Special Category Visa.
- (e) Applicants may not apply for more than one Raine Priming Grant in any year.
- (f) All researchers in Western Australia who meet the Eligibility Criteria in Clause 3 may apply for a Raine Priming Grant, with the following exceptions:
 - (i) Past and present members of the Research Committee; and
 - (ii) Previous recipients of a Raine Priming Grant.

4. Application Guidelines

- (a) 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/raine-priming-grants/>. Applications cannot be amended after the closing date/time. Applications that do not comply with formatting requirements may be deemed ineligible.
- (b) Abstract

The Abstract will be sent to potential assessors for initial consideration, and should include an adequate summary of the research project. References are not required in this section.
- (c) Career Disruption

Applicants are asked to upload, in the online application form, evidence of career disruption (if applicable). Please refer to Clause 2.(g) for a definition of “Career disruption”. Evidence should include the dates of absence or commencement of part-time work. Acceptable forms of evidence include:
 - (i) A medical certificate for major illness/injury; or
 - (ii) A signed letter from the relevant employer(s) for pregnancy or carer responsibilities.

(d) Applicant Details

The Applicants *Curriculum Vitae* (CV) should be no more than four pages; additional pages will not be read. Minimum acceptable font size is 10 point, with 1.5 line spacing, and margins at least 2 cm. Applicants should upload their current CV in PDF format; it should be labelled as outlined in the relevant section of the application form, and should not exceed 5 MB.

(e) Associate Investigator Details

Applicants may include up to four (ie. 0 - 4) Associate Investigators (AIs). Please refer to Clause 2.(h) for a definition of “Associate Investigators”. The *Curriculum Vitae* (CV) of each AI should be uploaded in PDF format, and will allow assessors to determine their level of experience in supporting the application. CVs should be no more than four pages for each AI; additional pages will not be read. Minimum acceptable font size is 10 point, with 1.5 line spacing, and margins no less than 2 cm. CVs should be labelled as outlined in the relevant section of the application form, and should not exceed 5 MB total.

(f) Mentor Details

Assignment of a Mentor is mandatory. Please refer to Clause 2.(i) for a definition of “Mentor”. The Mentor is required to review and certify the application. No *Curriculum Vitae* is required. The Mentor may also be an Associate Investigator on the project.

(g) Research Plan

The Research Plan document should include:

- Background;
- Preliminary Data;
- Methods/Techniques;
- Research Plan; and
- Cited references

The document should be no more than 10 pages and display page numbers 1-10; additional pages will not be read. Minimum acceptable font size is 10 point, with 1.5 line spacing, and margins no less than 2 cm. Cited references should be formatted using [Vancouver referencing style](#), and may be single-spaced. The document should be uploaded in PDF format and labelled as outlined in the relevant section of the application form. File upload should not exceed 5 MB.

(h) Budget Information

Applicants are asked to please note that it is important to calculate budgets accurately, as requests for additional funding will not be approved. Salaries, if requested, are to be reviewed and verified by the relevant School Manager or equivalent officer. Applicants should refer to their Institution's policy for salary scales and common classifications (position title and salary level) for research funded staff. At least one quote for each minor equipment item is required, and all budget items requested should be fully justified. Please refer to Clause 7 – Funding, and Clause 8 – Management of Grants for further information.

(i) Nomination of Independent Assessors

Applicants should nominate at least two potential assessors who are national or international leaders in the field of study, and not located in Western Australia. Shortlisted applications will be assessed by two (or more) assessors and assessment reports will be provided to applicants for rebuttal. Please ensure nominated assessors have no current or previous substantive professional or private contact or collaboration with the Applicant, Associate Investigator(s), and Mentor. Please note that alternative assessors (other than those nominated) may be appointed for assessment of the application via the process outlined in the [Appointment of Assessors Procedure](#). Potential assessors are informed that the Raine Medical Research Foundation has a non-disclosure policy.

- (j) Assessors not to be approached
Applicants should advise the Raine Management Office by email the name(s) of any assessor(s) not to be approached to assess the application. This information will be available only to the Raine Management Office and must be provided by the application closing date and time.
- (k) Thematic areas
Applicants should provide three key words/sentences relevant to the project field, to assist in identifying specialist reviewers for the application.
- (l) References relevant to the research field
Applicants should provide a list of publications by scientists relevant to the research field, using [Vancouver referencing style](#). Please include all authors (ie. don't use *et al*). This list will be used to assist the Raine Management Office in identifying specialist reviewers for the application.
- (m) Governance Approvals
Please list Research Governance requirements relevant to the project (eg. ethics, biosafety, site approvals). Funding for successful applications will not be released until a copy of all relevant approvals is submitted to the Raine Management Office.
- (n) Certifications
Applicants should download the Certification form from the [Raine Foundation website](#). Signatures of the Applicant, Associate Investigators (if applicable), Mentor, and Head of School or Director of Centre/Institute are mandatory and must be submitted in the online application by the closing date and time. Applications that are submitted without all signatures on the Certification Form will not be considered.

5. Assessment Criteria

The principal criterion for the award of a Grant is scientific excellence. Consideration will be given to career disruption as outlined in clause 2.(g), where appropriate. Each application will be assessed, based on:

- (a) Scientific Merit *(60%)
 - (i) *Research Quality *(20%)* – The extent to which the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses are properly developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project.
 - (ii) *Innovation and Creativity *(20%)* – The extent to which the project seeks to challenge and shift current paradigms and/or develop or use novel research concepts, approaches, methodologies, technologies or interventions.
 - (iii) *Significance *(20%)* – The extent to which the project is outcomes driven and will make a valuable contribution to medical and/or health science.
- (b) Track Record *(40%)
 - (i) *Feasibility *(20%)* – The likelihood that the applicant can accomplish the proposed work, given their documented experience and expertise, the preliminary data, the resources required and available, and institutional support.
 - (ii) *Publications *(10%)* – The productivity of the applicant (taking into consideration career disruption) and the quality of publications and journals in which the applicant has published.
 - (iii) *Leadership *(10%)* – The extent to which the applicant demonstrates progress towards an independent research career.

6. Evaluation Process

- (a) The system of evaluation involves a six-stage process:
 - (i) Preliminary screening by the Raine Management Office to check eligibility;

*Pending ratification by the Research Committee.

- (ii) Short-listing of applications by the Raine Priming Grant Advisory Panel;
 - (iii) External assessment of short-listed applications by independent scientists;
 - (iv) A written response from applicants to their assessors' reports;
 - (v) Final selection by the Raine Priming Grant Advisory Panel based on 6.(a).(iii) and 6.(a).(iv); and
 - (vi) Consideration and ratification of Advisory Panel recommendations by the Research Committee.
- (b) The applicant ranked highest in the annual cohort based on the outcome of independent assessments and the findings of the Research Committee will be named the *Raine/Robson Fellow*. Other titles may be awarded in a round based on partnership funding. Full acknowledgment of the Raine Foundation, the partnering organisation (if applicable) and the awarded title shall be made as opportunities arise.
- (c) In the event that the top-ranked applicant is unable to accept the awarded Raine Priming Grant funding, the applicant will retain the *Raine/Robson Fellow* title and will receive a travel allowance of up to \$10,000 to facilitate conference attendance and/or the establishment of collaborative research partnerships. The travel allowance shall normally be spent within a year of award and can be used for conference fees, economy-class airfares, accommodation, and per diem costs for the applicant only. Conference attendance will only normally be supported if the applicant provides evidence that they presented a talk or poster. An annual report and acquittal will be called for at the end of the calendar year, and unspent funds will be returned to the Raine Medical Research Foundation. Award of this allowance is at the discretion of the Raine Research Committee.

It is noted that the decision of the Research Committee is final with no process of appeal. Correspondence, written or verbal, will not be entered into with applicants.

7. Funding

- (a) Grants are awarded on the basis that funds are not available from another granting body for the purposes approved by the Research Committee. Applicants should notify the Raine Management Office if there is any overlap in project aims or budgeted items with other awarded grants.
- (b) Grant-holders, if eligible, are expected to apply for NHMRC or equivalent awards during the tenure of their Raine Priming Grant.
- (c) Grants are not renewable and shall normally be for periods of two years duration.
- (d) The value of the Grant shall not normally exceed \$250,000 total. *Awarded funding is exclusive of GST and Administering Institutions are responsible for all financial and taxation implications associated with receiving funds.
- (e) Grants are awarded to provide funding, or part funding, for salaries of researchers or technical staff, research consumables and minor equipment (including computing).
- (f) Requests for equipment in excess of \$10,000, or travel funds, will not normally be approved.
- (g) *Salary funding can be used for annual leave and long service leave entitlements that accrue during the grant term. However, severance and termination payments and extended leave payments (leave entitlements accrued on non-Raine Foundation research activities) are not supported and must not be paid for with grant funding.
- (h) Grants are offered subject to availability of funds and exceptional circumstances affecting the flow of funds to the Raine Foundation. The Research Committee reserves the right not to make an award.

*Pending ratification by the Research Committee.

8. Management of Grants

- (a) Grant-holders are required to comply with the financial obligations set down in these Conditions, including responsibility to:
 - (i) manage and be accountable for the expenditure of funds awarded;
 - (ii) maintain a high standard of governance; and
 - (iii) obtain prior approval from the Research Committee for any proposed deviation from the approved budget, or project completion date.
- (b) Grant funding:
 - (i) may not normally be deferred to a later year.
 - (ii) shall be administered by the Raine Foundation both internally, or externally to another host institution, if applicable.
 - (i) shall be used for the purposes approved by the Research Committee –funding that is used for purposes other than that for which it was awarded shall be recoverable by the Raine Foundation.
 - (ii) that is unspent at the conclusion of the granting period shall automatically revert to the Raine Foundation.
- (c) Equipment purchased with Raine Priming Grant moneys shall remain the property of the host Institution.

9. Intellectual Property

- (a) The applicant or the Head of School (or equivalent academic unit) is required to inform the Chair of the Research Committee promptly in writing as soon as they become aware that the work arising from the Raine Priming Grant may have:
 - (i) commercial value; or
 - (ii) intellectual property rights.
- (b) Where there is an invention, process or improvement arising from the approved project, the researcher and the host institution shall ensure that the intellectual property rights in that invention, process or improvement are protected.
- (c) The results of research, and the intellectual property rights in such results, in relation to which the Raine Foundation has made a grant, must be considered for patent or other protection by the host institution.
- (d) Publication of research findings must be delayed until such consideration and until patenting or other protection, if there is to be such, however, no unnecessary delay should be allowed to occur before publication is sought.
- (e) The intellectual property rights arising from the research shall only be commercialised with the prior written consent of the Raine Foundation. Such consent may be refused or granted at the Raine Foundation's absolute discretion, subject to such conditions as the Raine Foundation may decide, and shall include prior agreement as to the sharing of any financial benefits arising from the commercialisation.
- (f) Neither the host institution nor the researcher shall enter into an arrangement (including consultancies or confidentiality agreements) without the Raine Foundation's prior consent, such that a third party may:
 - (i) restrict publications arising from the approved project; or
 - (ii) be given an advantage through earlier disclosure of research results, or an option to commercialise the research results.

10. Governance Approvals and Reporting

(a) *Compliance Requirements for Human or Animal Experimentation, and/or Use of Recombinant Nucleic Acids:*

(i) Human or Animal Experimentation

Successful applicants are required to provide certification of compliance from a recognised Ethics Committee on human and animal experimentation before the work on the project may commence. Site authorisation approvals must also be provided.

(ii) Recombinant Nucleic Acids

Successful applicants are required to provide certification that clearance from a Biosafety Committee has been issued, if relevant, before work on the project may commence.

(b) *Reporting Requirements –*

Successful applicants are required to provide an annual report and financial acquittal report, documenting the progress of the work after twelve months from commencement of the Priming Grant. Payment of second year funding will be dependent on receipt of satisfactory annual and acquittal reports for year one. A final report and financial acquittal report must be submitted within a month of completion of the Priming Grant. Annual and acquittal report templates are available from the [Raine Foundation website](#).

11. Acknowledgment

Full acknowledgment of the Raine Foundation shall be made as opportunities arise (in publications, public discussion, and press statements, etc.), copies of which shall be submitted to the Research Committee. In order to maximise knowledge exchange, researchers are asked to consider the [NHMRC Open Access Policy](#).