Empowering Honours, Masters, PhD and other students to be independent researchers and practitioners is a core function of the END RHD CRE.

The END RHD CRE offers a number of scholarships for students who are undertaking research that supports the objectives of the CRE.

Applications for an END RHD CRE scholarship are open all year.

**Criteria for approval of student funding**

* The funding request must support the objectives of the END RHD CRE.
* Applications are based primarily on merit. Consideration will also be given to other factors, including preference given to Indigenous applicants and geographic spread of participating jurisdictions.
* It is an expectation that Masters and PhD students who receive a CRE scholarship are expected to apply for other scholarships, including APA, university and/or NHMRC, as soon as possible and continually until successful.
* Any decision is final.

**Funding criteria for Student support[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Applications for funding can be for:

* Honours scholarships – up to $5,000 for one year.
* Masters Scholarships – up to $29,000 p/a for up to two years with the possibility of a 6 month extension.
* PhD Scholarships – up to $29,000 p/a for up to three years with the possibility of a 6 month extension.
* Masters top-up scholarships – up to $5,000 p/a top-up and up to $6,000 to be used towards the candidates studies.
* PhD top-up scholarships – up to $10,000 p/a top-up and up to $10,000 to be used towards the candidates studies.

**Application process**

**Application submission and review**

* Applications for student support funding can be submitted to the END RHD CRE Program Manager at any time.
* Applications will be checked for their completeness by the Program Manager prior to their acceptance for review. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.
* An accepted application will be reviewed against the assessment criteria by the END RHD CRE Executive Committee.
* Formal notification will be sent to successful applicants setting out the conditions of the funding.
* Successful applicants will be required to submit six monthly progress reports and a final report.
* A collaboration agreement will need to be in place at the commencement of the project with team members from other organisations/universities.
* Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by the Program Manager.

**Assessment Criteria**

Applications will be assessed against the NHMRC ***Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria*** as follows:

* Community engagement - the proposal demonstrates how the research and potential outcomes are a priority for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with relevant community engagement by individuals, communities and/or organisations in conceptualisation, development and approval, data collection and management, analysis, report writing and dissemination of results.
* Benefit - the potential health benefit of the project is demonstrated by addressing an important public health issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This benefit can have a single focus or affect several areas, such as knowledge, finance and policy or quality of life.  The benefit may be direct and immediate or it can be, indirect, gradual and considered.
* Sustainability and transferability - the proposal demonstrates how the results of the project have the potential to lead to achievable and effective contributions to health gain for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, beyond the life of the project. This may be through sustainability in the project setting and/or transferability to other settings such as evidence-based practice and/or policy. In considering this issue the proposal should address the relationship between costs and benefits.
* Building capability - the proposal demonstrates how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and researchers will develop relevant capabilities through partnerships and participation in the project.

Applications will also be assessed against the following criteria:

* Ability of proposed research to address unmet needs in RHD control in the Australian context
* Likelihood of securing future competitive scholarship.
* Academic and work track record.

**Conditions of funding**

The conditions of the END RHD Centre of Research Excellence Student Scholarship award are as follows:

1. The standard Australian Postgraduate Award conditions apply to this award.
2. This award is dependent on the recipient being enrolled full time in a postgraduate degree.
3. Renewal of the award is subject to the candidate applying for alternative awards.
4. This award is dependent on the recipient actively engaging in research and student support activities organised by the CRE and Telethon Kids Institute, including:
5. Attending the END RHD CRE external speaker seminars
6. Attending and presenting on the progress of the candidate’s research project at the END RHD CRE annual meeting, subject to availability of individual travel funds.
7. Acknowledge the END RHD Centre of Research Excellence by-line in all publications, presentations and other relevant outputs generated from the candidate’s studies.
8. Provide an annual report of the candidate’s research outcomes in April each year. This report must be on the END RHD CRE pro-forma and will be given to the END RHD CRE Executive Committee.
9. The award is not transferable to another Institution, unless approval is obtained from the CRE executive and the transfer is within the rules of the enrolling university.

**What should you do?**

Please complete the attached application form. Your application should be complete and address all of the questions.

Email a completed application form to the END RHD CRE Program Manager Katherine Gray at END.RHD.CRE.SMB@telethonkids.org.au

**What happens next?**

* You will receive an acknowledgement that your application has been received. *Please note that acceptance of the application does not guarantee that funds will be awarded.*
* Application forms will be reviewed for completeness by the END RHD CRE Program Manager, who may contact you for additional information.
* Your application will then be forwarded to the END RHD CRE Executive Committee, and each application will be assessed using the assessment criteria set out above.
* You may be required to be interviewed by members of the END RHD CRE Executive Committee (face to face or by telephone)
* A formal notification will be sent to successful applicants setting out the conditions of the funding. This letter will also include milestones and reporting requirements.

**Questions and contact details**

Please direct any questions to:

Katherine Gray

END RHD CRE Program Manager

Email: END.RHD.CRE.SMB@telethonkids.org.au

Phone: 08 9489 7648

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| --- |
| **APPLICANT NAME:** |
| **APPLICANT CONTACT DETAILS:** *Include email and phone* |
| **ENROLLING INSTITUTION:** |
| **CRE THEME:****□** Theme I: Epidemiology and Bioscience**□** Theme II: Implementation and Translation**□** Theme III: The RHD Community  |
| **FUNDING CATEGORY**: **□** PhD/Masters Scholarship top-up *(Circle appropriate degree)***□** Honours/PhD/Masters Scholarship *(Circle appropriate degree)* |
| **PROJECT SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION:** *Provide a lay summary of your project. If successful, this will be published on the END RHD CRE website (max 150 words).* |
| **PROJECT OUTLINE:** *Outline any background information that supports and / or is relevant to the request. For scholarship funding requests, include project aim, hypothesis, methods and timeline (max 3 pages plus max 1 page references).* |
| **SIGNIFICANCE AND OUTCOMES**: *Please outline the objective of your request. Include what the potential outcomes may be, and how it links to the END RHD CRE (max 1 page).* |
| **RELEVANCE TO THE END RHD CRE:** *Detail how the proposed research is relevant to the END RHD CRE, explain why it is relevant to address an issue of significant importance to rheumatic fever and / or rheumatic heart disease control in Australia (max 1 page).* |
| **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:** *Please provide an overview of how you plan to involve the community in your research. This should include your plans for providing feedback to the community.* |
| **ETHICS:** *Should your application be successful, which ethics committee(s) will you apply to?* |
| **RESEARCH TEAM AND COLLABORATORS:** *Include a list of your supervisors other investigators on the team, including their contact details. Explain why the project team is well positioned to develop competitive grant applications in this area (max 1 page).* |
| **OTHER FUNDING SOURCES:** *Provide details of any other scholarships and funding applied for and/or received.* |
| **REFEREES:** *Please provide the details of 2 professional referees.* |
| **CV:** *Please attach your CV.* |

1. the level of student support offered is at the discretion of the END RHD CRE Executive Committee and may be varied on a case-by-case basis. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)