



## Raine Priming Grants

*Raine Priming Grants are provided by the 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 medical and clinician researchers 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 does not hold a medical, allied health, or nursing degree) who contributes to medical research that investigates the nature, origin and cause of human diseases, and their prevention, and treatment.
- (e) “Clinician researcher” refers to a qualified professional who is a University medical, allied health, or nursing graduate who contributes to medical research that investigates the nature, origin and cause of human diseases, and their prevention, and treatment.
- (f) “Early-career researcher” refers to a medical 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, allied health, or nursing 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 90 days or more or return to work on a part-time basis. Career disruption does not include “Relative to opportunity” inclusions as listed in Clause 2. (h). Career disruption is considered during eligibility and assessment processes. Acceptable forms of evidence include:
  - (i) A medical certificate for major illness/injury; or
  - (ii) A signed letter from the relevant employer confirming dates of pregnancy or carer responsibilities.
- (h) “Relative to opportunity” includes availability of resources; clinical, administrative, or teaching workload; relocation of the applicant or research lab/clinical setting; typical performance in the

field; and employment in other sectors (e.g. industry). \*COVID-19 related disruptions will also be considered. Relative to opportunity is considered during the assessment process, but not for eligibility. Written evidence must be provided to the Raine Foundation if requested.

- (i) “Associate Investigators” are senior researchers who are directly involved in the proposed research project.
- (j) “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.
- (k) “Research impact” is the verifiable outcomes that research makes to knowledge, health, the economy and/or society, and not the prospective or anticipated effects of the research - in line with the [NHMRC definition and types of Research Impact](#).

### 3. Eligibility Criteria

(a) The Applicant shall be an early career researcher who:

- (i) is a medical researcher who has completed their PhD degree;

OR

- (ii) is a medical, allied health, or nursing university graduate who satisfies the requirements listed below (whichever is completed first):
  - a. has completed their PhD degree; or
  - b. has at least three years (full-time equivalent) research experience.

(b) At 30 June in the year of application the applicant shall 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, allied health, or nursing degree plus three years (full-time equivalent) research experience has concluded.

(c) Applicants who:

- (i) are Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents, or New Zealand citizens holding a Special Category visa shall, **for the term of the Grant**:
  - a. be based in Western Australia; and
  - b. be employed by or hold an adjunct or honorary title with a Western Australian University (but shall not be employed by another University outside of Western Australia).

OR

- (ii) are not Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents, or New Zealand citizens holding a Special Category visa shall, **AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION and for the term of the Grant**:
  - a. be based in Western Australia; and
  - b. be employed by or hold an adjunct or honorary title with a Western Australian University (but shall not be employed by another University outside of Western Australia).

(d) Applicants shall not, at the time of award or in the past, be first-named Investigator on any successful local, national or international research grants, awards, or prizes with an overall combined value of \$200,000 or more. This includes industry research contracts and Research Support Packages that accompany Fellowships but does not include funding that has been awarded to support the first-named investigator’s salary.

(e) Applicants may not apply for more than one Raine Priming Grant in any year.

\*Pending ratification by the Research Committee.

- (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

Register and submit the online application via the link on the [Raine Foundation website](#). 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

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) Applicants CV

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

Include up to four (i.e. 0 - 4) Associate Investigators (AIs). Please refer to Clause 2. (i) 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.(j) 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:

- Aims
- Background
- Preliminary Data
- Methods/Techniques
- Research Plan
- Significance and Potential Benefits
- Innovation and Creativity
- Cited References

The Research Plan should be no more than 10 pages (including references) 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. Upload the document in PDF format and label as outlined in the relevant section of the application form. File upload should not exceed 5 MB.

(h) Governance Approvals

List Research Governance requirements relevant to the project (e.g. 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.

(i) Budget Information

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.

(j) Nomination of Independent Assessors

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. 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.

(k) Assessors not to be approached

Applicants should advise the [Raine Management Office](#) 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.

(l) Thematic areas

Provide three key words/sentences relevant to the project field, to assist in identifying specialist reviewers for the application.

(m) References relevant to the research field

Provide a list of publications by scientists relevant to the research field, using [Vancouver referencing style](#). Please include all authors (i.e. don't use *et al*). This list will be used to assist the Raine Management Office in identifying specialist reviewers for the application.

(n) Certifications

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 the Certification form 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 and relative to opportunity as outlined in clause 2. (g) and (h), where appropriate. Each application will be assessed, based on:

- (a) Scientific Merit (50%)
  - (i) *Research Quality and Feasibility (20%)* – The extent to which the conceptual framework, design, methods, analyses, applicant experience and host research environment are appropriate to achieve the aims of the project.
  - (ii) *Innovation and Creativity (10%)* – 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 (50%)
  - (i) *Publications (20%)* – The productivity of the applicant (taking into consideration career disruption and relative to opportunity) and the quality of publications and journals in which the applicant has published.
  - (ii) *Leadership (20%)* – The extent to which the applicant demonstrates progress towards an independent research career.
  - (iii) *Research Impact (10%)* – The reach and significance, and contribution of the applicant to research impact to-date.

## 6. Evaluation Process

- (a) The system of evaluation involves a six-stage process:
  - (i) Preliminary screening by the Raine Management Office to check eligibility.
  - (ii) Shortlisting of applications by the Raine Priming Grant Advisory Panel.
  - (iii) External assessment of shortlisted applications by independent researchers.
  - (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).
  - (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.
- (c) If 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 development of collaborative research partnerships. The travel allowance shall normally be spent within a year of award. Conference attendance will only be supported if a talk or poster is presented by the applicant. 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.
- (d) All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application in writing.

***The decision of the Research Committee is final with no process of appeal. Correspondence in relation to the decision, 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 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).
  - (i) Salary funding should include on-costs and annual increments.
  - (ii) 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.
  - (iii) Indirect infrastructure costs are not supported.
  - (iv) Requests for equipment in excess of \$10,000, or travel funds, will not normally be approved.
  - (v) \*Reasonable costs associated with publications and open access which are the result of the supported research activity, and that acknowledge the Raine Medical Research Foundation and partners, will be considered.
- (f) 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.

## 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. Variation requests should be submitted to the [Raine Management Office](#).
- (b) Grant funding:
  - (i) may not normally be deferred to a later year.
  - (ii) shall be administered by the Raine Foundation 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 funding shall remain the property of the host institution.

## 9. Intellectual Property

- (a) The applicant or host institution 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 commercial value or 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.

\*Pending ratification by the Research Committee.

- (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 agreement of the Raine Foundation 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.
- (g) The applicant and host institution will acknowledge the Raine Medical Research Foundation and all parties who have contributed to Grant funding in any publicity associated with the commercialisation of Intellectual Property or community impact resulting from the research.

## 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 acquittal will be called for at the conclusion of the Grant term. Report details may be used for media purposes to promote the applicant's research. The Raine Management Office will contact awardees with templates for annual and acquittal reports at the end of each calendar year. If satisfactory project and acquittal reports are not submitted when requested, awarded funding may be recouped, and applicants may not be eligible for future funding through the Raine Foundation.
- (c) *Ongoing Contact:*  
Raine alumni will be asked to take part in follow-up questionnaires to evaluate research performance and impact that has come about after Raine funding and will inform the review of future funding programs. Alumni are asked to keep the [Raine Management Office](#) updated with any changes to contact information.

## 11. Acknowledgment

Full acknowledgment of the Raine Medical Research Foundation and partners who have contributed to funding (including awarded titles) shall be made as opportunities arise (e.g. in publications, public discussion, and press statements, etc). In order to maximise knowledge exchange, researchers are asked to consider the [NHMRC Open Access Policy](#).

\*Pending ratification by the Research Committee.