

QIRC PHD SCHOLARSHIP TOP-UP PROGRAM

Developing the next generation of world-class immunologists is critical to strengthening Queensland's future research and innovation capability. The Queensland Immunology Research Centre (QIRC) supports this goal by providing additional financial support to PhD candidates, enabling them to focus on high-quality research, collaboration, training and mentorship that advance the immunology field.

The QIRC Postgraduate Scholarship Top-Up Scheme provides opportunities for outstanding students enrolled in a higher degree by research.

ELIGIBILITY

Scholarship top-ups are available to current full time or part time PhD students enrolled in a higher degree by research who are jointly co-supervised by personnel from both The University of Queensland and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. This co-supervision model enables students to benefit from access to both organisations and supports the development of strong collaborative networks across them.

To be eligible, students must be:

- A doctoral student supported by a research training program scholarship (RTP) or other competitive PhD scholarship (including externally funded scholarships).
- Co-supervised by personnel at both UQ and QIMR Berghofer, where one supervisor is located at a UQ campus and one is located at QIMR Berghofer.
 - At least one of the co-supervisors must be a QIRC member.
- Undertaking research related to the field of immunology.
- Not a previous recipient of a QIRC PhD Scholarship Top-Up.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Up to four scholarships top-ups are available in this round and are valued at \$8,000 each.

Successful recipients will receive the top-up amount either as a one-off payment or distributed across 3-6 months on top of their fortnightly stipend. This decision will be at the discretion of the student's primary institute.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are required to submit an application via email to qirc@uq.edu.au, with the following documents attached:

1. Cover letter addressing the four assessment criteria (1 page)
2. Application form (available on the [QIRC website](#)).
3. Resume/CV
4. Academic transcripts
5. Supervisor statement of support for the student, that indicates the collaborative context of the co-supervision (100 words)

Applications close: **5pm, Thursday 2 April 2026**. Applicants will be notified by email by the end of April with the outcome of their submission.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed by QIRC Executive Committee and assessed on the following:

1. **Academic calibre:** The student should demonstrate a strong academic record and foundation in research, evidenced through prior study or equivalent research experience.
2. **Research potential:** The student must explain their project's significance and expected impact.
3. **Evidence of skills and capability required to carry out their project:** The student should demonstrate through their application the required skills, knowledge and experience for the project.
4. **Collaboration potential:** The student should demonstrate how each institution/supervisor will contribute to the development of their project and describe how this co-supervision will benefit their research and professional development.

RECIPIENT EXPECTATIONS

To receive QIRC scholarship top-up payments, you must maintain satisfactory academic progress and engagement. Progress will be monitored through complementary annual scholarship and academic reviews undertaken by the university review panel, including the relevant supervisors.

PhD Scholarship Top-Up Awardees may be invited to present at a future QIRC Retreat or other QIRC-related events.

All students supported by QIRC must include QIRC affiliation in publications which include their name. In addition, funding support by QIRC should also be in the acknowledgement section of the manuscript.

Additional Information for preparing your application:

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Your CV provides an overview of your educational and employment history and your skills. Please ensure you include:

- **Educational history**
List all degrees studied in your educational history, indicating the name of the degree, university, years studied and GPA if known. If you completed a thesis as part of your degree, provide its title, the mark and list your supervisor/s.
- **Employment history**
List your employer, your role, duration of employment, duties and achievements.
- **Awards**
List any awards received throughout your tertiary study or employment.
- **Publications/Papers**
Provide a list of publications that have been accepted or published. Do not list publications that are submitted.
- **Other information**
You may provide other information in the CV that you think is relevant to your assessment, for example, information about research interests, research project experience, or other key skills.

Academic Transcripts

Provide official transcripts for all university studies as PDF documents, including degrees not completed or abandoned. Provide translated documents where transcripts are in a language other than English. Ensure scans are legible. Do not provide transcripts from high school, testamurs/degree certificates or award certificates.