

Raine Priming Grants 2025

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 health and medical research for individuals 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 “Grant” refers to Raine Priming Grants.
- (c) The “Research Committee” is the Raine Medical Research Foundation Research Committee and may include specialist representatives.
- (d) “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.(e) Career disruption is considered during eligibility and assessment processes. Written evidence must be provided to the Raine Foundation if requested.
- (e) “Relative to opportunity” includes availability of resources; clinical, administrative, or teaching workload; relocation of the applicant or research lab/clinical setting; periods of unemployment; 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.
- (f) “Associate Investigators” are senior researchers who are directly involved in the proposed research project.
- (g) “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.
- (h) “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 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 three years full-time equivalent research experience (the date the applicant achieved three years (full-time equivalent) research experience will be used as a “PhD pass date” equivalent). Satisfying the tertiary requirements of a University medical, allied health, or nursing degree would mean that the applicant is qualified to practise in the relevant field in Australia.
- (b) At 1 March 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), or for medical, allied health, or nursing applicants, the date three years (full-time equivalent) research experience has been reached.
- (c) A PhD pass, completion date or equivalency is the date when your PhD thesis was passed (do not use the date of conferral, which is the award ceremony date, but rather the date your PhD was passed with final revisions submitted, which may be found on your transcript or other similar document from your institutions).
- (d) 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 or research organisation outside of WesternAustralia).

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 or research organisation outside of WesternAustralia).
- (e) 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 \$300,000 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 applicant’s salary.
- (f) Applicants may not apply for more than one Raine Priming Grant in any year.
- (g) 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. 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. (d) and (e), where appropriate. Each application will be assessed, based on:

(a) Project Merit (60%)

- (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) *Significance and Potential Impact (20%)* – The extent to which the project is outcomes driven and will make a valuable contribution to medical and/or health science.
- (iii) *Innovation (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.
- (iv) *Consumer and community participation (10%)* – How consumer representatives or community groups (who have lived experience of the research project issue being investigated) have been consulted and will be engaged and contribute to the research project.

(b) Track Record (40%)

- (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 (10%)* – The extent to which the applicant demonstrates progress towards an independent research career (e.g., mentorship/supervision, serving on committees, lead investigator on grants, awards and prizes, invited speaker)
- (iii) *Research Impact (10%)* – The reach and significance, and contribution of the applicant to research impact to-date.

5. Evaluation Process

- (a) The system of evaluation involves a two-stage process:

STAGE 1 – Expression of Interest

- Expressions of Interest are invited in February of each year, submitted through the online portal on the Raine Foundation website.
- Preliminary screening is conducted by the Raine Management Office to check for eligibility.
- Expression of Interest applications are shortlisted by the Raine Priming Grant Advisory Committee.
- Applicants are notified of the shortlisting outcome.

STAGE 2 – Full Application

- Shortlisted applicants are invited to submit a full application.
- External review of shortlisted applications is conducted by independent researchers who are experts in the field of the application.
- Feedback is provided by external independent reviewers and sent to the applicant in the form of a reviewer report.
- Applicants can provide a written response to their reviewer reports.
- Final selection by the Raine Priming Grant Advisory Committee based on external reviewer reports and the applicant's rebuttal.
- Consideration and ratification of Advisory Committee recommendations by the Research Committee.
- Applicants notified of final outcomes.

- (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 Grant funding, the applicant will retain the *Raine Robson Fellow* title and may 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.

6. 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 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 salary of the applicant and 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.

7. 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.
 - (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.

- (iii) 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.
- (iv) That is unspent at the conclusion of the granting period shall automatically revert to the Raine Foundation.

(c) Equipment purchased with Grant funding shall remain the property of the administering institution.

8. Intellectual Property

- (a) The applicant or administering institution is required to inform the Chair of the Research Committee and the Raine Management Office 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) Ownership of IP produced by the successful applicant in the course of the grant will be owned by and immediately vest upon the administering institution, or its assignee.
- (c) Where there is an invention, process or improvement arising from the approved project, the researcher and the administering institution shall ensure that the intellectual property rights in that invention, process or improvement are protected.
- (d) 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 administering institution.
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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.
- (g) Neither the administering 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.
- (h) The applicant and administering 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.

9. 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 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.

10. 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](#).